

Your Biggest Breakthrough is an inspiring podcast hosted by popular health and fitness personality Wendie Pett and her husband, Bible scholar and men's mentor Todd Isberner.

Founded in October 2020, Your Biggest Breakthrough showcases remarkable stories of resilience, faith and transformation. Each episode features a guest who has

navigated immense and traumatic adversity, only to emerge stronger through their unwavering faith in God.

These powerful narratives - over 130 episodes and counting - highlight the incredible healing touch and inner peace that comes from fully relying on God. The series delves into the personal journeys of its guests, revealing how faith and repentance played a pivotal role in their breakthroughs.

Listeners are invited to join these heartfelt conversations, which are not just stories of survival, but testaments to the profound impact of God's grace in the darkest of times.

What follows is a short summary of a few of our favorite episodes from the podcast that show the power of overcoming adversity when relying on God. In this short ebook and <u>accompanying</u> <u>audiobook</u>, we'll give a short synopsis of the episode, along with a few audio highlights from the episode.

We hope you'll take some time to watch or listen to these episodes in their entirety. We've poured our heart and soul into this podcast, and are proud to be able to share it with you! To learn more about Wendie and her Visibly Fit program, visit wendiepett.com

And to find out more about Todd and his coaching program for men, find him on the web at toddisberner.com.

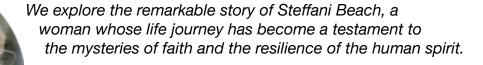
In Christ,

Todd and Wendie



A Journey Beyond Life and Back: The Miraculous Story of Steffani Beach

YBB Episode #123 <u>Listen</u> | <u>Watch</u>



It was a typical summer day in 1979 at a local swimming pool where 13-year-old Steffani Beach, full of youthful exuberance, was enjoying a day out with her friends. But in a sudden twist of fate, what began as an ordinary afternoon transformed into a moment that defied the boundaries of life and death.

Steffani was inadvertently knocked unconscious and submerged in the pool, unnoticed by those around her. It was only after several harrowing minutes that her absence was detected, and a frantic effort ensued to rescue her lifeless body from the water.

By the time medical help arrived, Steffani had been clinically dead for 30 minutes. This tragic event left her loved ones in a state of shock and grief. However, in this darkest hour, faith emerged as a beacon of hope. A friend, driven by a deep belief, fervently prayed for Steffani's revival, invoking the name of Jesus in a desperate plea.

Miraculously, as paramedics and doctors worked tirelessly, Steffani's heart restarted, defying all medical understanding. This astonishing event not only baffled the experts but also rewrote the narrative of Steffani's life.

Our podcast delves into this extraordinary incident, exploring the intricate details of Steffani's near-death experience and its profound impact on her and those who witnessed it. Steffani's story serves as a powerful reflection on the enigmatic crossroads of science and spirituality.

In an exclusive interview with Steffani, she shares insights into her childhood and spiritual awakening. She recounts the incredible incident where she was brought back to life, emphasizing the pivotal role of faith and prayer during those critical moments.

Steffani also opens up about her inner experiences while she was physically dead, revealing a battle for her soul in the aftermath of the accident. Her narrative is a compelling invitation to consider the power of faith and prayer, challenging us to choose love and faithfulness over fear.



This journey through Steffani's life is a profound reminder of the immeasurable depths of human resilience and the enduring power of hope. It encourages listeners to ponder the unexplained phenomena at the intersection of life, death, and faith.

Through Steffani's story, we are invited to reflect on the potential of faith to transcend life's greatest challenges, providing a beacon of light in the darkest of times. Her experience raises intriguing questions about the mysteries of life and the unseen forces that guide our existence.

Steffani's account is not just a story of survival; it's a testament to the human spirit's capacity to overcome the impossible. Her life is a living example that sometimes, the most profound truths lie beyond the realm of science and in the heart of faith and hope.

We invite you to listen to Steffani's incredibly story in detail on our podcast or YouTube channel! **Listen | Watch



The Inspiring Journey of the Chrisagis Brothers – Faith, Healing, and Entertainment

YBB Episode #30 Listen | Watch

"She'd give the twelve apostles a run for their money."

These words, spoken about the mother of Shawn and Brian Chrisagis, encapsulate the unwavering faith and determination that shaped the lives of her twin sons. Born three months premature and battling severe allergies to sunlight, the Chrisagis brothers' survival story is nothing short of miraculous.

The Chrisagis brothers were dubbed "bubble babies" due to their extreme vulnerability. The threat of death loomed large over their early years, and their family had to make

extraordinary sacrifices to ensure their survival. Constant intensive care became a norm for the family, altering their life in unimaginable ways.

It was their mother's steadfast refusal to accept a grim prognosis that set the tone for their lives. Her faith and determination became a beacon of hope, guiding them through the darkest times. The moment they were finally allowed exposure to sunlight and windows marked a significant turning point in their journey, symbolizing not just physical healing but also the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

Surviving these early ordeals instilled in Brian and Shawn a profound confidence and faith in God. This faith became the cornerstone of their entertainment-based ministry. Their belief, as they often say, is that "Without the brokenness, you can't become like Christ." Their journey through trials and tribulations became a source of inspiration for thousands, showing that faith can indeed move mountains.

The Chrisagis Brothers' ministry has touched lives across the globe, delighting audiences with a message of hope and faith. They have even had the opportunity to minister to notable figures in the entertainment industry. Their message is clear: You don't need to be a celebrity to make a difference; faith through trials is enough to inspire and lead others to Christ.

The Chrisagis brothers survived a harrowing fight for survival as infants due to severe allergies. Even the slightest exposure to sunlight could have meant their death. Their mom was the inspiration who defied conventional science and medicine, and determined her babies were going to live.



But after that glorious first exposure to sunlight, Shawn and Brian eventually learned to manage their allergies and became powerful forces for the Kingdom through entertaining and uplifting programs performed around the United States.

In the interview, the brothers share the importance of parents identifying children with God's word, not just their interests or personalities, how their work has rejuvenated the faith of entertainment industry veterans. They also discuss the barriers that prevent Christians from making a global impact, how social platforms contribute to self-obsession and distort truth, some of the unexpected advantages of remaining single, and much more!

The lives of the Chrisagis brothers serve as a testament to the power of faith and perseverance. They teach us that our trials and tribulations are not just obstacles, but opportunities to grow stronger in our faith and closer to God. Their story is a beacon of hope, demonstrating that even in the darkest times, there's a light that faith can illuminate.

**Within one year of this recording, Shawn Chrisagis unexpectedly passed away. While comforting to know that Shawn is with His Savior and Lord, brother Brian is learning to adapt to life without his twin and best friend. Brian faithfully continues to sing, preach and minister to those in need.

We invite you to listen or watch the Chrisagis Brothers' story of breaking through intense adversity in more detail: <u>Listen</u> | <u>Watch</u>



The Power of Prayer: The Transformational Journey of Jim Maxim

YBB Episode #95 <u>Listen</u> | <u>Watch</u>

In the book of James, the Bible speaks of the powerful impact of a righteous person's fervent prayer, saying, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). This profound truth resonates deeply in the life story of Jim Maxim, whose journey from the depths of despair to a life of purpose and ministry highlights the transformative power of prayer.

Jim Maxim's early life was marked by chaos and pain. Growing up in a home ravaged by his father's alcoholism, Jim witnessed the devastating effects of addiction. The financial strain eventually led to the repossession of their family home, plunging Jim into a world of hardship and uncertainty. In an attempt to escape his troubled reality, he turned to alcohol and drugs, spiraling further into despair.

Jim's life reached a critical point when, under the influence of drugs and overwhelmed by his personal demons, he was involved in a horrific car accident. Teetering on the brink of death, Jim experienced a chilling encounter with what he described as demonic entities in his subconscious. This near-death experience was a pivotal moment in his life, laying the groundwork for a profound transformation.

Despite not being overly religious, Jim's mother turned to prayer in her son's darkest hour. Her unwavering faith and fervent prayers for Jim's recovery became a testament to the power of a mother's love and the efficacy of prayer. Miraculously, Jim survived the accident, a turnaround he attributes to his mother's prayers and God's intervention.

After his recovery, Jim's life took a new direction as he began to explore his relationship with Jesus. This spiritual awakening was not just a moment of conversion but a journey of discovering purpose and healing. Jim's story is a testament to the idea that even in our darkest moments, there is hope for redemption and transformation.

Jim's experience underscores the significance of prayer, not just as a religious practice but as a lifeline in times of despair. He emphasizes the importance of continuing to pray, even when it seems like the time for prayer has passed. His life is a powerful example of how prayer can bring about change, healing, and a renewed sense of purpose.



Drawing inspiration from Acts 4:13, Jim founded Acts 4:13 Ministries with his wife, Cathy. This organization focuses on evangelism, counseling, and ministering to people worldwide, with a special emphasis on intercessory prayer for pastors, their families, and churches.

A hallmark of Acts 4:13 Ministries is its city-wide prayer gatherings. These events bring together Christians of all backgrounds to intercede for spiritual leaders and their communities. Through these gatherings, Jim seeks to catalyze a movement of prayer that transcends denominational and cultural boundaries.

Jim's transformation from a life marred by addiction to one of service is a powerful illustration of redemption. His commitment to ministry, whether in prison outreach, speaking engagements, or leadership roles in various ministries, reflects his dedication to serving others and spreading the message of hope and healing.

Jim's personal life is as rich and fulfilling as his public ministry. Married to Cathy for over 46 years, he is a proud father and grandfather, sharing his journey of faith with his family. His story, detailed in his book "Face-to-Face with God," is not just about his own transformation but also about the ripple effect of change and healing that extends to his family and the countless lives he touches through his ministry.

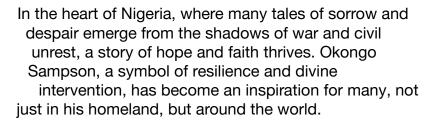
Jim Maxim's life story is a powerful reminder of the profound impact of prayer and the potential for personal transformation. From a troubled childhood to a life dedicated to ministry and intercession, Jim's journey is a testament to the truth that no one is beyond the reach of God's love and the transformative power of prayer. His legacy continues to inspire and motivate others to seek a deeper connection with their faith and to believe in the miraculous power of prayer.

To take a deep dive into Jim's personal testimony of reliance on God's miraculous power through seemingly insurmountable adversity, listen or watch his appearance on the Your Biggest Breakthrough podcast! **Listen | Watch**



"My Story is God's Story" with Okongo Sampson

YBB Episode #23 Listen | Watch



Born in a small village, Okongo was introduced to Christianity at the tender age of 15. The teachings of love, hope, and redemption resonated with him. Baptized in faith

and love, he was like a fresh sprout in spring, brimming with promise. However, the winds of adversity began to blow in his direction when he was abducted by rebel armies in a raid.

In captivity, Okongo faced unimaginable abuse and torment. He was tested not only physically but mentally and spiritually. The world would expect someone in his position to buckle under the pressure, to lose faith and to succumb to despair. But Okongo was different. Despite the anguish, he leaned heavily on his newfound faith in Jesus, drawing strength and peace from His teachings.

Where most would see darkness, Okongo saw a glimmer of light. His calm and peaceful demeanor in the face of such adversity did not go unnoticed. His captors, though initially skeptical of his unyielding spirit, began to treat him with a degree of respect. It was a testament to the power of faith that even in the harshest of circumstances, love and hope could pierce through the thickest of walls.

Soon, Okongo was traveling from camp to camp. While still a prisoner, the favor he had earned with the guards allowed him to travel unmolested as a messenger of peace, sharing the love of Jesus with his fellow prisoners.

Armed with nothing but his unwavering faith, he ministered to fellow prisoners about the saving grace of Jesus. In the most unlikely of places, under the most challenging circumstances, a ministry was born. Okongo's story became a beacon of hope for many prisoners who had lost their way.

In sharing his story with the world, Okongo repeatedly emphasizes that his tale is not about his courage or resilience, but about God's divine plan.

"My story is really God's story," he often says. He believes that even in the darkest moments, God has a purpose. The trials and tribulations he faced were not in vain; they were a testament to the idea that even in the face of utmost adversity, God's love and peace can shine through.



Many who have heard Okongo's story have been deeply moved. His tale serves as a stark reminder that even in the bleakest situations, there is always hope. By relying on Jesus' peace, even the most tragic circumstances can be transformed into a force for good.

Today, Okongo continues his mission, traveling far and wide to share his story and spread the message of hope and salvation. His journey from a young Christian boy to a beacon of hope amidst adversity is a testament to the enduring power of faith and the boundless love of God.

In a world often fraught with uncertainty and darkness, stories like Okongo Sampson's illuminate the path, reminding us all that with faith, even the impossible becomes possible.

Okongo Samson's story is inspiring for us all, and you'll love hearing it in detail! Just click one of the two links below to listen or watch him tell it. Listen | Watch



The Unbreakable Spirit: Benny DiChiara's Journey from Tragedy to Triumph

YBB Episode #116 <u>Listen</u> | <u>Watch</u>



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

In the heartwarming embrace of Jeremiah 29:11,
Benny DiChiara found a lifeline, a promise of hope
and a future amidst the darkest hours of his life. The
catastrophic traumatic brain injury (TBI) he suffered in
2015 became more than just a harrowing ordeal; it
emerged as a pivotal moment, reshaping his identity and
redefining his life's trajectory. This scripture, resonating

deeply with Benny, transformed from mere words to a living testament of his journey.

Benny's story is a profound testament to the unpredictable nature of life. His sudden fall and the resulting TBI in October 2015 marked a period of immense uncertainty. He grappled with memory gaps, speech issues, and surreal perceptions of reality, but amidst this turmoil, he experienced a profound spiritual awakening. He likens this phase to a person lost and searching for direction, a metaphor for his own journey towards finding Jesus.

Contrary to his fears, Benny's ability to create music remained untouched by his injury. He shares, "I was afraid I would lose that gifting. Instead, He has elevated that gift." The formation of his band, Empowered, became a channel for expressing his renewed faith and creative prowess. The band, featuring talented members like Shane Madere Jr., Jeff Maddox, Mic Capdeville, and Justin Burdette, collaborates to produce music that is not only a reflection of their collective talent but also a manifestation of their spiritual journey.

Empowered's music, particularly their EP "Three Days," embodies Benny's journey from being lost to finding empowerment in faith. Their music is a blend of personal experience, scriptural truths, and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by contemporary society, particularly the youth. The band's success, marked by significant streaming numbers and popularity, indicates the relevance and impact of their message.

Benny's life story is more than a tale of musical success. It's a narrative of personal transformation. Raised in a liturgical church, he had knowledge of Jesus but lacked a personal relationship with Him. His journey through the U.S. Navy,



success in a regional secular band, and challenges in his personal life, including a painful divorce, were all stepping stones that led him to a deeper understanding of faith. His eventual commitment to Christ at Trinity Christian Center in Baton Rouge marked a new beginning.

Empowered's outreach extends beyond music. Their partnership with Children's Cup ministries exemplifies their commitment to using their platform for a greater good. This collaboration reflects Benny's and the band's dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable children, especially in regions afflicted by poverty and disease.

Benny DiChiara's journey is a powerful narrative of resilience, faith, and transformation. Through his music, personal life, and humanitarian efforts, he stands as a beacon of hope, embodying the essence of Jeremiah 29:11. His life story encourages others to find strength in their struggles and to seek a deeper connection with their faith. In Benny's words and music, we find a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there is a plan for hope and a future, a message that continues to resonate and inspire.

Lean in to your phone or screen to hear Benny's stunning testimony of relying on God to persevere through incredible challenges using the links below! <u>Listen | Watch</u>



Grieving Gracefully: The Story of Angela Alexander

YBB Episode #16 Listen | Watch



Grief is a journey, a path that many of us walk at different times in our lives. It's a path that brings with it deep pain, darkness, and questions. But, as Angela's journey demonstrates, it can also be a path of resilience, hope, and unshakable faith.

When Angela's sister Alice was tragically killed, it sent her life into a tailspin of grief and trauma. The two sisters, who had once run a balloon and flower business

together in Tacoma, Washington, were inseparable. After Alice's passing, Angela was so deeply affected that she relocated from Washington to sunny California in search of solace and a fresh start.

However, as we all know, God works in mysterious ways. A year after her sister's death, Angela stumbled upon a letter Alice had penned to God, tucked away in her wallet. This letter, discovered only after it had been held as evidence for an entire year, was the balm to Angela's wounded soul. In her simple but powerful words wherein Alice confessed her dependence on God, Angela felt as though this was her sister's last conversation with God before being called to His side. The weight of grief felt slightly lighter, replaced with a peace that Angela describes as truly "priceless".

Music, too, played a pivotal role in her healing. Patti LaBelle's "Love Never Dies" became a soothing anthem for her grieving heart. Despite not being a religious song, its message resonated deeply with Angela, reminding her that love transcends the boundaries of life and death.

With life slowly piecing itself back together, Angela reentered the Air Force Reserve and made the decision with her husband to become foster parents. Motivated by gratitude after her husband's miraculous recovery from an aneurysm, they yearned to give back, to manifest their thanks into tangible action.

However, tragedy was lurking around the corner once again. While on a short assignment in Japan, Angela was given the heart-wrenching news that her husband and four children had met with a severe car accident. And while her husband and two daughters survived, her twin sons, Maurice and Roger, did not.

But even in the midst of this unthinkable pain, Angela experienced moments of divine clarity and connection. She recalled a bedtime prayer her children often said, bringing her comfort in the belief that her sons were now in a better place. The letters written



by Maurice, expressing his love for his family, became a beacon of light, a reminder that God was indeed in control. The loving letters written by classmates of her surviving daughters further underscored the deep reservoir of love and support surrounding her.

Angela's story demonstrates the transformative power of perspective. She teaches us that in the face of unspeakable pain, we have a choice. We can either sink into the depths of despair or we can actively search for the miracles that exist amidst the misery. For Angela, those miracles were the letters written by her loved ones. Letters that were, in many ways, messages from God, assuring her of a love that never dies.

Her testament serves as a powerful reminder that even in the most challenging moments, God speaks to us in unexpected ways. Whether it's through the written words of a loved one, or the kindness of strangers, there are signs everywhere that reaffirm our faith and provide solace.

Today, Angela's testimony lives on through her book, "Miracles in Action", where she delves deeper into her personal experiences and the powerful lessons she's learned. Her story is a testament to the indomitable human spirit, the resilience of the heart, and the unwavering faith that can see us through the darkest times.

**We almost didn't include Angela's story in this series because it's so difficult to tell it in this shortened format. But we couldn't keep it out because of its powerful message of keeping our spirits up through unbelievable challenges and heartache. Please click one of the below links to listen or watch Angela share her testimony in detail! Listen | Watch

