

The Testament

August 2026

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

A timeless message from the archives...

Try Again

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan



Growing up, we were often told that if at first we didn't succeed at something, to try the task again. From learning to tie our shoes, to learning a new game to figuring out how to solve problems in math class, try again was the phrase offered to us by those who had a better understanding of the issue or who simply had confidence in our ability to achieve the desired result. The words symbolized encouragement and propelled us forward. It's a safe assumption that in many instances, we achieved that desired result and benefited in the long term as a result of the growth from the experience.

As adults, we encounter similar difficulties that challenge us. In some cases, the stakes are a little higher as we have to learn new skills and techniques required to sustain our livelihoods or advance in our professions. The same try again encouragement now comes from our spouses, coworkers and managers who recognize our abilities and act as the wind in our sails to help push us forward.

For many of us, trying something new takes us out of our comfort zone. It also opens the door for the enemy to step in and plant seeds of doubt and the paralyzing fear of failure. Failing in private is painful, but no less painful than failing in front of friends, coworkers or family members. It's important to remember, however, that when we fail, we have to view failure as part of the process and not the end of the process. Hence, if we're serious about achieving the goal,

then we have to try again, and maybe even again after that, until we achieve that desired result.

The challenge that we face as Christians is to overcome the obstacles that the enemy places in our paths each day. Some obstacles appear as bright, shiny objects that cause us to take our focus off of our values and cause us to fail in living the lifestyle that we have committed to live as Christians. Other obstacles come in a more subtle form. Sometimes the disparaging words and actions from others find a place beneath our skin to fester. Eventually, that festering causes our behavior to fall out of alignment with the principles that we profess to practice as loving and trusting members of the household of faith. We fail when we lose in these temporary moments of defeat to the enemy, but we have the power to regain control and claim victory in the end when we refocus and set our sights back on Christ. *No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (Philippians 3:12-14 NLT)*

As we continue our daily walk along faith's highway, let's continue to remember that regardless of the condition of our environment, that God is still in control. When panic sets in about a

Pastor's Anniversary!



Congratulations to Rev. Linzie B. Atkins, III, as we celebrate his 24th Pastoral Anniversary on Sunday, August 9th, during our morning worship service.

As part of the celebration, our Pastor's Aide Ministry will host a cookout on Saturday, August 8th, at 1:00pm at the church. Everyone is invited to come out and join in the fun and fellowship that marks this occasion.

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Romans 10:15 ESV

crisis or illness or a calamity, try again to realize that nothing happens that God didn't already know about. When doubt sets in about the ability to master a new skill or to adapt to a new circumstance, try again to realize that all things are possible for those who believe (Mark 9:23). When the storms seem to appear from every corner, try again to recognize that God will test us and will reward us in the end for our faithfulness. *God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 NLT)*

Eternal life with our Heavenly Father is our desired result. Try again to focus on that during the test.

Around Lincoln...



Deacon Tony and Deaconess Kathy Williams showed their holiday spirit as they celebrated Independence Day in the Lake Gaston Fourth of July Parade.



The Jernigans enjoy the moment with some of their family members during the Spicer-McNair Family Reunion in Sneads Ferry, NC.



Deacon on Duty for the month of August:

***Deacon Eugene Lofton
(919) 638-5348***

Potatoes, Eggs and Coffee Beans

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot.

He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl.

He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity - the boiling water.

However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Moral: In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

Which one are you?

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Virginia Union University

Virginia Union University, a Historically Black University located in Richmond, Virginia, traces its roots back to the Wayland Seminary, founded in 1865 by the American Baptist Home Missionary Society (ABHMS). The institution, however, is the result of the merger of four institutions: Wayland Seminary, Richmond Theological Seminary, Hartshorn Memorial College, and Storer College.

Following the surrender of the Confederacy in 1865, branches of the National Theological Institute in Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia decided to establish separate schools in Richmond to educate ex-slaves. The Washington organization received a \$1,500 grant from the Freedmen's Bureau and established Wayland Seminary, named after Dr. Francis Wayland, former president of Brown University and a leader in the anti-slavery struggle. Among Wayland's most prominent alumni are Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. and Booker T. Washington.

In 1883, the ABHMS established Hartshorn Memorial College, one of the first institutions created exclusively for the education of African American women. By the 1890s the ABHMS pushed plans to merge Wayland Seminary and Richmond Theological Seminary. In 1899 they became Virginia Union University.

The first classes at Virginia Union met on October 1, 1899. Dr. Malcolm MacVicar, a native of Scotland, was named the first university president. In 1932, the school became a co-ed institution with the merger of Hartshorn Memorial College. In 1941, Dr. John Malcus Ellison, a graduate of Virginia Union, became the university's fourth president and the first African American president. In 1964, Storer College, founded in 1867 by Free Will Baptists, and formerly at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, also merged with Virginia Union, becoming the fourth component of the university.

Virginia Union University today enrolls approximately 1,500 students including 330 at the graduate level. The university offers programs in multiple disciplines including Business, Education, Law, and Theology. Its most famous alumni include Samuel Lee Gravely, the first African American Admiral in the Navy, Randall Robinson, founder of TransAfrica, and Douglas Wilder, the first Black Governor of Virginia.

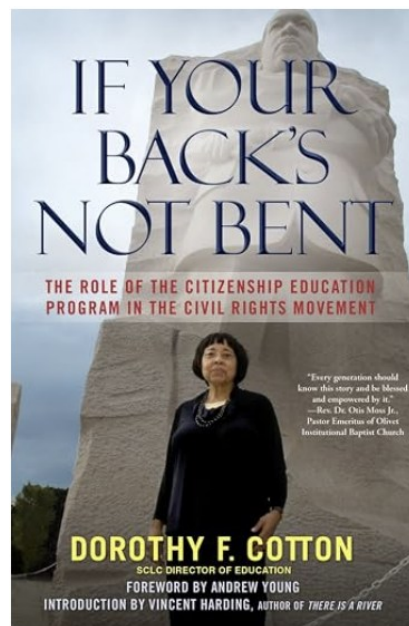
<https://www.blackpast.org>

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Newsletter Committee

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From the Black History Bookshelf...



If Your Back's Not Bent is part memoir, part history of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, and part guide to grassroots leadership. Rather than focusing primarily on famous marches or speeches, Dorothy Cotton highlights the often-overlooked work of the **Citizenship Education Program (CEP)**, which she directed as a leader in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Cotton was the only woman in Dr. King's inner circle of senior leadership, and her firsthand account provides a perspective that is often absent from traditional histories.

She describes how the Citizenship Education Program helped ordinary people - many with limited formal education - learn practical skills such as literacy, voter registration, community organizing, and nonviolent resistance. Cotton emphasizes that they became leaders in their own communities through education, confidence, and collective action.

The title comes from a saying popularized by Dr. King: **"Nobody can ride your back if your back's not bent."**

- Simon & Schuster (Publisher)

Happy Birthday to our

August Birthday Celebrities!

Rev. Linzie Atkins (1st) • Dea. Joe Hilliard (9th)
Clifton Belcher (10th) • Irvin Wooten (11th)
Michele Davis (15th) • Zayvia Stone (17th)
Donnie Waller (18th) • LaSheka Wilks (19th)
Min. Carlos Best (20th) • Caleb Belcher (20th)
Patricia Vereen (20th) • Linzie Atkins, IV (24th)
Connie Hughes Sanders (25th) • Mia Mangum (25th)
Joshua Talley (25th)

Happy Anniversary!

Bro. Corey and Sis. Naketa Martin (6th)
Bro. Cecil and Sis. Earleen Sharrock (27th)

Best Wishes For Many More!!

The Black Church and the 1963 March on Washington: Faith That Moved a Nation



On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., for what became one of the most significant demonstrations for justice in American history - the **March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom**. While history often remembers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s stirring "I Have a Dream" speech, the movement itself was deeply rooted in something even more enduring: **the Black church**.

Long before crowds gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, Black churches across America had become places where faith inspired courage, prayer fueled perseverance, and Scripture gave hope to a people determined to seek justice through peaceful means.

A Sanctuary for Hope

Throughout the Civil Rights Movement, the Black church served as more than a place of worship. It became:

- A gathering place for organizing marches and voter registration drives.
- A training center for nonviolent resistance.
- A refuge for those threatened by violence.
- A source of financial support and mutual aid.
- A spiritual home where people found strength through prayer, preaching, and song.

The movement was not born in political headquarters but in church basements, fellowship halls, and Sunday morning worship services. The prophet Isaiah reminds us:

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles.

Isaiah 40:31

That promise sustained countless believers who faced intimidation, arrests, and violence while standing peacefully for justice.

Faith Led the March

Many of the leaders of the March on Washington were ministers. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and later Ebenezer Baptist Church, proclaimed that faith demanded action.

The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, the Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, and many other pastors organized churches into networks that mobilized thousands of participants.

Church choirs sang hymns such as *We Shall Overcome*, *This Little Light of Mine*, and *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*. These songs were more than music - they were prayers set to melody.

As Scripture teaches: *Faith without works is dead.* (James 2:17) Their faith was visible in action.

A Challenge for Today

More than sixty years after the March on Washington, the mission of the church remains unchanged. The church is still called to:

- Proclaim the Gospel.
- Defend the dignity of every person.
- Stand for justice with humility.
- Love our neighbors.
- Offer hope to the discouraged.
- Build bridges where others build walls.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us:

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

The March on Washington stands as a testimony that when people of faith trust God, work together, and walk in love, they can help transform a nation.

The legacy of the Black church reminds us that worship does not end when the service is over. Faith calls believers to live out the Gospel in the world - loving mercy, doing justice, and walking humbly with God until every person can experience the freedom and dignity that God intends for all His children.

(This page was created with the assistance of AI)



The Devil Is A Liar

I'm sure at one time or another, you've heard the phrase, "the devil is a liar." I've said it here many times. Satan specializes in deceit. You know the drill. Harden not your heart, when you hear the Word of God. More often than not, that small voice you hear at difficult times, when your faith is really challenged, is that of Satan. Be careful when it happens to you, because according to the Bible, you are indeed in dangerous waters.

One of my favorite passages of scripture is, "Some people are like seed along the path where the Word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the Word that was sown in them." (Mark 4:15 NIV). My point is that recognition is a most powerful attribute to have. If you could only recognize when you're being fooled, used, manipulated or lied to by someone or something hell-bent on destroying you, then possibly you might be able to handle it accordingly. I have a pastor friend that reminds me that the devil does not want to just hurt you. He wants you dead.

Emotionally, we all have responded vehemently when recognition affords us the opportunity to see when we're being made a fool of by someone else. For the perpetrator, it is not a pretty picture. In Satan's case, he doesn't always show his hand in a manner obvious to us. The devil is a liar and specializes in presenting situations and circumstances that never reveal his hand in your life as the reason that everything is going to Hell in a hay basket. "And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness..." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15 NIV).

So, it is my speculation, using what I hope is my sanctified imagination, that Satan is hard at work in your life, when you are most likely trying to be true to your faith. The Bible says watch out, because it is at these times that "so-called" supporters, advice givers and yes, even friends and family show up to help us, comfort us, guide us in a way that on the surface, appears to be consistent with our efforts to hear and follow the Word of God. In truth, if we could see the devil at work, then it would be fairly easy to make the right decisions and the right choices. But the devil is so cunning that at that moment of truth, he sees to it that we blame others, rationalize our actions, defend sin and otherwise fault life for what we ought to know that God has total control over.

In the name of everything but Satan, we can explain away all those things that will virtually ensure us a ringside seat in Hell. Rarely do we permit ourselves the time and thought to recognize this is the devil doing his best to win your soul as his ultimate prize. Rarely, if ever, will we give him his due for all that we regret doing on the morning after. Rarely do we consider him or his agents the night before the morning after. If we did, then the Word of God would emerge out of our chaos and light our paths to peace as in peace of mind.

At this point, how we live becomes second nature to why we live. When one understands the why of life, the how becomes pretty easy. "Be careful then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5:15-17 NIV)

The key to all this, I believe, is recognizing the difference between God's Word and the devil's whispers. It's those whispers and who's in your ear that'll getcha every time.

James Washington
www.blackpressusa.com

Trust God More and Worry Less

"Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. 'Believe in God and believe also in me.'"

John 14:1 (GNT)

You know what it's like to live in constant worry, don't you? You feel uptight, your stomach seems tied in knots, and your whole body is tense. But you don't have to live that way. Anything that's learned can be unlearned. It's time to start unlearning worry.

God has promised to take care of you; that's his job, not yours. The starting point to letting go of worry is to maintain this humble attitude: "God is God, and I am not." When you understand this important truth, worry will start to disappear from your life.

The Bible says, "'Do not be worried and upset,' Jesus told them. 'Believe in God and believe also in me'" (John 14:1 GNT).

Anytime you worry, it reveals a particular area of your life where you have not given God first place. That's because any part of your life where God is not in control is going to be a source of insecurity and worry.

So what can you do about that? You can welcome Jesus into your life's "house." Give him access to all aspects of your life - the living room, the bedroom, the kitchen, and even all the closets. He already knows what's in there. In fact, God knows your needs better than you do. You have needs you're not even aware of - but none of them will surprise God.

Jesus said, "Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need" (Matthew 6:32-33 NLT).

When you make Jesus Christ number one in every area of your life, it simplifies your priorities and gives you a lot less to worry about.

Jesus taught, "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me. . . . I sacrifice my life for the sheep" (John 10:14-15 NLT).

If God loved you enough to die for you, he certainly loves you enough to feed you, lead you, and meet whatever need you have today.

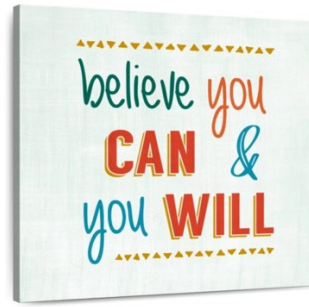
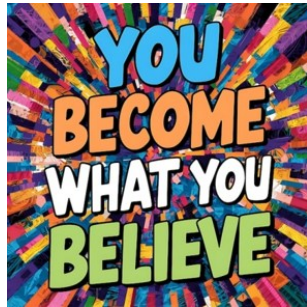
Try this: Start every day by reminding yourself that God is good. When you wake up, sit on the side of your bed and say, "The Lord is my Shepherd. So, Jesus, I'm expecting you to feed me, lead me, and meet my needs today. I will give you first place in every area of my life. And I will trust you."

As you begin every day by trusting God, you'll start to see your worries fall away.

Pastor Rick Warren
www.pastorrick.com

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



Last month, the Kidz Zone focused on “**YOU ARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE**”. Let’s now move forward to understanding that “**YOU BECOME WHAT YOU BELIEVE**”. Although both phrases emphasize the powerful influence of beliefs on our lives, they differ in focus and implication.

“**YOU ARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE**” suggests that **your current identity is already shaped by your beliefs**. It’s about the present self — the person you are right now — and how your internal beliefs define your character, actions, and worldview. The core idea is that your beliefs are the foundation of who you are. If you believe you are capable, confident, or worthy, those beliefs will shape the person that you want to become. If you believe you are a leader, you may act with leadership qualities, even if you haven’t yet achieved that role.

“**YOU BECOME WHAT YOU BELIEVE**” emphasizes **change and growth**. It’s about the future self — the person you can become — and the process of evolving into that identity through belief. Belief is the starting point for transformation. You must first believe in a new version of yourself, then act in alignment with that belief to demonstrate it, with a focus to becoming someone new through intentional action, such as taking steps to include developing a positive attitude towards learning through strong academic preparation, building and strengthening skills, networking, and making purposeful choices to turn that belief into reality.

Here’s a story illustrating themes of self-identity and the realization of one’s true potential:

Once upon a time, a farmer discovered an eagle’s egg and placed it in a chicken coop among the hens. When the egg hatched, the eagle chick was raised by the mother hen, growing up believing he was a chicken. He learned to peck, scratch, and behave like the other chickens, completely unaware of his true identity as a majestic eagle. As the eagle matured, he became larger and stronger than the chickens, but he still thought of himself as one of them. Other birds would fly by and call out to him, urging him to embrace his true nature and soar into the sky. However, the eagle dismissed their claims, insisting, “I am not an eagle; I am a chicken”. One day, a naturalist/environmentalist visited the farm and recognized the eagle’s potential. He lifted the eagle onto a fence and encouraged him to spread his wings and fly. Initially hesitant, the eagle looked down at the familiar ground of the chicken coop and jumped back down, continuing to live as a chicken. Years passed, and the eagle grew old. One day, he looked up to see a magnificent eagle soaring gracefully in the sky. Filled with awe, he asked a nearby chicken about the majestic bird. The chicken replied, “That’s an eagle, the king of the birds. We are just chickens, bound to the earth”. In that moment, the eagle realized that he had lived his entire life confined by the beliefs instilled in him. He had the heart of an eagle but had never embraced his true identity.

The story concludes with the moral that we often limit ourselves based on our environment and beliefs, missing out on our true potential. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing one’s true self and capability (regardless of external circumstances or upbringing) and it encourages individuals to break free from limiting beliefs and societal expectations to achieve greatness. The eagle’s journey serves as a reminder that we all have natural abilities waiting to be discovered and developed.

If you want to change your identity, start with a new belief; then act as if you already represent that belief. This process of **believing, behaving, and becoming** is how you move from “who you are” to “who you become”.

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



When I Grow Up

Written by: _____
Age: _____

When I grow up, I want to be a _____
because I love _____ and _____.

To become a _____ you must
_____ and _____.

I think I will be good at this job because I am good
at _____ and _____.

Another job I might want is _____
because I love _____ and _____.

Whatever job I choose, it is going to be _____!

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Name.....Class.....No.....

When I grow up **I WANT TO BE...**

teacher computer programmer scientist tour guide librarian
secretary security guard student gardener cook

1. I want to be a _____ because I like travelling
2. I want to be a _____ because I'm good at Science.
3. I want to be a _____ because I love children.
4. I want to be a _____ because I like working outside.
5. I want to be a _____ because I like protecting people.
6. I want to be a _____ because I love books and reading.
7. I want to be a _____ because I like creating video games.
8. I want to be a _____ because I like working with food.
9. I want to be a _____ because I love learning new things.
10. I want to be a _____ because I love working 9 to 5.



August 2026

“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:00am 5th Sunday Worship Service	31	<i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i> <i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Cherelle Lee at clee9195@gmail.com.</i> <i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i>				1 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Min.
2 8:00am Deacons	3 7:00pm Music Ministry	4 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	5 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	6 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	7	8 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Deaconess 1:00pm Pastor's Anniversary Cookout
9 Pastor's Anniversary	10 6:00pm Christian Education	11 6:30pm Voices of Praise	12 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	13 6:30pm Voices of Praise	14	15 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 9:00am Layman's League
16	17	18 6:30pm Male Chorus	19 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	20 6:30pm Male Chorus	21	22 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)
23	24 6:30pm Computer & Technology	25 6:30pm Mass Choir	26 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	27 6:30pm Mass Choir	28	29

Photos Taken/Submitted by Sis. Kathy Williams and Bro. Dean Jernigan