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Happy
**Mother's
day**



Prayer Points 2025

FOR OUR CHURCHES

- We believe for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the pulpit and the pews.

FOR OUR CITIES

- We believe for God to raise up a gospel witness all over our cities in schools, universities, and the workplace.

FOR OUR COUNTRIES

- We believe for God to raise up Daniels, Esthers and Josephs in gov't offices around the world that will be a voice from heaven to the nation.

FOR THE WORLD

- We believe for God to save 1 billion souls.

Dangerous Success: Don't Be Fooled By Gushing Water

by Pastor Tim Dilena, Senior Pastor

Success in life or ministry is not always a confirmation or endorsement from God. It may be that a successful outcome is an act of God's kindness toward you but not His blessing on you.

To illustrate this, I want to highlight the story of Samson in the Bible. In Judges 16:3, the Bible states, "But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts. He tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted those doors and their posts on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron."

Gaza was one of the five major cities of the Philistines. City gates symbolize a city's

strength. At that time, the gates of major cities were wide enough for chariots to drive through. They consisted of double doors made of wood to prevent entry by an enemy and pivoted in stone sockets. Samson carried not just the gates but also the posts, which amounted to a total weight of 5 to 10 tons on his shoulders. To add to this miraculous account, the Bible tells us he carried them to a location that could be up to forty miles away. And he took them up a hill!

What is astounding to me is not just that he carried the doors forty miles and up a hill, but that he got up in the middle of the night to do it.

Let me read this to you from Judges 16:1:

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Dangerous Success: Don't Be Fooled By Gushing Water (continued)

"One day, Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her." Folks, he was getting up from a brothel bed. The miracle occurs after what the Bible would classify as the sin of fornication, having slept with a prostitute.

Some of you might be thinking, "What?" But this is not what I'm saying; the Scriptures are saying this. This is how we know that success is not always God's confirmation or endorsement of your life and lifestyle. It may be an act of God's kindness towards you but not his blessing on what you're doing.

I'm cautious to say this, but this may be something we're observing in churches and ministries across our country. It's possible to experience success while still grappling with blatant sin. When you see God's blessing while you're living in compromise or sin, it's not necessarily God's approval. It is God's kindness. This should lead to repentance, not a continuation of your compromise.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul says in Romans 2:4: "Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness, His tolerance, and His patience, not knowing that it's the kindness of God that leads us to repentance?"

When God shows kindness to someone living in compromise and sin, it is not an endorsement. It is God encouraging them to get right with Him. Paul continues in Romans 2:5: "But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin—and because God is showing kindness—you are storing up punishment for yourself. A day of anger is coming when God's righteous judgment will be revealed."

You might believe that you can sleep with a boyfriend, come to church, and think everything is okay. You may think that because you don't feel anything bad happening, everything must be fine. But Paul warns us of the danger that a spirit of stubbornness can create for us.

We see the same lesson in the story of Samson. After Samson performed the miracle, the Bible says that he loved a woman named Delilah. His first relationship was purely driven by lust and compulsion. In his second relationship, he genuinely fell in love with something that was wrong. This is where the bondage lies. It's not just about falling; it's about falling in love with something destructive.

Consider John 3:19: "This is the judgment: light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil." They didn't just do evil things; they loved the darkness instead of the light, fearing that their deeds would be exposed. But those who practice the truth come to the light so that their deeds can be revealed as having been done through God.

The Message translation puts it this way: "This is the crisis we're in: God's light has streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness." They prefer darkness because they're not genuinely interested in pleasing God. In our ministries and pursuits, we sometimes become so enamored with success that we forget to examine our souls and our hearts.

There was a sermon at one of the largest churches in the area where the preacher talked about Palm Sunday. He said that the message of Palm Sunday isn't about what happened that day but about what the palm

branches felt. This message is reductive and misses the bigger picture. It's not about what the palm trees felt; it's about the Son of God coming to fulfill His purpose.

I spoke to a gentleman who preached overseas while being involved in an adulterous relationship. He was married and questioned how God could bless him while he was betraying his marriage. He told me that people were getting saved while he preached. I responded that this was "dangerous success."

Think about Moses. After 40 years in the wilderness, he was barred from entering the promised land for a moment of

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disobedience—striking the rock when God had commanded him to speak to it. The miracle of water flowed from the rock, but Moses still suffered for his disobedience. This serves as a powerful reminder to remain vigilant and aligned with God's Word.

I have come to realize that when you see gushing water, you shouldn't quickly judge that God's blessing is immediately present.

In our church, I pray, "God, when the water flows, when You pour out Your Spirit in a service, let these hands be obedient. Let our lives reflect obedience."

We cannot assume we can live in sin and still expect God's blessing. Even when God is merciful and allows water to flow to His people, He is still calling us to repentance.

I pray that if the anointing ever leaves me, you would have the courage to remove me from this pulpit. It's crucial that when I stand to preach in this city, I do so not just based on gift or talent. We desperately need anointing, conviction, and the Holy Spirit's power in the pulpit—not just words. Anyone can preach words. I seek God's conviction and His Spirit.

The gushing water does not reflect the quality of leadership but rather the

goodness and kindness of God. I've told God, it doesn't matter how many followers I have on social media, or who shows up, or how successful everything seems—if You are not present, it counts for nothing. Dangerous success occurs when blessings manifest while we are living in disobedience.

The apostle Paul wrote, “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall.” This serves as a warning from Paul that success can coexist with disobedience for a season.

There is an often-overlooked word in our discussions today: holiness. It's not a popular topic anymore. On the day of Pentecost in the New Testament, outsiders were amazed at the power of God that was poured out. Today, though, it seems that we must be amused rather than amazed in the church.

I found myself asking God, “What is holiness?” First, holiness can be understood as “wholeness.” It's when God seeks out every part of our lives—including our thoughts, motives, and agendas. He goes after everything, every thought, action, and relationship falls under His lordship.

Secondly, holiness may also lead to loneliness. Others might look at you as if you're out of your mind, labeling “holiness” as legalism or something similar. In those moments, it's important to thank Jesus for reaching into every part of your life. It's true that holiness can feel lonely at times.

However, I want to stress that holiness is also about usefulness. The greatest blessing comes when God can use a servant who is wholly committed to Him. When you feel a conviction, address those small matters because if left unchecked, they can grow into much larger issues. Many people might dismiss a sharp word they've spoken or a negative thought they've entertained, but God urges us to be mindful, even of the smallest transgressions.

Please allow me to share a peculiar experience that highlighted this lesson for me. My family and I adopted a puppy during COVID. Last week, I was taking him out for a bathroom break. While in the elevator, I encountered a man who was admiring my dog and told me he was considering getting one himself. I mentioned a rule that only allowed dogs under thirty-five pounds in our building. The man replied that there are quite

a few dogs that weigh much more than that.

I said, “Well, they say you can have one if it's an emotional support dog, which probably means we have many dishonest people in our building.”

**Even when everything
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He laughed, and I chuckled as well. However, as soon as I stepped off the elevator, I felt the Holy Spirit convict me. God told me to apologize when I saw him next. I agreed, but I never expected to see him again.

Now one good thing I can say about this dog is it takes less than two minutes for him to do his thing. There's no waiting time. But that morning, the dog just wouldn't go. All he would do was sniff the air. I was so angry. Then I saw that same man was walking up the street with a coffee in his hand. I knew that God was giving me the opportunity to apologize. And so, I did.

There is an old Puritan saying: “He that has slight thoughts of sin never has great thoughts about God.” That is, when you don't treat those small convictions of the Holy Spirit with seriousness, it affects your view of God. Deal with your sin.

I remember David Wilkerson saying this next verse in the story of Samson is the saddest verse in all the Bible: “Then Delilah called to

Samson, ‘The Philistines are upon you,’ and he awoke from his sleep and thought, I'll go out as before and shake myself free, but he didn't know that the Lord had left him.”

Don't be deceived: just because things appear to be going well doesn't mean you have God's approval. You may see success in your life, but if there's an area where God is pointing out issues, it's a sign of His kindness, calling you to address them. Be cautious of the dangerous success that comes when disobedience and success coexist—it's only for a season. God is saying, “Don't be deceived; I cannot be mocked. I'm calling you to deal with this.”

Whether you're looking at something on your phone or computer that you shouldn't be or becoming emotionally attached to someone at work, God is urging you to address those issues. We may still experience success. But remember, success and disobedience can coexist only for a season.

Even when everything inside you wants to run, it's His kindness keeping you present. This is an opportunity to get things right with God. I've referred to it as the “embarrassing blessing of God,” when He blesses me despite my shortcomings. It feels overwhelming to think that God would still show up for me when I haven't even done what's right.

I strongly feel that there are still some of you who have read this far whom God is nudging. Don't hesitate. This is your moment to get right with Him. ■

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GAME ON SPORTS CAMP



Game On: Made for More

A Life-Changing Sports Day Camp for Kids

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
— Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

This summer, TSC Kids is hosting **Game On: Made for More**—a three-day sports day camp where kids will embark on an unforgettable adventure filled with sports, worship, and mentorship, all while discovering their identity in Christ.

From July 8–10, children entering 2nd through 5th grade will gather at PS2 Sports Facility (NJ) and Times Square Church (NYC) daily for a camp designed to help them grow in faith, perseverance, confidence, and teamwork.

To top it all off, we'll celebrate with a special group trip to Yankee Stadium to enjoy a live baseball game together!

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Thank you for considering how you can make an eternal impact.

From the Back of a Harley to the Heart of God

Glenda's Story of Redemption

My name is Glenda Hampton. I've been a part of Times Square Church for over 30 years. I'm married to Elder Jerry. We're blessed to be a part of this house. As a child, I was always told I was privileged and that I should be thankful for my Christian heritage. However, what I experienced were people who were angry, bitter, constantly in conflict, and a pastor who committed adultery. The church was confusing to me, and I was not interested in it. By the time I was a freshman in high school, I had completely embraced and was mesmerized by the counter-cultural revolution that swept over our country. I experimented with every drug that was on the market. It was all about sex, drugs, and rock and roll.



After high school, I got involved with a guy who was in Hell's Angels. It was wild and crazy and a lot of fun. I loved riding around town, perched up on the back of his chopped Harley. But I learned the women were expected to help bring in the income. You were given two choices: dance in a strip club or sell drugs. I decided to sell drugs. My friend, however, chose to be a dancer, so I would go with her in the evenings and sit while she was working.

Slowly, I became disillusioned and bored. I was disgusted with myself and regretted what my life had become. But I couldn't ask God for help because I thought He was truly angry with me and wouldn't want anything to do with me. As a child, I lost count of the numerous times I had gone up to the altar to give my life to Jesus. I told Him I wanted to live my whole life for Him. I felt I had used up all of my chances for salvation. One night while I was sitting at the strip club as my friend was dancing, this guy came and sat next to me.

He said, "Why are you here? God has such a plan for your life."

As I drove home that night, the man's words kept going over and over in my mind. God had a plan for my life. God knew I existed.

He was aware of what I needed, and He cared enough that He designed a plan for my life.

I knew I was going to have to risk facing what I thought was an angry God to find out what the plan was. But for the first time in several years, I went into a church. I was completely undone by the worship. People had their hands raised; their faces lifted. There was a glow of peaceful contentment on their faces. I knew that they saw something I couldn't see. They were talking to somebody I couldn't talk to. I wanted what these people had.

Through every word that was spoken in that message, I heard Jesus saying to me, "Glenda, lay your burden down. Lay your shame down. Lay your guilt down. Lay your misconception of who you think God is down. Come and taste and see that the Lord is good."

I felt the crusty hard wall that I had built out of my heart just crack wide open. And I said, "Jesus, if you want my life, you can have it. However, you're going to have to live it because I just keep making a mess of everything."

I instantly felt the arms of Jesus wrap around me. I felt His love wrap around me like a warm blanket. I felt Him cleansing me, washing away the dirt of my heart. I knew that the sacrifice that He made on that cross was for me. And as He hung there and died, it was for me.

Later that evening when I was just thinking about the beautiful experience I had just had, I was so overwhelmed, so joyful, so light, so alive, so innocent for the first time. The Bible that they had given me was on my lap, and it fell open to Job 33:4 which says, "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life."

The presence of God, the glory of God filled that room and filled my heart with the Holy Spirit baptizing me afresh and giving me a new tongue to pray to Him. God has been faithful. God has been good. When I was faithless and hopeless, He gave me hope and remained faithful. The song of my heart from that moment on has been that the same Spirit who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, dwells within me, quickening me, giving me hope, giving me strength, and there is no weapon, no drug, no depression, no perversion that can ever take hold of my heart ever again because He fights for us. No weapon formed against us will prosper.



Congratulations!

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TIMES SQUARE ■ CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

CONTACT

212.541.6300
info@tsc.nyc

CHURCH LOCATION

237 West 51st Street
Between Broadway & 8th Avenue

OUR SERVICES

Sunday | 10AM & 1PM

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Tuesday | 7PM

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LOOKING BACK, MOVING FOWARD

As we look back on stories of God moving through our lives, we can move forward with encouragement and anticipation of what He will do next.

by Anna Ivanishchuk

ASHLEY'S STORY

Ashley first came to Times Square Church in 2000. At the time, she was a teenager and would sit in the annex. She recalls not wanting to get up to worship, finding the services boring, and even asking her mom at times, “Is the service finished?”

As she got older, Ashley came to the youth group, The Gate, every Friday night. Pastor Patrick shared a message about choosing faith over fear and gave an altar call. He invited youth to come to the altar if they wanted to be set free from fear by inviting God to come into their life. Ashley went to the front and gave her heart to the Lord at the age of 17. From there, she did the Foundations Class and got baptized at the church.

But Ashley says, “It doesn’t stop there!”

She was without a job for a while and prayed that God would open a door for her. Instead, the Lord told her to join the children’s ministry. She started to volunteer with the children and gave her all to the Lord. She continued to apply for jobs, but nothing opened up. She felt the Lord telling her to trust in Him. One day, she got a job interview at a school that would have her working with young children, and she got the job! All she could do was thank Jesus.

Ashley still serves in TSC Kids to this day on the check-in team! Ashley says, “I give my all to the Lord because I love him so much ... I trust Him with everything.”

To read more stories like Ashley’s, or to submit one of your own, go to **tsc.nyc/stories**.

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