

Creator and Editor in
Chief: Dr. Kendrick Savage

THE POETRY AND PRAISE NEWSLETTER



Bro. Robert Brown

Volume 1 of the Poetry and Praise Newsletter is dedicated to Bro. Robert Brown. Bro. Robert Brown has passed on since the time of his interview that is mentioned in this volume (Issue 1). Though I only got to meet and spend time with him briefly throughout this process, he has left a lasting impact on my life and I am blessed to have been in his presence. He was so full of knowledge and joy during our interviews and was excited to share his experiences. I thank him for being a true teacher and assisting me throughout this endeavor. My prayers continue to be extended to his family.

THE POETRY AND PRAISE NEWSLETTER GOAL

The goal of the Poetry and Praise Newsletter is to give God praise by using the gift of exhortation through poetry and testimony. I Thessalonians 5:11 reads, *therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing*. Utilizing the instruments of poetry and testimony, this ministry will provide exhortation to all believers, praying that souls will be encouraged, motivated, and pointed toward Christ to live life more abundantly. It is the hope and prayer of the ministry that readers, who encounter the message, will gain strength and remain uplifted in the face of adversity, believing they too can be the change they want to see in the world. We are here to encourage and keep all believers spirits lifted. Galatian 6:9 reads, *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*.



THE POETRY AND PRAISE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 | Issue 1

“When we go through trials and tribulations, we are being refined...God is preparing us for something more and he gives us strength.”

**Sis. LeClorist
Brown**



“We all have a story to tell. That is what life is all about and we need to share it with other people because it could help them avoid mistakes we made.”

**Bro. Robert
Brown**

Subject: Never Give Up

An Interview with Sis. LeClorist and Bro. Robert Brown

PERSEVERANCE

KS: What’s a lesson that you would share with a younger person that would help them get through the difficult moments in life?

Bro. Brown: Never give up. You don’t give up. Whatever you do, do the best you can but don’t give up. If it is worthwhile, don’t give up on it, and don’t give up on yourself. God is the giver of life, and as long as you have life, then he is in you. So, God is in me, he’s in you. So, it’s not like we have to look anywhere else. We have to look within ourselves. **[Read Galatians 6:9]**

Sis. Brown: I would tell anyone struggling in these difficult times that instead of focusing on your circumstances to keep their eyes on the prize who is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We must “trust him with all our heart, mind, and soul and lean not upon our own understanding, but in all our ways acknowledge him and he will direct our path.” **[Read Proverbs 3: 5-6]**. That does not mean that one should sit and be passive while waiting for a miracle. We must be active, proactive, purposeful, and intentional to realize our reason for being. If there is any doubt about the path or direction you should pursue, be mindful of the Great Commandment: “Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love thy neighbor as thy self.” **[Read Mark 12: 30-31]**. This means our motives should not be selfish, but to include the welfare of others. We must set goals and objectives that would enable us to accomplish a purpose filled life that grants hope and gratification no matter what our circumstances.

KS: When I was little, my mother would go to great ends when speaking to me and my siblings, and I thought, there has to be something great in what she is saying if she is putting that much effort into this. **[Read Proverbs 15: 5]**

Sis. Brown: It had to be for some good reason. What other purpose would it be for? That’s wonderful. So many people don’t listen to their parents. So many people are forever hearing and not hearing. They are not accepting it as value.

TRUTH

Bro. Brown: Get acquainted with II Timothy 2:15. There is a half-truth and a whole truth. I think about the snake telling Eve that you are not going to surely die. Well, she didn’t die physically, but she died spiritually.

Points of Wisdom from Interview

- If you conceive it, you can achieve it.



- Don't always act on how you feel. Think before you speak.



- Listen to people, regardless of their age.



- Be careful of half-truths.



- God is not a God of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind.



- Don't give up on people, don't give up on yourself.



- Knowledge expands your opportunities.



- We all have a story.

GETTING BACK UP

KS: What is your advice for someone who falls? Sometimes people choose to stay down. But what would be your advice to help them get back up?

Sis. Brown: My advice to someone who falls or fails to accomplish their objective is not to be discouraged or hard on oneself. First, ask yourself why did I fail? Second, what should I have done to succeed? Life is complex and we are continually faced with challenges. Challenges are like academic tests that we must prepare and research for answers to be successful. Sometimes we are fortunate enough to pass these tests or challenges. Other times, we may have to resume our studies and continually seek the answers we are looking for or we may have to change our course and direction to find something more suitable for our journey in this life. It may be a career choice, a decision about marriage, purchasing a home, or an automobile. Whatever decisions or choices we make require deliberate attention and thoughtfulness. We must ask the Master, Christ Jesus, for guidance and His will for our lives. **[Read John 16:33]**

Bro. Brown: From a practical viewpoint, it is all mind control. You have to control how you think and it takes a job to do that. You have to learn how to do that. When something is lost, you have to replace it. As a man thinketh, that's who he is. A person who has fallen down in life – **[creating]** expectations, depression, or whatever it may cause **[has to be careful]**. It could be the life of a love one **[if you lose love, then]** you have to replace love with love, otherwise you will replace love with misery because that's what you think. As a man thinketh, that's who he is! **[Read Proverbs 23: 7]**

Poem: A Letter to Hardship

Thank you, hardship, you made me better. When I wanted it easy, you made it difficult. Instead of small hills, you made me climb mountains. Thank you for forcing me to clear my own path. You even introduced me to your twin, adversity. You taught me that ease is not always the best path and that difficulty is not a death sentence. In fact, I now welcome you because the results are always in my favor. Though you knock me down, I come up stronger. Though you try to plant doubt in my mind, you force me to find the real truth. So, thank you because you taught me well. And that is why today I am strong, and I stand on top of the mountain, on top of hardship!

By: Kendrick Savage



THE FINAL WORD

John 4:4 reads, *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* It is important for us to remember that with God we can overcome anything. II Corinthians 12:9 reminds us that, *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* This powerful interview from the Browns remind us of the power of Christ. The Browns beautiful story illustrates how we do not have to stay down if we get knocked down. God is able. God is in control. We are overcomers.

THANK YOU

I want to extend a special thank you to Sis. LeClorist and the late Bro. Robert Brown. They are truly gracious, inspirational, and blessed people. Thank you for being a blessing to the world and holding up the light so that others can see the right path! I also extend my warmest gratitude and thanks to Pastor Dr. Dunnigan and Pleasant Hill B.C. for their support.

Creator and Editor in
Chief: Dr. Kendrick Savage

THE POETRY AND PRAISE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 | Issue 2

Subject: A Life With Christ

An interview with Bro. Carl Wilson and Sis. Florest Wilson

“There is nothing we can’t bring to God, knowing that He is faithful and just to forgive us.”

- **Deaconess Wilson**

PERSEVERANCE

KS: What’s a lesson that you would share with a younger person that would help them get through the difficult moments in life?

Deaconess Wilson: I found that keeping them involved in church, keep them involved in knowing that they have a resource in our Savior, and always make God a priority. It is also important to let them know that they can laugh and have fun and still be a part of the body of Christ. **[Read I Timothy 4:12]**

Deacon Wilson: We try to live the life that God wants us to live and try to gain the respect of the young people so that when something does come up, the young people have the confidence to come and talk to us. Knowing that we are not just going to tell them anything that’s not true to try to win them over, but we are going to be straight up with them and most of all lead them directly to the word of God and how to deal with situations.

KS: How important do you think it is to share with young people, the moments of our lives that have not been so good? Or times that we did fall and didn’t get it right?

Deaconess Wilson: I try to listen to the holy spirit in order to do that. Some things you can share with a younger Christian and I don’t necessarily mean young as in age, but new in the faith. Some people will take that example from your life and allow it to become a stumbling block for them. I never want to do that.

Deacon Wilson: You share your experiences in life. Yes, you have had some ups and downs, you messed up along the way and the Lord brought you through. You don’t want to say to people that you have lived a perfect life because no one has. You want them to know that you’ve had some disappointments in life, but look where the Lord has brought me. We want them to know that when you mess up, just go to the Lord in prayer and talk to him as a Father and let him know you need His help. **[Read Luke 15: 11-32]**

KS: Thank you. I find that very beneficial because sometimes when people come to you with a shortcoming, they just want to know that you can meet them where they are.

“The Lord does not give up on anyone. We’ve done and said things we shouldn’t of said. Still we knew where our help and forgiveness came from.”

- **Deacon Wilson**



Points of Wisdom from Interview

- Always make God a priority.



- Allow the holy spirit to direct you in what to say.



- God does not give up on anyone.



- When you mess up, just go to the Lord in prayer and talk to Him, talk to Him as a Father.



- God is not a God of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind.



- Regardless of age, you will always need Christ.



- Be open and willing to go where God leads you.

DEALING WITH SHAME AND GETTING BACK UP

KS: What is your advice for someone who falls? What would you say to help them get back up and get back on the right track?

Deacon Wilson: Well, the first thing we want to do is have prayer with them. I want them to know where our strength comes from and we can talk about what they are going through. We want them to know that the Lord does not mean for them to stay down. And that God still loves them and has not forgotten them and that God will forgive them. **[Read Romans 3:23]**

Deaconess Wilson: I too, would agree, with letting them know that there is not an individual that has come to this life that has not had some disappointments. We can go to God and ask for forgiveness. The hardest thing sometimes is for us to forgive ourselves.

KS: That's really good. Why do you think it is so hard for people to forgive themselves?

Deacon Wilson: We still have an adversary. Satan wants us to believe that God does not love us and that He will not forgive us. If he can confuse you like that, then you are going to stay in the dark. I think people do forget that we have an adversary a lot of times. We have to remember to trust and depend on God because He is more than Satan could ever be. **[Read John 10:10]**

Deaconess Wilson: Our adversary is truly a devious enemy and will do everything he can do to confuse is into not knowing the true story of who God is. And if he does that then we are in trouble. This also highlights the importance of having a prayer connection.

YOUR YOUNGER SELF

KS: If you could tell your teenage self-something, what would it be?

Deacon Wilson: That Christ loves us. I would also tell myself to trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. Do not get caught up with the world, but trust and depend on the Lord. **[Read Proverbs 3:5-6]**

Deaconess Wilson: That just because I accepted Christ does not mean that I'm perfect. God still has people you can go to when you think you can't and they will be supportive of helping you. Don't think that because you accepted Christ that you are all that and a bag of chips. Regardless of your age, you are still going to need Christ. And you cannot make yourself perfect. **[Read Romans 2:11]**

**Points of Wisdom
from Interview**

- **God is always there.
He can lead you
even at a young
age.**



- **Ask anything.
Always be open to
helping the youth.**

A MOMENT OF IMPACT

KS: What stands out as a moment of impact in your life? A moment where Christ grabbed your attention or just stands out to you.

Deacon Wilson: When I think about who has been important in my life and caused an impact. I would have to say the holy spirit. Growing up, I didn't have parents that encouraged me to go to church or Sunday school, that really wasn't talked about. The holy spirit has been directing me since I was a young child. I was probably about 9 or 10 attending Sunday school. It was the holy spirit that kept drawing me because a lot of the kids I grew up with were getting into trouble and they had both parents and I didn't. I was raised by my grandmother. **[Read Romans 8:15]**

Poem: Keep On Pushing

Today may not be the best day
But, Push Through. Tomorrow may be even harder
But, Push Through. You may have more questions than answers
And often need second chances
But that's ok, too
Just, Push Through. You see, life isn't always fair
And will sometimes feel like more than
What you can bare
But, Push Through. Remember, you are a gift
You are the treasure
Believe in yourself
And hold it together
And if you find yourself
Searching and wondering what to do
Don't forget to tell you
Oh
Very capable you
To just, PUSH, PUSH THROUGH

By: Kendrick Savage

THE FINAL WORD

I Corinthians 15:10 reads, *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.* I want to remind you that it is by God's grace that we are who we are and the grace that He extends to us is never in vain. Therefore, never let someone make you feel unworthy or that you are beyond help or love. Additionally, the work that we do for Christ is only because of His grace and we are able to complete that work because His grace is always present. This interview with the Wilson family reminds us of the grace of God. The Wilson's story of a life with Christ illustrates that whether we are mature in Christ, just getting to know Him, or don't know Him at all, His grace is available and readily extends to all of us. A life with Christ. A life well lived.

THANK YOU

I want to extend a special thank you to Sis. Florest and Bro. Carl Wilson. It was an absolute treat to interview them. They opened their hearts for this interview and really took the time to provide answers that were heartfelt. I was inspired by their love of Christ and the work they have done over the years to help the younger generation! Keep holding up the light! I also extend my warmest gratitude and thanks to Pastor Dr. Dunnigan and Pleasant Hill B.C. for their support.