

MOVING UP HIGHER
with Joyce Meyer



God loves boldness and He wants us to be confident of His love for us. He wants us to know without a doubt that we are made right with Him through the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross—especially on those days when we feel unworthy of His love.

To live boldly means that we're willing to step out in faith to try new things and pursue our God-given dreams and passions without letting the fear of doubt overshadow our faith.

Doubt is a fear that can bring a lot of confusion: Did I make the right decision? I don't know. Maybe I did. Well, maybe I didn't. We can go back and forth like that in our heads forever. But I've found that when I'm confused, it's better to stop, turn off my brain and just look at what's in my heart—not for what I think I should do, but

what I believe I should do.

Sometimes it becomes very clear what God wants us to do; other times it's less obvious. But before you jump ahead, give God a chance to speak to your heart.

James 1:5-6 (AMP) says, "If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God's willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surdge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind."

I hope that you noticed it says, "If any of you" need wisdom. God isn't looking for perfect people; they don't exist. So no matter where you are, God wants to help you! Isn't that good news?

God will never leave you or forsake you, and He will always remain faithful to His Word.

All you have to do is ask and receive, dismissing the doubts that set themselves up against His Word. If you can do that, there's no telling what God will make happen in your life!

Romans 4 gives a wonderful account of the story of Abraham, one of the great heroes of faith. Verses 18-19 say, "In hope against hope Abraham believed that he would become a father of many nations, as he had been promised [by God]: 'So [numberless] shall your descendants be.' Without becoming weak in faith he considered his own body, now as good as dead [for producing children] since he was about a hundred years old, and [he considered] the deadness of Sarah's womb."

Abraham considered the facts. But he still believed God was greater. Verse 20 says, "But he did not doubt or waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and empowered by faith, giving glory to God."

Instead of relying only on what we see around us, you and I can choose to believe

God's Word. And we can open our mouths to speak words of thanks, like this:

"God, I remember the good things You've done for me and how You've been faithful to those who've trusted in You through the ages. I'm giving You praise today because I know You'll always be faithful."

Like Abraham, we all have times of waiting that God uses to test and stretch our faith. But He promises to work all things out for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Honestly, if we can keep a good attitude throughout the process, our wait time might be shorter than it would be if we decided we'd rather murmur and complain. God wants to use the challenges we experience to draw us closer to Him so that when our prayer is finally answered, and our day of breakthrough comes, we'll be stronger in our faith and able to withstand any opposition that comes against us.

It takes boldness to believe God's promises are for you and not just for everyone else. It takes boldness to cling to His promises when the world around you says: It will never happen! And it takes boldness to step out in faith and try something new. But be encouraged. God isn't concerned about you

making mistakes. He knows you're not perfect and He wants to give you His wisdom and strength to do everything He's put in your heart.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc.

Ruth R. Kelder
1934-2018

Ruth R. Kelder, aged 84, passed away on Monday March 5, 2018, due to complications arising from illness with the flu and pneumonia.

Ruth was born in 1934 in Chicago, Illinois. Her family later moved to Cary, Illinois, and while attending high school, she met her future husband Samuel L. Kelder.

Sam and Ruth married in 1953. Following Sam's graduation from the University of Illinois, they moved to Burbank, California, where Sam pursued his career in aeronautical engineering while Ruth stayed at home to raise their three children, son Jeffrey and twin daughters Denise and Diane.

After several years in Burbank, Sam and Ruth moved the family to nearby Sunland, where they enjoyed Ruth's talent for flower and vegetable gardening, fruit from peach, orange, and avocado trees, home-raised chickens, plus a horse for each daughter.

During these years, Ruth operated her own wallpaper installation business, earning money toward her children's school tuitions.

Upon Sam's retirement, he and Ruth traveled the United States for three years in their fifth-wheel trailer. They explored beautiful New England, saw the monuments in Washington DC, toured the Civil War areas of the South, enjoyed the wonders of our national parks in the West, and loved their time in Alaska.

Sam and Ruth purchased their retirement home in Cottage Grove, Oregon. Sam discovered his talent for golf, and Ruth continued her passions for flower gardening and quilting. At their weekly meeting, Ruth and her friends created beautiful quilts as gifts for family members and for wounded veterans returning from Afghanistan. Sam and Ruth also contributed many volunteer hours to the benefit of the local community.

Ruth's love and concern for her family, and her remarkable ability to sense and meet the needs of others, will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Ruth's father Harry, mother Beda, sister Anita and her husband John, all preceded her in death. Ruth is survived by her husband Sam, by her children Jeffrey and his wife Judy, Denise and her husband David, Diane and her husband Howard, by her granddaughter Laura and her husband Drew, by her granddaughter Michelle, and by her sister Sally and her husband Rich.

Ruth requested a private memorial service. The family wishes to thank the medical staff at Sacred Heart Hospital in Springfield, Oregon, for their compassionate care. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, Oregon.



IN MEMORIAM

Nelda Mae Trujillo 1926-2018



Nelda Mae Trujillo, 91 of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on March 2, 2018 from age related causes. She was born on Dec. 9, 1926 in Banner, WY to Lewis and Olive (Harper) Nielsen. Nelda married Jesse J. Trujillo on Dec. 24, 1943 in Sheridan, WY. She and Jesse came to Oregon in 1947 to work in the woods. Nelda was a homemaker, served meals

through Rocking Chair Rest Home Kitchen, and was a cook/waiter for Burger King. Nelda was an avid reader, dragonfly jewelry collector and loved listening to polka, western and Celtic Thunder music. She attended her grandchildren and great grandchildren's programs, plays and sporting events. She enjoyed going to the Western Oregon Opry, St. Paul Rodeo and concerts in Bohemia Park. Nelda is survived by her son, Terry and wife Julie Trujillo, Cottage Grove, OR; son, Norman and wife Judy Trujillo, Vancouver, WA; son, Gary and wife Marcia Trujillo, Cottage Grove, OR; 8 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse J. Trujillo on February 24, 1985. A memorial service will be held at 12:00 PM on March 14, 2018 at Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR. Inurnment at Fir Grove Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled Veteran's Association (DAV) at dav.org.

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The qualities and qualifications for the interim superintendent search are now available online at South Lane School District's website: slane.k12.or.us These qualifications and qualities will be used in the search for the interim superintendent expected to be chosen by April 30.

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