

# Paul's Ponderings

What is resilience?

At its core, it is the God-given ability to rise again after hardship; to endure the storm and, by His strength, stand once more. Scripture does not promise a life without trial; rather, it reveals a Savior who meets us within it. Biblical resilience is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of faith that endures through it.



The apostle Paul reminds us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Isaiah offers a similar promise: those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength (Isaiah 40:31). These are not abstract ideals; they are lived realities for those who cling to God in the valley

## Resilience

Resilience is forged in the fire of difficulty. James writes that trials test our faith and produce perseverance; Paul adds that suffering gives birth to endurance, character, and ultimately hope (James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-4). Even the righteous fall, Proverbs tells us, yet they rise again (Proverbs 24:16). Their strength is not their own; it's borrowed from a faithful God.

We see this truth in the lives of Job and Paul, who endured unimaginable loss and relentless persecution, yet remained steadfast. Their stories bear witness to a deeper reality: God does not waste pain. He redeems it. Biblical resilience is a combination of faith, perseverance, and reliance on God's strength.

At City Rescue Mission, we see resilience every day. Men and women arrive bearing the weight of trauma, loss, and brokenness—yet, by God's grace, they rise. Through the love of Christ expressed by our staff and the faithfulness of partners like you, lives are being restored and transformed.

Thank you for standing with us. Your prayers and support make resilience possible, one life, one story, one redemption at a time.

## 3 WAYS TO GIVE

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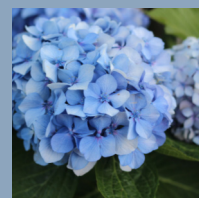
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## THE GENEROSITY YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD AFFORD



It's never easy being the new kid. And when you're a "military brat," you're the new kid every couple of years. In the 1980s, one of those kids found solace in the pages of \$1 comic books he purchased on base. Recently, just six books from his carefully preserved collection were valued at approximately \$20,000, with the potential to increase even further. Research shows that about 90% of wealth is held in valuables like these, known as appreciated assets. Did you know you can turn them into a legacy of changed lives? First, let's define our terms. What are appreciated assets? Appreciated assets, sometimes called non-cash assets, are any items of increasing value. This includes personal property, such as artwork, collectibles, cryptocurrency, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate. What's the benefit of giving appreciated assets? Donating items of value to a ministry you love can help you reduce or eliminate capital gains tax when you transfer part or all the assets to the organization before the sale. The ministry can then sell the assets without any tax consequences. You may also receive a tax deduction, essentially increasing the amount you're able to give. How can my appreciated assets make a difference?

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Visit [crmjax.legacywill.org](http://crmjax.legacywill.org) to bless your family with an up-to-date will.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- » Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for the Thrift Store
- » Twin sized blankets (400)
- » Twin sized white sheet sets (400)
- » Bus Passes: Weekly - \$20 each, Monthly - \$65 each
- » White towels (1,000) and white wash clothes (2,000)

Contact: Sherrie Mack | [shmack@crmjax.org](mailto:shmack@crmjax.org) | (904) 387-4357 ext. 224

Thank you to everyone who supported The Women and Children's Garden. This project is now fully funded. Pictures to come soon!

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# New Life

News  
JUNE 2026



## Latavius A Song of Redemption

Latavius never imagined he'd end up experiencing homelessness. So when he did, he lost all love and grace for himself. Yet, God's love was unconditional. At the Mission, God softened his heart and showed him how to love himself and others. Today, he's using his voice for God's glory. Inside, read how your prayers and ongoing support continue to transform lives like his.

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# LATAVIUS'S STORY

## A Song of Redemption

Latavius grew up searching for love, belonging and a place where he truly felt seen. He carried deep wounds from a difficult childhood, and over the years turned to substances to cope. Yet even when he experienced homelessness, God never stopped pursuing his heart...

Latavius was born to a teenage mother in a home marked by abuse and domestic violence. Some of his earliest memories left lasting emotional scars. He was 4 years old when his mother remarried and soon had two more children. But for Latavius, the tension continued. Now he often felt like an outsider, the only one in the household with a different last name.

Despite the challenges at home, Latavius was a good student and earned strong grades. He attended church with his grandmothers and discovered a love for singing – something that would remain a gift throughout his life. But the desire to fit in led him down a destructive path. He began acting out – even fighting – as he sought attention and a sense of belonging. “There are so many things I did to try to fit in or to draw attention to myself.”

His struggles followed him to college, where he was introduced to alcohol and drugs. As experimentation grew into addiction, he stopped attending classes, left school and began working. Over time, he faced multiple arrests and found himself living in chaos. But he didn't know how to change. Even amid his turmoil, God was planting seeds. One moment in particular stayed with him.

While sitting in his car, a man living on the streets approached and asked for help. Latavius angrily told him to go away. Eventually, he found himself in that same position – experiencing homelessness and asking others for assistance. That's when he felt God speaking to his heart: “Be careful how you treat people, because it could just as well

be you.” In the years that followed, Latavius cycled through shelters and treatment programs. He struggled to break free from behaviors that held him back. But God never left his side and continued speaking to him in unexpected ways.

While singing on the street one day, a stranger stopped him. “You have a beautiful voice,” the man said. “You can use your voice for God.” Those words pierced his heart. “I realized God created me for a reason and a purpose. It was time to change.” When Latavius arrived at City Rescue Mission, he admits the adjustment was difficult. But over time, something began to shift. Because of friends like you, he rediscovered his self-worth through our holistic, faith-based LifeBuilders Program – which offers spiritual guidance, life skills classes, workforce development and more. For the first time, he understood what it truly means to love himself as God loves him. “I realized I need to take care of myself and make wise choices. I must surround myself with positive people going in the right direction.”

During his time at the Mission, Latavius discovered not only his ability to lead and encourage others, but also a renewed joy in singing – using his voice to worship and connect with God. His life has become a song of redemption, written by God's grace.

After graduation, he earned his Commercial Driver's License and received a job offer to begin a new career. His outlook on life has completely changed: “Before I came to the Mission, I was spiraling out of control. Now I'm learning to love myself. I know I have a purpose.”



TO VIEW LATAVIUS'S STORY IN VIDEO, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE



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