

Do you have a complaint?

Just imagine that you were given one million dollars. Yet instead of being thankful for the gift and blessing, you were upset that now you would be in a higher tax bracket!

Sometimes people can take something good and put a negative spin on it. If we aren't careful, we can become complainers who see the bad in everything.

The people of Israel had the same kind of complaining attitude.

God had miraculously delivered them from 400 years of slavery through Moses. He had taken care of them while they traveled to the promised land.

They complained of bitter water in Exodus 15. They complained of a lack of bread and meat in Exodus 16, while imagining they would be having a great feast back in Egypt. They complained about not having enough water again in Exodus 17.

Moses tells the people they are testing God, not him! God provided food for them every day, yet they still complained (Numbers 11:6).

It sure seems like there was a lot of ingratitude.

Sometimes we can do the very same thing in focusing on the negatives instead of the positives in life. We can murmur, complain and fuss against God because of any number of things going on in our life.

The reality, however, is that we should be praising Him for the countless blessings that we have. Whether it's the country we live in or the very air we breathe, there are many matters we take for granted.

We become distracted with the things in this world, while acting like all the good comes from ourselves.

Eph. 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

When the people complained against God, His anger was kindled (Num. 11:1)!

Let's remember who is responsible for all the good things in life (James 1:17).



SHANE WILLIAMS

The Lord is our strength and our shield

We have learned since childhood about the blessings of being protected.

Remember when we were in the arms of our moms and dads? It seemed as if the world's dangers could not reach us.

Now that we are grown up, we believe we can take care of ourselves, like having a home which shelters us from the elements and provides security against whatever might want to harm us.

But of all the things in this world that might give us a sense of safety and defense, there is nothing that can compare to the divine power and authority of God's presence always watching over us.

Psalm 23:4 helps us to see there is no need to be afraid: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

The rod and staff symbolize God's authority, guidance, and protection, serving as reminders of His covenant with His people and His commitment to lead them through any of life's

challenges.

In John 10:11, Christ promises, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Accept and receive His great love and allow Him to give you true hope and peace.

The other night I had difficulty sleeping, and as I tossed and turned, harassing thoughts were bombarding me and trying to interfere with my peace. I began to pray and ask God to help me and was reminded that in the Bible, one of God's attributes is that He is like a shield.

If we choose to stay close to Him and trust Him, we can be safe. This brought me great comfort as I could imagine being surrounded by His presence as I envisioned the arrows of the enemy harmlessly bouncing away.

The next thing I knew, it was morning. As I went downstairs and started on my first cup of coffee, I was still thinking about the shield and went into my office to look up the definition. "Shield" basically means a guard to defend and protect, to cover as a barrier, a place of shelter



BILLY HOLLAND LIVING ON PURPOSE

and security to hide behind, and a way to preserve and maintain our safety.

Being aware of this promise gives us confidence even when fear is trying to defeat us. A familiar scripture of comfort is found in Matthew 11:28: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Like most of you, I'm hearing a lot of talk about an economic recession, food and fuel supplies and prices, and the wars currently being fought, which are unnerving, to say the least. However, even within the chaos and anxiety, God's people can choose to stay close to Him and be filled with His faith and joy!

As we make a sincere decision to trust Him no matter what may come, we can stand strong and believe as First John 4:4 declares, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." Proverbs 18:10 reminds us, The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

When we are perplexed with worry and doubt, we can run to Jesus. He is the King of Kingdom authority!

There is a story recorded in Matthew chapter eight

about Christ being in a boat on a lake with His disciples. While He took a nap, there arose a violent storm, and His friends were terrified the boat was going to sink.

They awoke Him, and He calmly spoke to the wind and waves to stop, and suddenly it was perfectly calm.

Some may say, "What does this have to do with my crisis?" He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and still has the power and desire to command "Peace be still" to your storms now!

Jesus is perfectly aware of what you are going through and knows exactly what to do. Psalm 33:20 reassures us, "Our soul waits for the Lord: He is our help and our shield."

Whatever is troubling you today, remember that God can do anything, and nothing is impossible for Him. Be encouraged with Psalm 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song will I praise Him."

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and Christian author. Read more about LIVING ON PURPOSE at billyhollandministries.com.

FEST

FROM PAGE B6

Amy Bue, from Ohio, co-founded Project Zoo-book, which consolidates information from Bigfoot researchers, zookeepers, primatologists, law enforcement, forestry personnel and scientists.

Martin Groves, a retired law enforcement officer, shares his eyewitness experiences from working in the region. He is considered a crowd favorite, thanks to his engaging storytelling, professional perspective and warm personality.

Steve Kulls will travel from New York to share insights from nearly 30

years of Bigfoot research. His experience as a private investigator shapes the systematic way he approaches cryptozoology.

Michael Kain, an Ohio-based speaker, manages 750 acres of wilderness where he tracks and records natural trails on his land and neighboring properties.

Local participants

include Billy Winsett and Mark Roberts of Night Vision Paranormal in Marshall County; they will lead a guided hike in LBL on Nov. 13. The duo regularly explores the region and organizes tours and events.

Also joining from western Kentucky is Mike Smith, a local teacher and coach who co-founded the Pathfinders group.

CLASSIFIEDS

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0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Over 20 vendors wanted for Benton's first ever October Fest to be held Oct. 16, 17 & 18 at the old North Gate Shopping Center. Please call J.O. Chandler at (270) 252-4808 for more information.

0150 GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

YARD SALE
Home of Phyllis Johnson at 367 Commerce Street, Hardin. Lots of different items added to left overs. Lots of clothes, nick-nacks, dishes, pictures in beautiful frames. Oct. 1,2 & 3 from 7 a.m. - ?

GREAT GARAGE SALES IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless and TAG Towers propose to construct a wireless communications facility on a site located near the North corner of Toy York Road and Main Street / US-641; Benton KY 42025 (North Latitude: 36° 48' 58.64", West Longitude: 88° 21' 01.68"). The proposed facility will include a 250-foot-tall self-supporting lattice tower, plus a 4-foot lightning arrestor and related ground facilities. Site name is Benton South. You have a right to submit comments to the PSC or to request intervention in the PSC's proceedings on the application. You may contact the PSC at: Executive Director, Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602. Please refer to docket number 2026-00282 in any correspondence sent in connection with this matter.

NOTICE

The Marshall County Board of Elections will examine the voting machines for the November General Election, to be held in the County of Marshall, on November 3, 2026. The examination will take place on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. at 72 Homer Lucas Ln.

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WALNUT COURT APARTMENTS BENTON HOUSING

Now accepting applications for 1 bedroom units. Must be 62, handicapped or disabled.

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The Housing Authority of Benton (E.H.O.)

The Housing Authority of Benton is now accepting applications for 0 to 4 bedroom apartments in Benton and Calvert City.

For more information, call 527-3626

Working Families, handicapped & elderly receive first preference

0900 LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE
Defew's Body Shop located at 979 U.S. Highway 68 East, Benton KY 42025, hereby gives notice to Kentterious Wallace, owner of the 2021 Maxima SV, VIN#1N4AA6CV2MC506564. The vehicle will be sold October 12, 2026.

House getting a little... STUFFED?

Plan a garage sale and advertise in the CLASSIFIEDS!