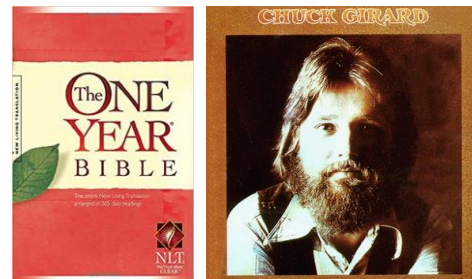


KEN TAYLOR



DR. KENNETH TAYLOR (1917-2005) paraphrased the New Testament epistles—and using his own money, self-published 2,000 copies of *Living Letters* in 1962 and sold them at the Christian Booksellers Association convention. He was the founder and president of Tyndale House Publishers which then published *The Living Bible* in 1971—when it immediately became the best-selling book in the U.S. for three years! Taylor had a 65-year career in the publishing industry, including ministering as editor of *HIS* magazine and also as director of Moody Press in Chicago.²⁰² Read more at: <https://www.tyndale.com/kenneth-n-taylor>.

□ READ: *The One Year Bible: The Entire Living Bible Arranged in 365 Daily Readings*, by Tyndale House Publishers (paraphrase by Ken Taylor)



□ LISTEN: *Slow Down*, the worship song written and sung by Chuck Girard. He notes, “Even today, this song receives more mail and comment than any other song I have ever written.” Visit: <https://www.chuckgirard.com/slow-down.html>.

❑ MISTAKE #19: Experiencing Infrequent God Moments

The Lord and Jason deliver a stunning 50th anniversary gift!



GUESS WHAT KEN TAYLOR WROTE IN JASON'S BIBLE?

Picture this moment. To begin our year-long celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary, Joanne and I invited Jason and Melinda and our five grandchildren to join us for a leisurely breakfast at Proud Mary's restaurant at Dana Point Harbor.

That sunny morning marked 50 years since our wedding day—and the outdoor restaurant setting was idyllic. Yachts and large fishing boats were almost within an arm's reach. Joanne and I arranged the place settings at Proud Mary's prominent table for nine—and then reminisced until our family arrived.

"Where do we sit?" Zuzu asked. We've learned that seating assignments with our fun and funny grandchildren never work—so "sit anywhere you'd like" was good news to Emelia, Zuzu, Anders, Annika, and Helena. Melinda and Jason took the last two remaining chairs and the celebration officially launched.

After breakfast, I asked each person to pick up their souvenir 3" x 5" color photo from our wedding day. "On the back of each photo is a Bible verse," I announced. "I'd like everyone to read the verse out loud and then you can keep the verse or give it to another family member—if you think the verse is more applicable or meaningful to that person."

Half-way through another one of Grandpa John's famous (infamous?) around-the-table holiday rituals, Jason interrupted. "Dad, so every verse is different?" I confirmed his observation, but was puzzled about his question.

The verses—all from Proverbs—spoke to parenting, ill-gotten wealth, Fear-of-God, the whole town cheering, wisdom, and "never forget what you learned at your mother's knee."

Then Jason, with the proverbial lump-in-throat, read his verse:

**"Commit your work to the Lord,
then it will succeed."**

Proverbs 16:3 (*The Living Bible*)

He looked around the table at his five precious children. He smiled at Melinda, Joanne, and me—with a look that signaled, "You're not going to believe this. No way." Then he shared this remarkable God moment with all of us.

Jason continued. “When I was 10-years-old, Dad, Mom, and I took a road trip from Chicago to Dallas to visit Christian camps and conference centers along the way for Dad’s work. In Dallas we attended the Christian Booksellers Association national convention—a huge exhibit hall jammed with Christian book publishers.

“Amazingly—and in God’s timing—we stopped by the Tyndale House Publishers exhibit where they were highlighting the 10th anniversary of *The Living Bible*.” Jason mentioned to his family that *The Living Bible*, paraphrased by Ken Taylor, was rejected by other publishers, so Dr. Taylor launched his own publishing company, Tyndale House Publishers.

“Imagine! Ken Taylor—this amazing person who had the vision for paraphrasing a Bible in plain English!—was at the Tyndale booth that very day—and he was giving away the commemorative 10th anniversary edition of *The Living Bible*! So Dad introduced himself to Ken Taylor and asked him to autograph a Bible for me!

“I’m 10-years-old and Ken Taylor looks down at me, smiles, says hello and then—guess what he wrote in my copy of *The Living Bible*?”

JASON,
“Commit your work to the Lord,
then it will succeed.”
Proverbs 16:3

Jason seized this teachable moment with his family. “I still have my copy of *The Living Bible*—but that’s not all! Ever since that day, Proverbs 16:3 has been my life verse. That Scripture has guided me every day. And now this morning—if you can believe it—I ‘randomly’ sit down at our breakfast table to celebrate Grandpa John’s and Grammy Joanne’s 50th wedding anniversary—and what verse is waiting for me on the back of their wedding photo at *my* plate? My life verse—Proverbs 16:3, “Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed.”

Joanne and I were so stunned—and teary-eyed—we couldn’t speak. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God! *Even today, when writing this chapter, the memory of that God moment touches me deeply. That God-orchestrated moment was the perfect 50th anniversary gift.* Thank you, Lord.

So...what was the mistake, John? *Here it is:*

THE MISTAKE

I believe Almighty God wants us to experience more frequent God moments, but I often moved way-too-fast on my own—and didn’t slow down for God to intervene.

Of course, I prayed. Daily. Often praying-without-ceasing. But—after experiencing this memorable God moment at our 50th wedding anniversary celebration—I sensed a nudge from the Holy Spirit that there *could have been* more God moments in the past.

►WHAT I LEARNED:

I learned that there could be more God moments in the future—if I would just slow down and truly commit my work to Him. *The Living Bible*—or whatever translation or paraphrase you appreciate—is oozing with God’s wisdom. Now late in life—it’s even more challenging to break lifelong patterns—but that God moment at Proud Mary’s, ironically, piqued my prideful routines.

Another Scripture selection that was featured at the breakfast celebration was from Proverbs 10 in *The Message*. I've voting *against* a puny life, crashing, and shabby performances. And you?

“The Fear-of-God expands your life;
a wicked life is a puny life.

The aspirations of good people end in celebration;
the ambitions of bad people crash.
God is solid backing to a well-lived life,
but he calls into question a shabby performance.

Proverbs 10:27-29 (MSG)

10 MINUTES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING WITH YOUR TEAM

- Describe a recent *God moment* in your life.
- Do you have a life verse? If not, what would be the value of selecting one Bible verse to give you daily guidance?
- Go to biblegateway.com and search for Proverbs 16:3. Select three to five translations (or paraphrases like *The Living Bible*) and then meditate on God's wisdom for you.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

I learned this:	
I'm praying about this:	
I will ask _____ to hold me accountable for this:	

- This is a “Top-5 Insight” for me. (Select only five in this book!)