

Letters to God

You show that you are a letter from Christ ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. 2 Corinthians 3:3 NIV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 NIV

When Brady, the postman with a drinking problem, received Tyler's "letters to God" he wasn't sure what to do with them. His bartender jokingly suggested taking them to church with him. Later Brady tried to sneak into a church to leave the letters there, but before he could get out of the building he met up with the pastor. The pastor encouraged Brady to keep the letters and ask God what he should do with them. The pastor also asked Brady, "How does it feel to be on a mission for God?" Have you ever felt like you were on a mission for God? What do you think He is asking you to do? Are you willing to listen to Him?

Samantha's grandfather told Tyler that he was chosen to be one of God's warriors. He said Tyler could "ride forth in truth, humility and righteousness". He said, "Even though you are sick, when people see how strong and brave you are it makes them look at their own lives." He told Tyler that "God is truth" and that it was Tyler's job to point people to God. He told Samantha that she was chosen to be a peace-maker. She said it didn't sound as good as warrior. Throughout the movie Tyler led many people to God through his letters to God, his positive attitude and his bravery in the face of his illness.

Is there someone who you admire for their bravery? Are you brave? Do you inspire bravery in others?

Tyler's grandmother asked Ben, Tyler's brother, what was on his mind. His answer was "Nothing and everything. I hate that he's sick. I just want normal, Grandma. Do you know how many times I've asked my mother to take me to get my license. It's all about Tyler. All of our time, all of our money, I just hate him." Ben didn't really hate Tyler but didn't know how to deal with his feelings of sadness, fear and jealousy.

Have you ever been overwhelmed by feelings you don't want? How do you deal with your feelings?

When Brady was discouraged again, he didn't go to the bar but went back to the church. The choir was practicing, "Have You Tried Jesus". Brady's boss was singing in the choir. The two of them went for a walk together. He said to Brady, "You are in the right place if you've got something to work out. I think you are right where you are supposed to be. You are in the palm of God's hands."

Are you facing difficulties? When you are afraid will you trust that you are in God's hands?

When Tyler's neighbor had her baby at the end of Tyler's Welcome Home costume party, Tyler asked if the baby was sent to replace him when he dies. His mother told him that only God knows how those things work. Tyler told his mother, "You know, God picked you. He picked you to be my mom." When Tyler and his friends prayed in the hospital garden and asked Jesus to come into their lives it changed them. Have you asked Jesus to come into your heart? Knowing and loving Him changes everything for the better.

Tyler's mother realized that he wasn't just writing letters, but that his letters were prayers. Ben wrote a song for his brother Tyler. He sang, "You give me hope in spite of everything. You show me love even with so much pain. So I'll take this life and live like I was given another try." Brady said that because he read the letters and he realized that there is more to life than he could see. He said Tyler gave him hope that he could feel faith in something, faith in God. Samantha said Tyler's life was a letter to God. Even though Tyler only lived 10 years he left a legacy. What kind of legacy are you building with your life?

Dear Lord, we confess that we spend too much time thinking about ourselves and not enough time listening to You and caring about each other. Heal our feelings of fear, sadness, jealousy, and pain. Take away our self-centered ways and fill us with goodness and love for You and for others. Show us how to live our lives so that we will leave a legacy of love and faith that will continue long after we are gone from this earth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.