

# GOSPELFRAMES

THE **GOOD NEWS**  
IN EVERYDAY LIFE





## GOSPELFRAMES

### Weekly Brief At a Glance . . .

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#### Struggles Shape Your Purpose

*"Sometimes you need to feel the pain and sting of defeat to activate the real passion and purpose that God predestined inside of you."*

**Summary:** During his private battle with cancer, Chadwick Boseman delivers a compelling truth about struggle and pain.

**Themes:** adversity, focus, purpose, trials



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#### All Your Priorities Change

*". . .once you have a family, just all your priorities change. . ."*

**Summary:** Rory McIlroy explains how becoming a father re-shaped his priorities.

**Themes:** family, fatherhood, motherhood, parenting, work-life balance



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#### Pseudologia Phantastica

*". . . deception often damages trust, especially when used to conceal a transgression."*

**Summary:** A team from the University of Pennsylvania research the causes and dangers of dishonesty.

**Themes:** confession, dishonesty, honesty, lying



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#### The Risk of Falling

*". . .no danger is more commonly realized or risk appreciated than that of falling."*

**Summary:** A court decision in a recent civil case highlights the obvious risk of falling.

**Themes:** falling, sin, stumbling, temptation



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#### How Can One Thank A Nazi Doctor

*"Forgive. See the miracle that can happen."*

**Summary:** After offering forgiveness to a Auschwitz doctor, a holocaust survivor discovers real freedom.

**Themes:** conflict, forgiveness, hatred, revenge



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**Summary:** ddd

**Themes:** ddd



# Chadwick Boseman - Struggles Shape Your Purpose

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Knowing purpose aids focus during times of struggle. Marvel fans the world over were shaken recently when they learned about the death of Chadwick Boseman (aka King T'challa). Death is always shocking, but Boseman's passing was all the more gripping because nobody knew about his struggle.

Over the past four years, Boseman starred in blockbusters like 21 Bridges, Avengers: Infinity War, Black Panther, and Marshall. And during the filming of each movie, Boseman was undergoing treatments for stage 3 colon cancer. He clearly knew something about facing trials, wisdom that he shared in a 2018 commencement address at his alma mater, Howard University.

In the middle of his private battle with cancer, he gave this advice:

Sometimes you need to feel the pain and sting of defeat to activate the real passion and purpose that God predestined inside of you. God says in Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Later, he continued:

This day, when you have reached the hill top and you are deciding on next jobs, next steps, careers, further education, you would rather find purpose than a job or career. Purpose crosses disciplines. Purpose is an essential element of you. It is the reason you are on the planet at this particular time in history. Your very existence is wrapped up in the things you are here to fulfill. Whatever you choose for a career path, remember, the struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose.

Then he concludes with these words:

When God has something for you, it doesn't matter who stands against it. God will move someone that's holding you back away from the door and put someone there who will open it for you if it's meant for you. I don't know what your future is, but if you are willing to take the harder way, the more complicated one, the one with more failures at first than successes, the one that has ultimately proven to have more meaning, more victory, more glory then you will not regret it.

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**SOURCE:** Boseman, Chadwick. "Commencement Speech at Howard University," May 12, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIHZypMyQ2s>.



## KEY PHRASE

"Sometimes you need to feel the pain and sting of defeat to activate the real passion and purpose that God predestined inside of you."

## THEMES

adversity  
focus  
purpose  
trials

## PASSAGES

*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*  
Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV)

*For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption.*  
Acts 13:36 (ESV)

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*  
James 1:2-4 (ESV)

**Other Texts:** Je 29:11; 32:19; Ro 8:26-30; 2Co 4:8-9; Pp 4:12-13; 1Pe 2:9

## All Your Priorities Change

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Golf will be very different for defending tour champion Rory McIlroy this year. At the end of August, McIlroy and his wife Erica became parents to a baby girl (Poppy Kennedy McIlroy) stating “she is the absolute love of our lives.”

Of course, having a baby changes everything. A fact that McIlroy acknowledged in a recent interview:

Before I had a family golf was most important, and then once you have a family, golf (is) definitely not the most important. It’s your family. They’re by far the most important.

Sometimes we imagine that additional “priority” equals additional pressure. But golf’s reigning champion doesn’t see it that way:

It almost takes a little bit of stress . . . I don’t know, it just puts things in perspective. I love golf and I enjoy it and it’s my job. Whether I played on Tour or not I’d still play the game of golf. But it’s one of those where once you have a family, just all your priorities change, but in a good way, in a very good way.

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**SOURCE:** Phil Casey, “Rory McIlroy announces birth of daughter ahead of Tour Championship defense.” PA Media via Yahoo Sports. <https://sports.yahoo.com/rory-mcilroy-announces-birth-daughter-145322396.html>



### KEY PHRASE

“. . .once you have a family, all your priorities change. . .”

### THEMES

family  
fatherhood  
motherhood  
parenting  
work-life balance

### PASSAGES

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.*  
*Psalm 127:3–5 (ESV)*

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply. . .”*  
*Genesis 1:28 (ESV)*

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*  
*Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)*

**Other Texts:** Dt 6:6–9; 1Sa 2:27–36; 8:3; Pr 14:26; 17:6; Is 54:13

# Pseudologia Phantastica

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The American Psychiatric Association recently reported the findings of a research project on dishonesty. They found that 13% of respondents could be identified as pathological liars (telling 10 or more lies everyday). The condition is officially known as “pseudologia phantastica,” and more than half of those with this “condition” have engaged in pathological lying for greater than 5 years.

Lies are frequently told to avoid experiences like emotional discomfort and embarrassment or to improve self esteem. Respondents reported that their cascade of mistruth frequently “grew from an initial lie.”

But any temporary benefit in dishonesty is quickly overwhelmed by its consequences. Lying was found to have negative psychological, occupational, and financial outcomes. But the greatest damage was found in social relationships. Researchers summarized this fact by explaining: “This finding was not surprising, because deception often damages trust, especially when used to conceal a transgression.”

Scripture says that “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).



## KEY PHRASE

“. . . deception often damages trust, especially when used to conceal a transgression.”

## THEMES

*confession  
dishonesty  
honesty  
lying*

## PASSAGES

*Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.  
Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)*

*“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.  
Leviticus 19:11 (ESV)*

*I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.”  
Psalm 116:11 (ESV)*

**Other Texts:** *Ge 27:19; 1Sa 15:13–14; 1Ki 13:18; Is 59:2–3; Ps 15:1–2; Pr 6:16–19; 12:22; 14:25; 17:7; 101:7; 116:11; 120:2; Am 8:5; Jn 8:44; Ac 5:3; Co 3:9; Jm 3:14*

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**SOURCE:** *Curtis, Drew A. and Christian L. Hart. "Theoretical and Empirical Support for a Diagnostic Entity." American Psychiatric Association, June 22, 2020. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.prcp.20190046>*

# The Risk of Falling

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The risk of falling should be obvious to all of us. It is actually obvious that it has become an established part of jurisprudence in U.S. law.

In a recent civil case, an appeals court dismissed the complaint of a college student who had fallen from an upper bunk in a school's dormitory.

Generally, if an institution is aware of a risk that might not be known to the general population, they are responsible for making sure you know. So, when a floor becomes wet, a business will put out a "wet floor" sign or risk being liable for injuries. But if the risk is obvious, an institution is, under normal circumstance, not liable. Which is why we don't have warning signs in front of 50lb bags of dogfood telling us that lifting heavy objects can injure your back, yet.

The basis of the case was that the institution "neglected" to include a notice concerning the risk and danger of falling from the bed. The court held that the student, who had slept in the bunk for three months, had "equal knowledge that the lofted bed was raised off the ground."

Then the judges' decision concluded with the phrase: "And significantly we have repeatedly held. . . that 'no danger is more commonly realized or risk appreciated than that of falling.'"



## KEY PHRASE

“. . .no danger is more commonly realized or risk appreciated than that of falling.”

## THEMES

*falling*  
*sin*  
*stumbling*  
*temptation*

## PASSAGES

*Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*  
*1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)*

*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*  
*Proverbs 16:18 (ESV)*

*for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.*  
*Proverbs 24:16 (ESV)*

**Other Texts:** *Ps 118:13; Da 11:35; Mi 7:8; Ro 3:23; 1Ti 1:19; 3:6; 2Pe 3:17; Ju 24; Re 2:4–5*

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**SOURCE:** *Valdosta State Univ. v. Davis, 2020 WL 4745074, at \*3 (Aug. 17, 2020) (citation omitted, sarcastic material in brackets added). Retrieved from <https://www.casemine.com/judgement/us/5f3fcfb44653d033711e534b>*

# How Can One Thank A Nazi Doctor

Eva Kor and her sister Miriam were the subjects of horrific experiments at Auschwitz-Birkenau. They were among 1,500 sets of twins exposed to disease, disfigurement and torture at the hands of the Nazi regime's Angel of Death, the infamous Dr Josef Mengele.

In 1995, Eva returned to Auschwitz for the 50th anniversary of the liberation. She reached out to Dr. Hans Munch (the physician responsible for signing the death certificates at the camp). Eva requested that he join them at the Auschwitz and sign an affidavit acknowledging what he had seen and what he had done. Dr. Munch agreed. Eva explains what happened after:

So I returned from Germany, and I was so glad that I would have an original document witnessed and signed by a Nazi—a participator, not a survivor and not a liberator—to add to the historical collection of information we were preserving for ourselves and for future generations. I was so grateful that Dr. Münch was willing to come with me to Auschwitz and sign that document about the operation of the gas chambers, and I wanted to thank him. But what does one give a Nazi doctor? How can one thank a Nazi doctor?

For ten months I pondered this question. All kinds of ideas popped into my head until I finally thought: "How about a simple letter of forgiveness from me to him? Forgiving him for all that he has done?" I knew immediately that he would appreciate it, but what I discovered once I made the decision was that forgiveness is not so much for the perpetrator, but for the victim. I had the power to forgive. No one could give me this power, and no one could take it away. That made me feel powerful. It made me feel good to have any power over my life as a survivor.

In an interview before her death just last year, she summarized the impact of forgiveness this way: "Immediately I felt that a burden of pain had been lifted from my shoulders, a pain I had lived with for fifty years: I was no longer a victim of Auschwitz, no longer a victim of my tragic past. I was free. . . If I had discovered forgiveness sooner, I would have had that 50 years of my life. **Forgive. See the miracle that can happen.**"

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**SOURCE:** Danby, Poppy, "The twins who survived Auschwitz despite being tortured, beaten and humiliated." *Mirror*, August 27, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/twins-who-survived-auschwitz-despite-22589933>.



## KEY PHRASE

"Forgive. See the miracle that can happen."

## THEMES

conflict  
forgiveness  
hatred  
revenge

## PASSAGES

*Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.*  
1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*  
Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

*You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:*  
I am the Lord.  
Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

**Other Texts:** *Ge 33:4–15; 45:5–15; Nu 12:1–13; 2Sa 19:18–23; 1Ki 1:52, 53; Ma 6:12–15; Mk 11:25; Lk 6:37; 17:4; 2Co 2:5–10; Co 3:13; 1Jn 1:9*



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