

EVERYBODY
NEEDS A **COACH**

EVERYBODY NEEDS A COACH

OVERCOMING THE ODDS IN YOUR LIFE

KENNETH G. BORDEAUX



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COACH KENNETH G. BORDEAUX



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First, I would like to acknowledge all the “*Coaches*” that have played a part in my life. When I thought about this list, I realized that I had so many coaches. For the sake of space and time, I have narrowed down my list to just a few. If you are an everyday person like me with good qualities and flaws, you would probably be the first to understand why I have had to have so many people who have coached me in one way or another.

Always, I have to thank my cousin, editor and publisher—Judith Smith who has coached me into writing several books. Judith, I feel like we are getting closer by the day as we have worked together in the past few years of my life. You have always been there since we met in 2004. It is your coaching and guidance that has gotten me this far in expressing myself on paper. I really cannot believe we are publishing our third book together in such a short time. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. “*You are a great book writing Coach!*”

To my uncle, Bishop Dennis C. Bordeaux; since I was a boy, you have coached me as a son and not a nephew. I’ve

learned so much from you. Thank you for the times you had the wisdom to intervene in my life. Thank you so much for being *prophetic and not pathetic*. I have not forgotten when you said to me, “*Pull back the reigns!*” I have never ridden in a horse and buggy; but I had sense enough to know that pulling back the reigns had to do with stopping or slowing down. I want you to know that I heard you. Stopping and slowing things down is now a part of my life. Thanks for your boldness. “*You are a great Uncle, Pastor-Coach!*”

To my late mother, Carol F. Bordeaux; you have been more than just a mom. You have been a confidant and a big sister. I feel like we all grew up together. Maybe that’s why the bond between us was sometimes toxic and strong. You’ve coached me on life, responsibility, love and relationships. I want you to know that I learned a lot from you. You have been there for all of your children. We know that you want the best for all of us. Thank you for your strong support, words of wisdom and direct counsel. I am so glad that your body received my kidney as if it was your own and you got another three years on life. Rest in peace! “*You have been a great Mother, Sister and Life-Coach!*”

To my oldest brother, Jeffery B. Bordeaux; I know you might be shocked. But when I was thinking about this list, I could not help think about the few words of counsel you gave me when I was going through with my own family. What I could not hear from you when I was younger, trust me, I sure hear it now. Maybe it’s because you changed the

way you give advice or I changed the way I listen to you. I know you love me and want the best for me. I want you to know that I heard you when you told me in your own way “*to not be a sucker.*” I want you to know that this time around I got it. Thank you for your support in the time of chaos. “*You have been a much needed Big Brother Coach!*”

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To my oldest sister in Nashville, Brenda Beene; Brenda I am just going to come out and say, “*You are so wise.*” I wish I had grown up with you. Half of the mistakes I made in relationships would not have happened if I had been around you. But we all have to live and learn. You see things that others do and know things that many do not know. You have no idea what it did for me when you simply said to me what you heard in your heart, “*All things work for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose.*” Sis, you were so right. I knew it was not just your voice, but the voice of God speaking through you to me. Thanks for being a prophetic sister and coach. Your husband, Beene

is a blessed man and I have witnessed how much he loves my sister. He's not going anywhere; he knows that he got it right this time. *"You are a great Big Sister- Coach!"*

To James Clark; we fuss, we debate, but at the end of the day you are still the oldest and the big brother God gave in Colorado. You keep me sharp and remind me of things like no other. You really do make me think and evaluate all things from a broader perspective. I appreciate your simple approach to life; it keeps me balanced and out of the doctor's office. We both know, I can tend to go a little off on the deep end sometimes, but you keep me from going too far. Thanks for being a voice of wisdom, coach and friend. I salute you too for your role in my life that established the necessity of this book. *"You are a great Big Brother away from home Coach!"*

To my best of friend, roommate in the Air Force and adopted brother—Kwaku. God gave you watch over me at 18. Thank you for supporting me and inspiring me with my dreams to get a college education. You jumped right in and assisted me with my studies from day one. I want you to know that meant a lot to me to meet someone that supported me and not laughed at me because I had a dream to be educated. I have learned from your study habits and work ethic. I saw early on from your accomplishments that you had to work hard first and have fun later. I know that your two boys, Andrew, now in the Air Force Academy, and Johnathan, who has shown that he can be accepted in

any Ivy League school in America, are making you proud. You have also been there in the tough times with counsel. I am truly blessed to have you as a best of friend and confidant. *You are a great big brother, no nonsense, Get-Your-Act-Together Coach.*

To my Cousin Beverly; you have been a great inspiration, lately, in my life. You have a load of wisdom that I enjoy listening to. I want you to know that I keep everything that you have taught me in mind. It's a blessing to hear things from an older woman's perspective. Know that you have coached me well. Because of you, I am better prepared for love and relationships. Thank you. *"You are a great Cousin Coach!"*

To Dr. Tim Bagwell; we have known each other for a long time. Little did we know when we first met in 1997 that we both enjoyed watching and coaching football. I might have won more games than you though. How about 85% from age 5 to 12 for starters? That's pretty tough to beat. Anyway, I know you had to be tough on those boys to make the playoffs and championship each year. I just cannot imagine you coaching and accepting anything less than that. It just does not fit your personality. You might want to call and check up on each child and make sure that none of them are permanently damaged because they had to meet your *"no less than Super Bowl"* expectations (LOL). I see that your son Adam is following in your footsteps with his son. I want you to know that I have had some incredible

times with you as a spiritual son at *Word of Life*. You have coached me through my highs and lows, through the times of light and days of pitch black darkness. I really do believe that your coaching, pushing and prodding over the years is a big reason why this gift of writing for kingdom of God business has manifested in my life. I never knew it was there and ready to come out until you pushed it out of me through your preaching and teaching. You never change. You're always the same. You refuse to allow your sheep to settle, but push us into higher heights and new experiences for the Lord's workings. I am truly a beneficiary of your anointed service and will always be grateful to have you and Gayla as kingdom leaders. Keep pushing and prodding us like you always have and do not let us settle. "*You are one of the greatest Pastor, Teacher Coaches alive!*"

To one of my latest coaches that God has put in my life, Dr. Frank Summerfield, *Word of God Christian Church, Raleigh, NC*. All I can say to you my brother is ...*Wow!* You put words and scriptures to many things I had been pondering over for years. How you articulate what was only a figment of my imagination is incredible. You are really a great teacher, pastor and most of all you are a "*Coach for the up and coming kings in the Kingdom.*" How you do all this and remain so cool? God is the only answer. You are just getting started. The world is going to know you and your kingdom spouse. I salute you both. There is still a whole lot left to do. Get ready! *You too are a great Pastor, Teacher Coach.*

To my writing, grammar and speech coach, Rosalind. It would be neglectful if I did not write to you about the grammatical and verbal coaching skills you have given me for the past few years. You are one of the brightest, most serious, and funniest women I know. You came in and cleaned up a lot of my verbal and grammatical errors, not to be critical of me, but to make my life and work better. Notre Dame, Cornell, the University of Rochester and Toastmasters have taught you well. I know that I am not where you would like me to be with my speech and grammar yet, but I feel that it is going in the right direction. *You are a great writing, teacher and friend Coach.*

Finally, to my lifelong coach, Mr. Robert Brown; you did not know this, but it was you who inspired me to write this book in the first place. It was in your living room that night while watching Monday Night Football that I got the revelation to write this book. It was that then that I realized how selflessly you have been a coach to me and others who would listen for many years. I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed your willingness to impart your thoughts in my life since I was about 15 years old. Whether it was on a street corner, in a restaurant, or in your own living room, you have been coaching men for years. I realize how blessed I am to have had someone like you as a mentor, father figure and coach to discuss life and its twist and turns. You have given me much advice down through the years. I want you to know that I am doing everything I

can to carry out your advice. I appreciate the love, concern and fellowship we have had since I was a teenager. I want to give you your flowers while you are still living. Near or far, I will always cherish my time with you. Thank you, sir, for everything; you have been a great father coach and big part of my foundation and belief system when it comes to work and family. I wish that all young men and women had a great coach like you. You made me realize that night, *“Everybody Needs a Coach.”*

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INTRODUCTION

Writing is starting to become apart of my blood now that I have completed *Choose, Choose II* and *The Spirit of Greed*. As soon as I completed *The Spirit of Greed*, I began to outline my newest book: *Everybody Needs a Coach*. The first three books have more of a serious tone to them. I feel that this book will have a humorous side and also tackle some serious issues.

If you have read any of my other books, you know that I am a coach. I have coached young men for many years, eighteen years to be exact. My life has been guided by the basic principles of coaching since I was about 10 years old.

When I think about life, experience and expertise: none of it is perfected in us without someone else who has walked down that path teaching us. If we think about all that comprises man's experiences on earth, if we do not have a coach in just about every experience, we are left out here running against the wind.

There is no one person who has it all and does not need coaches, teachers, or leaders in their life.

Coaching is a unique ability that I believe God gives to those who have learned from certain life experience. I also think that coaching can be a tricky craft that can easily be coveted by those who are still in the learning phase of perfecting a specific area in their life. Let's be honest. The ability to teach something can be rather exciting and desirable by people who may not be ready for the task.

When I was a little boy, I was so impressed with my *Pop Warner Football Coach*, Mr. Paizano. He had a unique ability to pull the best out of each young boy on our team and make him want to play the game of football. Mr. Paizano taught me things like team work, responsibility and discipline. These are values that I would never forget and would later use in life to teach my own little league players twenty years later.

I do not want you to think that I am referring only to coaching sports. I found that everybody needs a coach in just about every area of their lives.

Some people will be a coach to you in one way and there will be others who will be a coach to you in other ways. The point is that we are always learning. We are always growing. The mind that accepts that it needs to be trained in this life will win.

All successful people that I have known all have one thing in common; they have several people in their lives that have more success than them. They are constantly looking to learn more. I have never met a successful man

that has no wise confidant in his or her life. To be honest with you, if it had not been for the wise men and women that I experienced have in my life, I do not think I would be writing this book.

I have been very fortunate to meet and know some very intelligent people. I have also been just as unfortunate to meet quite the opposite. If I were to weigh the good with the bad I could easily choose to focus on the good. People that I have met, some are now deceased, took great valued interest in my life and it has helped me to be able to focus on appropriate things.

I am reminded by something that I read in the Bible when Martha was prodding Jesus to deal with her sister Mary about helping her with the preparations of the house.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, Lord, do not you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me! Martha, Martha, the Lord answered, You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.¹

1 Luke 10:38-41

I like what Jesus said to Martha. This is the principle that will serve as the foundation of the entire book. If there is one thing I have been able to do because of Coach Paizano's gift and love for us as young boys. I have learned to recognize honest wisdom and from time to time, sit at its feet and choose to listen to it speak.

You would think it would be natural for people to recognize wisdom and want to invest their time in hearing what it has to say. I have recognized in my life that that is not so great a passion in a lot of people's lives.

I am writing "*Everybody Needs a Coach*" to point out the importance of a "life coach" and the different things that you need to know to overcome the odds in your life.

I have no idea who this may reach, but I am certain it will help somebody. Maybe you do not have a coach in your life. Some have never had a coach. You could have had good coaches around you with different expertise and maybe you did not utilize them. I do not know what your or someone else's situation maybe. What I do know is that I have been inspired to write this book. As basic as this may sound, we cannot assume that people understand that they need a coach.

We are living in a time when many are approaching this world defying any and every attempt of someone trying to teach them. Thank God, that certain people have helped me all throughout my life. I have always had an open ear to people who I realized had an honest interest in my life.

The world is still full of many good people. You do not have to lend your listening ear to those you know that truly do not have your best interest at hand. Good people are all around us. If you are doing what you are supposed to in life, you will have a solid hand full of people that truly have your best interest.

The relationships that you will gather will only add to a greatly formed nucleus of people that can coach you in many ways throughout your years. Join me in the next several chapters as I write to you things I have learned and why everybody needs a coach.

CHAPTER

1

A Coach for Correction

Correction is What Makes a Champion

*“When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face,
because he was clearly in the wrong.”*

~Galatians 2:11

I am reminded of a very good book that I read a few years ago entitled: *“Be Quick, but Do not Hurry”* by Andrew Hill. The book is about coaching and life principles by the legendary UCLA Basketball Coach, John Wooden.

John Wooden has been one of the most beloved basketball coaching icons in college basketball history. One of the principles I noticed that Coach Wooden would demonstrate is how the team should run an offensive play, pass the ball, block out or defend.

He would demonstrate it to the players first; afterward, he would have the players repeatedly practice what he demonstrated over and over again. He would make corrections to what the players did. The interesting point this

book makes is that he would then disappear and sit way up in the basketball arena where the players could not see him and watch them constantly do what he had just taught and demonstrated. He would then have a larger view of other things that needed to be corrected. Next, he would come back down out of the stands and make those corrections.

I too found this type of coaching useful and successful when coaching kids or adults in football. I could take a child as young as 5 years of age and a man as old as 35 years of age and show them the proper way to catch a football. I taught my own boys at an early age how to properly catch, throw, tackle and run passing routes.

It was fun to do and see them learn; however- none of this comes without correction. You cannot be willing to teach someone what to do and not be willing to put in the work to correct them so they can do it right. Having a coach or coaches in your life is something that we all need so we can do things right.

When you think of a coach, they are people who know more about a subject than you. No coach can teach someone who feels they have more knowledge than them on the subject. We call these lost souls—“un-coachable.”

Peter, in the story at Antioch, had been corrected by the Apostle Paul on a matter that could harm the development of the new church. The Apostle Peter had a way of acting one way in front of the Jewish Christians and another way

with the Gentile believers. We called this being two-faced when I was a kid.

He would not embrace his Gentile brothers in the presence of the Jewish believers. Paul, having more understanding on the development of the church than Peter, saw his duplicity and corrected him. He knew how he was treating his Gentile Christian brothers in front of the Jews was clearly wrong. In fact, what Peter was doing had nothing to do with the truth of who all the gospel was intended for. Paul, though chosen after Peter, had more insight into Jewish law and customs. Therefore, once enlightened, Paul understood the revelation of the purpose of Christ to the Gentiles as well.

Paul gives his Jewish credentials in these words:

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.²

What Paul was trying to let the people of Philippi know is that he too erred in the faith under the Law of Moses and came to understand that salvation came through Christ as a free gift to all men, without the need for the works of the flesh.

2 Philippians 3:4-6

Which brings me to this other point, coaches are people of integrity. Not only are they the people who are not afraid to mention their mistakes, but they are the people in your life that love you enough to confront you when you do wrong.

People who turn away and endorse you in your wrongdoings are not doing you any favors at all. I believe that **correction is what makes a champion**. It takes experience to figure this out. Coaches are there to make sure that you are doing things right. They keep you or get you back on course.

Peter had clearly gotten off course with the truth of the gospel. He was embarrassed to embrace his Gentile brothers in front of his Jewish clique. It was not right or keeping in line with the destiny of the gospel. The gospel had come to both Jew and Gentiles. Peter was supposed to project that to not one group, but both, regardless of whose presence he was in.

It is amazing how when we get around one group we act one way and when we are around another group we conduct ourselves in another. Paul did not care. His heart and mind was focused on the truth of Jesus Christ. He did not waste time rebuking the Jews, but instead, turned to Peter and put him in his place.

Paul knew that it was Peter's leadership that was making the Jewish believers go astray. When there is a mess, sometimes you have to turn to the person who should know bet-

ter and correct them. They may not like it, but they will be left to deal with the correction themselves.

Leaders are responsible for teaching others right and wrong. This is why the enemy loves to try to discredit leaders. He knows that they have a greater purpose. If he can discredit the leader, then the people will not listen to learn the truth. Leaders have to be resilient in their effort to keep standing on the Word of God. Allow God the time to sort out confusion himself.

Correction from a coach is a good thing. It is for discipline. Even God our Father believes in the fruit that comes from correction. Here is what the writer says in the book of Hebrews 12: 4-13:

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord corrects those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Endure hardship as a discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.

No discipline seems pleasant at the time. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.³

During my years of playing Pop-Warner football, I learned discipline on the practice field. Our coaches did not teach us that it was ok to miss practice, games, or to be late. In fact, the entire time I played, I never was late to a practice, a game or dared to miss a practice or game day. I learned discipline. Was it hard at times? Yes, it was.

I've visited the corner I used to stand at as a kid waiting for the bus to come and take me to practice. I was there everyday with my uniform on and helmet in my hand. Little did I know that being a part of Pop-Warner was shaping my life into becoming a responsible adult.

I traveled to practice further than anybody on our team. I came from a different side of town than most of the kids on my team. All the other kids lived near the practice field. I would be the first to get there and the last to get home every night, but I did it. I took the responsibility myself

3 Hebrews 12:12-13

to get where I needed to be, including on game day. I started learning this at age 10. My coaches did not accept any excuses.

Unfortunately, we are living in a day and time where the kids are not appreciative of such training and correction is not readily received. I recognize that we live with a more sensitive generation than in the past. People's voices want to be heard, even if what they are saying is foolishness.

The idea of being corrected seems to cause more hurt than good. What has happened to us in this day and time? Correction does not necessarily have to mean anything physical, but it more importantly means you have someone in your life that pulls you back in line when you appear to be going off the good path. The people that do this are your coaches. You should be thankful to God for them.

No one is paid to keep us on the straight and narrow. Sometimes you just need good advice; and if you are going about something wrong, then the coaches you have around you can correct what you are thinking and doing.

Understand, true coaches will never leave you, that is, if you are worth of the stay. They are always there; they do not necessarily come looking for you either. Many times you have to go to them. It is up to us to establish the mentor—student relationship with them and work within those parameters. That is your responsibility, not theirs.

Sometimes roles change, but mostly, you should have people who are the coach and you are the student. Jesus

taught this principle to the people: *A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.*⁴ The purpose of you having coaches in your life is so that you can be fully trained and become like or similar to your coach. The only way you become like your coaches is to pay attention to what they say.

In today's world, the attention of our young people is focused on those who have money, music, fame, but no character. I will not deal with that issue here. You have to read my book, *The Spirit of Greed*, to get that information.

Coaches look to duplicate their efforts and build character. They have spent considerable time in learning what works. That's why it's good to have more than one coach in your life. We need to pull disciplines from each one and use them for our success.

I would have to say that I am still very optimistic about God raising up more leaders who can influence the world to good and bring correction to the way we have conducted business and live our lives.

The bottom line is that if you have coaches in your life, then you are not above your coach. God is the one who put certain people in our lives to teach us and correct us when we are wrong. To all the good coaches out there, keep coaching and stay strong. Whether the world realizes it or not, it still needs you to make its champions.

4 Luke 6:40