



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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## Loved No Matter What

*The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved.*

– Victor Hugo

**O**n November 29, 1992, defensive end Dennis Byrd and his New York Jets squared off against the Kansas City Chiefs. After the Chiefs had hiked the ball, Jets defenders rushed toward the quarterback at full speed. Byrd charged from one side, and his teammate attacked from the other. The KC quarterback avoided the tackle while Byrd and his teammate collided head-on.

Byrd described what happened next: “My head came off the ground and I felt something crack or crunch, so I put my neck back down. Then the next thing I tried to do was pick my feet up.” He couldn’t – his neck had been broken and he was paralyzed.

Knowing his life would never be the same, Byrd told his wife Angela, “It’s not fair for you to have to take care of me like this. I’d understand if you wanted to leave me.”

Tears filled Angela’s eyes as she bent over her husband’s large-but-broken frame. She reached across the bed and hugged him with a tenderness his heart could feel. As they wept together, Dennis knew he didn’t have to fear losing his best friend and life partner. She loved him for who he was, not what he did for a living.

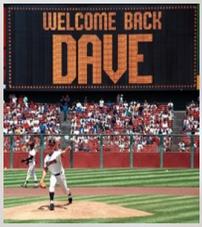
We quickly learn how much we are loved when we have nothing lovable to offer. Our world insists we must earn love through performance. Valentine’s Day is a celebration of unconditional love. It’s the love Angela showed Dennis. It’s love which causes true friends to hang on when acquaintances let go. It’s the love God has for us, reminding us we are loved no matter what.

Maybe you once enjoyed peak physical health but now wrestle with frailty and chronic illness. You reached the top professionally, but your pathway to success was diverted by a corporate restructuring. You may have even been in a relationship, only to experience the heart-wrenching disappointment of another breakup. Your value has not changed in God’s eyes. His Son died to prove how much He loves you . . . no matter what.

## Love, Loss, and Loyalty

*The love we give away is the only love we keep.*

– Elbert Hubbard



**D**ave Dravecky was living his dream. Success came quickly for the professional baseball pitcher, leading to a spot on the All-Star Team and opportunities to pitch during two World Series Championships.

At the height of his career, a cancerous lump was discovered on his pitching arm. After surgery, Dave's doctor said he would probably never pitch again.

Ten months later, Dave stood in uniform on a pitcher's mound and delivered the first of 93 pitches. The star was back.

But five days after his miraculous comeback, Dave's arm snapped during a pitch. His humerus bone had broken. The cancer was back.

After his retirement from baseball, Dave's doctors amputated his arm and shoulder. They might as well have cut out his heart. Since he had pitched his first perfect game in high school, his identity had been tied to his ability to throw a baseball. It made him famous and earned him respect. Now that he couldn't play the game he loved, what was he living for?

You might ask, could anything good come out of this heartbreaking disappointment? Most would answer no. However, a loving, godly friend in Dave's life helped him refocus: God had given him a platform to share His love with others who were hurting. This led Dave and his wife to later found [Endurance with Jan and Dave Dravecky](#). This ministry helps those who suffer from loss, serious illness, and depression find hope through Jesus Christ.

Through the loss of his first love, Dave had found his purpose for living.

God is a Lover who desires nothing short of absolute commitment. Pain and loss test our loyalties like few other influences can. When they come, we have an opportunity to run toward God or away from Him. Those seeking a shallow relationship often run away. Those who desire a serious relationship run toward God, finding comfort and sometimes even a platform for service to others.

(continued on next column)

Are you experiencing the death of your dreams? Which direction are you running? Trust God's loving purpose in your pain. Allow Him to use it to benefit you and others. When you surrender your dreams to Him, He will fill the void like nothing else can!

# JESUS LOVES\* YOU

\*Conditions do not apply



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