

A man with a beard and a green jacket is kneeling on a wet city street at sunrise. He is holding a book and looking upwards. The background shows a crowd of people and a bright sun breaking through clouds, creating a dramatic, golden light.

**HOMELESS MAN**  
BECAME  
**PASTOR**

**BOB LENDERMAN**

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*by BOB LENDERMAN*

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## CHAPTER 1: New Beginning

The cold went through all his clothes, reminding him how tough life on the streets was. Nights were the hardest—dark and lonely. The city lights, which meant hope for others, only made him feel more alone. He sat against a brick wall, trying to stay warm. His loneliness felt heavier than the cold.

He stopped counting the days. Every day was the same: looking for food, people ignoring him, and feeling hungry. It was like he didn't exist. He felt lost, like he didn't belong anywhere. Memories of family and friends were painful reminders of what he lost.

At first, he was just frustrated with how unfair life was. But over time, that turned into sadness. He felt forgotten and thought his life didn't matter anymore. Each morning was hard, and he didn't know if he could keep going. People didn't notice him, and he stopped trusting others. Even small acts of kindness felt like miracles.

But deep inside, he still hoped for change. One day, a stranger gave him a small book—the Bible. It was a simple act, but it felt important. At first, it was just another thing to carry. But as he read it, the stories gave him hope. He started to feel less bitter and more hopeful.

The streets were still tough, but he began a new journey. The Bible helped him see that his life could be different. He realized he wasn't alone and that he could find meaning again. The kindness of strangers and the stories in the Bible gave him strength to face each day.

He started to dream of a better life—a warm bed, a job, a place to belong. These dreams were small but important. They gave him hope that he could heal and find happiness again. With the Bible's help, he began to believe in a future where he could be happy and free from bitterness.

## CHAPTER 2: His Progression

The first time he opened the Bible, he felt both nervous and curious. The pages were thin and worn from many people reading them before. For someone who had faced many hard times, these pages offered something new—a chance for hope.

He started reading slowly, not trying to understand everything at once. The words were sometimes hard to understand, but the stories touched him. The first part he read was from the Book of Psalms. It talked about God being like a shepherd who takes care of his sheep. This idea was comforting to him, even though his life was tough.

He kept reading the Psalms because they expressed feelings he understood—pain and hope. It felt like the writers knew what he was going through. Encouraged, he read more stories from the Bible about people who faced challenges like him. Stories of Abraham, Moses, and David showed him that ordinary people could do great things.

One story he loved was about Joseph, who was betrayed by his brothers but later became powerful. This story gave him hope that even bad times could lead to something good.

Reading was sometimes hard because the language was old and different. But instead of giving up, he wanted to learn more. He asked questions and made notes in the Bible.

The New Testament introduced him to Jesus, whose teachings about love and forgiveness touched him deeply. He read about Jesus helping others and felt inspired. One passage he liked was about being "poor in spirit," which meant that even if he felt broken, he could still be blessed.

He also enjoyed the parables—simple stories with deep meanings. The story of the Lost Sheep, where a shepherd searches for one lost sheep, made him feel valued and cared for.

As he read, he learned about grace—unearned love and forgiveness. It was hard to accept at first, but the Bible showed him that everyone deserves a second chance.

Reading the Bible became a daily habit. He found quiet places to read and think about what he learned. The Bible became a friend and guide, giving him strength and hope.

He memorized verses that encouraged him, like "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." These words helped him stay strong when he felt down.

He also learned to pray, talking to God about his fears and hopes. Prayer became a way to find peace and guidance.

As he continued reading, he noticed changes in himself. He felt less angry and more at peace. He wanted to connect with others who shared his faith.

Opening the Bible didn't solve all his problems, but it gave him hope and a new way to see his life. It was the start of a journey toward healing and a better future.

## CHAPTER 3: His Hope

The morning sun shone through the window of the shelter where he sat with his Bible. Around him, people moved quietly, talking softly and clinking cups. He felt something new: hope. For a long time, he had focused only on surviving the cold, hunger, and loneliness. But now, he had a chance to find a job and start a new life.

Getting a job was exciting but also scary. It meant more than just money; it was about feeling part of society again. He worried about his skills and if anyone would hire him. Mary, a kind woman from the church, helped him. She connected him with a group that trained people for jobs. He applied to be a janitor at a community center.

When he got the job, he was thrilled. It was a big step. He was nervous about starting work—what to wear, being on time, and learning new tasks. But he felt a strong sense of purpose.

On his first day, he met Linda, his supervisor. She was patient and showed him what to do. The work was hard but simple, like sweeping and cleaning. Each task he finished made him feel proud and capable.

He worried about what others thought of him, but he decided not to let that stop him. Linda was supportive, helping him learn and

grow. As he settled into his routine, he felt more stable. He saved money to buy a mobile home, a place he could call his own.

The job was tiring, and sometimes he doubted himself. But his faith and the support from his church kept him going. He shared his story with others, inspiring them and finding strength in their encouragement.

He dreamed of helping others like him, offering support and hope. Balancing work and his spiritual life was important. He prayed and studied the Bible, finding peace and strength.

One day, he sat in a park, thinking about how far he had come. He was grateful for the journey and the community that supported him. His job was more than work; it was a new beginning, filled with hope and purpose.

## CHAPTER 4: Answering His Call

In his small home, the man thought deeply and prayed. Once lost on the streets, he now looked forward to a new path. His journey from being broken to finding stability was hard, but each step gave him a new purpose. He felt it was time to help others find faith and hope.

He dreamed of a small church group, not a big cathedral. He wanted a place where people could feel safe and find friends, just like he did when he started. It would be a place for those who felt ignored or hurt to come together and feel the power of kindness.

Starting was scary. It needed courage and wisdom. But his years of reading the Bible and building trust had prepared him. He remembered stories of early church groups meeting in homes and how they changed the world. He believed his small group could do the same.

Mary and Pastor James were his first supporters. Over coffee, he shared his hopes and fears. Mary encouraged him, saying, “You’ve lived a story of change, and now you can help others.” Pastor James added, “Start by serving those you know. Build relationships and create a place where people belong.”

With their help, he invited friends, neighbors, and volunteers to his home. The first meeting was small, but the room was filled with warmth and hope. He welcomed everyone with a simple prayer, asking for guidance. He read from the Bible, sharing passages that had helped him.

The group talked about their struggles and victories, prayed for each other, and explored their faith. There was no judgment, just acceptance. As weeks passed, more people joined, drawn by the group's honesty and kindness.

The man found himself leading with humility and passion. Leadership was about listening, guiding, and serving. His own story, once a source of shame, now inspired others. He learned to balance work, personal growth, and leading the group with discipline and prayer.

The group began to help others, serving meals at shelters and supporting neighbors. These acts of service showed their identity as a living church, sharing love and compassion.

One evening, Clara, who had been homeless, shared how the group had rekindled her faith. Her story touched everyone, showing the power of faith and community.

The man embraced his role as a leader, studying scripture and seeking wisdom. He celebrated progress and relied on God's strength during challenges. The seeds planted in his home held promise for a ministry that would touch many lives.

The journey was as important as the destination. Each meeting, prayer, and story was a step forward, showing the power of redemption and God's plan. With gratitude and a spirit ready to serve, he continued to nurture his small flock, confident that from these humble beginnings, God's kingdom would grow.

