

NFL Quarterback Baker Mayfield Says Rock Bottom Led Him to Christ: 'It's Not About the Stats'

For Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield, faith wasn't always part of the playbook.

In a candid conversation on The Sports Spectrum Podcast, the former No. 1 NFL Draft pick opened up about how hitting "rock bottom" – both on and off the field – became the catalyst for a deeper walk with Jesus Christ.

"I was trying to make things happen on my own," Mayfield said. Raised with minimal church attendance, he admitted his early understanding of Christianity was simply that "you do good deeds" and "you're a good person."

But things began to shift during college at Oklahoma, where he met Pastor Adam Starling. "I didn't have to be perfect; I didn't have to have it all figured out," Mayfield recalled learning. The message that "we're all born sinners" and "we've been saved" stayed with him, though it would take a few more years before it truly changed him.

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It wasn't until he joined the NFL – and joined Professional Athletes Outreach with his wife Emily in 2020 – that Mayfield said things finally started to click. "There was a lot of emptiness that I had... I thought I could fulfill it in other ways and did not."

Then came the hard part: his career spiraled. After being cut

loose by the Browns and floating as a backup, Mayfield said, “God taught me a lesson. He had to take my career down to the studs and make me realize that I’m more than a football player.”

It wasn’t just football. Mayfield said his marriage was struggling too – especially as he and Emily faced difficulties trying to have children. “We weren’t doing well at all,” he shared.

To rebuild, he had to return to the foundation. “For me to climb back up, I had to dive into the word and accept the grace,” he said. “That was something that was really, really hard for me.”

Since then, things have changed. Mayfield found new life – and a new team – in Tampa. “God’s timing is perfect,” he said. “It’s been such a special ride to let God take us through that.”

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Now, he says it’s about more than football. “It’s not about the stats or anything on the field,” Mayfield said. “It’s about how I carry myself, how I inspire others and try to bring people together.”

Mayfield wants to share those lessons with younger athletes, emphasizing that Jesus is “the only thing that made me feel whole.”

He also gave credit to his wife’s growing faith, saying, “God

had her back the whole time, kept her strong through a lot of trials and tribulations. I've seen her faith grow... I've fallen more in love with her."

For Mayfield, the comeback story isn't about football glory – it's about finding purpose beyond the game.

"It has to be part of the daily routine," he said. "And you have to make your priorities align with that."

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

'Close the Doors!': Pastor's Shocking Fundraising Tactic Caught on Camera

When it comes to church conferences and offerings, there's always a fine line between boldness and backlash.

Gospel legend and pastor Marvin Sapp found himself walking that tightrope after a video went viral showing him telling ushers to "close them doors" during a fundraising moment at a recent Christian conference.

Sapp didn't mince words in the clip: "I said close the doors. Ushers close the doors, close the doors. Close the doors. We all going to leave together. Y'all ain't going no place but to the restaurant."

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That moment, caught on camera, raised eyebrows and lit up social media with critics accusing him of manipulation. But Sapp pushed back strongly against the claims, defending his actions as biblical and necessary—as reported by The Christian Post.

“Some have taken issue with a particular moment when I instructed the ushers, rather firmly, to close the doors during the offering,” Sapp wrote in a Facebook post. “To those unfamiliar with the church context or who may not regularly attend worship gatherings, this has been misinterpreted as holding people hostage, as well as offensive. That was never my intent.”

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His goal? To raise \$40,000 for the conference’s budget by asking 1,000 people in the room and 1,000 watching online to donate \$20 each. Ministers onstage were expected to give \$100, because as Sapp said, it “costs to be up here.”

He further explained, “The truth is, when finances are being received in any worship gathering, it is one of the most vulnerable and exposed times for both the finance and security teams. Movement during this sacred exchange can be distracting and, at times, even risky. My directive was not about control it was about creating a safe, focused, and reverent environment for those choosing to give, and for those handling the resources.”

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Sapp cited 1 Chronicles 29 to justify his method, referencing how King David called the people to give openly and generously toward the building of the temple. “Specific amounts were

recorded not because God needed their money, but because the people needed to show their commitment to the vision and because stewardship demands accountability,” he wrote.

Still, there’s a real risk when leaders blur the line between encouragement and coercion—especially in a worship setting.

While Scripture encourages generosity, closing doors and singling out giving amounts can come off as pressuring rather than inspiring. Church leaders should tread carefully, especially in an age where actions are instantly scrutinized online. Boldness in leadership is one thing, but spiritual authority must never become a tool for control.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Todd Mullins: 3 Secrets to Stepping Into God’s Supernatural Power

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Billy Hallowell is an investigative journalist with CBN News.

Massive 7.7 Magnitude Earthquake Devastates Myanmar, Thailand

A powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Southeast Asia on Thursday, with the epicenter near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city. The quake caused widespread destruction across Myanmar and neighboring Thailand, with fears that thousands are presumed dead and many more missing.

In Myanmar, Mandalay sustained the worst damage. The ruling military junta declared a state of emergency in six regions, including Mandalay and Sagaing, where a 6.4 magnitude aftershock was also recorded.

Right now, I'm sending prayers to the people of Myanmar and Thailand as rescue operations unfold.

We're looking at over 200 dead in Myanmar, and an unconfirmed but likely significant number in Thailand at the moment as the rescue efforts are underway.

– Malcolm FleX (@Malcolm_fleX48) March 28, 2025

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Hospitals in the affected areas were overwhelmed with injured patients, prompting urgent calls for blood donations. Emergency response teams were deployed to assist with search and rescue efforts.

In Thailand, the tremors were strongly felt in Bangkok.

A 30-story building under construction near Chatuchak Park collapsed, killing at least three people and leaving 43

construction workers unaccounted for.

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Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra declared Bangkok an “emergency zone” and ordered evacuations from structurally unsafe buildings.

The earthquake triggered panic across the region. Residents in Bangkok and Chiang Mai reported swaying buildings, with some witnessing water sloshing from rooftop pools.

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Authorities in both countries have mobilized nationwide emergency responses, evacuating residents and preparing hospitals for an influx of patients.

As the situation continues to unfold, officials are working to assess the full scale of the damage and continue rescue operations.

Let us keep the victims, their families and the ongoing rescue and relief efforts in our prayers during this difficult time.

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Prepared by Charisma News Staff

Must-See Moments from ‘The

Chosen' Season 4 Before Season 5 Drops!

Today there is anticipation in the air as "The Chosen" season 5 drops in theaters around the country. However, before you watch the latest season, make sure you're caught up on everything that happened in season 4!

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In a highlights video, "The Chosen" shares some of the biggest and most heartbreaking moments from last season. From the death of John the Baptist, Jesus' renaming of Simon to "Peter," run-ins with the religious Pharisees and the preparation for the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, this is a season you do not want to miss ahead of the "Last Supper" season.

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Watch the entire video below to see the very best highlights from Season 4.

In Mark 11:24, Jesus makes a bold and powerful statement: "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted to you."

This clearly shows that God wants us to ask for things that line up with His will, plans and purposes for our lives. And it contains something incredibly important within it: the power of faith.

In a new message, Rabbi Kirt Schneider emphasizes the

significance of this verse, urging believers to embrace the reality that God's answers are already given in the spiritual realm. Too often, we struggle with doubt and uncertainty, wondering if God is truly hearing us. Yet, as Rabbi Schneider explains, Jesus instructs us to approach prayer differently: believe that you have already received what you ask for. This is not wishful thinking—it is supernatural confidence, anchored in God's faithfulness.

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Praying in Alignment With God's Will

To fully interpret this verse, Rabbi Schneider highlights the importance of viewing it through the whole counsel of Scripture. Jesus' promise is not a license to demand anything we want.

"We can't be praying for ungodly things and believe that Jesus is going to grant those things. But there are certain things that are God's will for us to have," Schneider says. "Some of them are clearly spelled out in His Word. For example, Scripture tells us to pray for a spirit of wisdom and revelation, for power, for love, for all these things."

God also has a heart for our personal desires as well. While they may not be specifically mentioned in Scripture, He often grants them when they align with His purposes. As Schneider points out, the key is to pray with faith, believing that God has already answered, even before we see the outcome.

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Experiencing God's Nearness

Rabbi Schneider also reminds people that many of us pray as though God is far away, pleading for Him to draw near. Yet the truth is, God already is closer than our own heartbeat. When we pray, we are not summoning Him from a distance—we are simply aligning our hearts with the presence of the One who is already with us.

To fully experience the blessings purchased through Jesus' blood—healing, peace, provision and freedom—we must believe that they are already ours. By walking in this assurance, we activate the reality of God's promises in our lives.

Jesus' finished work on the cross was for our salvation and freedom in every facet of life. Now is the moment to fully and accept and believe that as children of God, He has every good and perfect gift from above already lined up for our lives.

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