

THE
GOD
POCKET™



HE OWNS IT. YOU CARRY IT.
SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING CHANGES.

BRUCE
WILKINSON

WITH DAVID KOPP

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BRUCE
WILKINSON

AUTHOR OF THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER *THE PRAYER OF JABEZ*

WITH DAVID KOPP



MULTNOMAH
BOOKS

THE GOD POCKET
PUBLISHED BY MULTNOMAH BOOKS
12265 Oracle Boulevard, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921

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Underlines in Scripture quotations reflect the author's added emphasis.

Every story in this book is an account of an actual event. In a few cases, minor details have been modified slightly to improve readability or to protect privacy. The concept of the God Pocket was introduced briefly in a previous book, *You Were Born for This*.

ISBN 978-1-60142-185-2
ISBN 978-1-60142-186-9 (electronic)

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Cover design by Kristopher K. Orr

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Published in the United States by WaterBrook Multnomah, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House Inc., New York.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Wilkinson, Bruce.

The God pocket : he owns it, you carry it : suddenly, everything changes / Bruce Wilkinson with David Kopp. — 1st ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p.).

ISBN 978-1-60142-185-2 — ISBN 978-1-60142-186-9 (electronic)

1. Christian stewardship. 2. Money—Religious aspects—Christianity. 3. Charity. I. Kopp, David, 1949- II. Title.
BV772.W48 2011
248'.6—dc23

2011028975

Printed in the United States of America
2011—First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SPECIAL SALES

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INVITATION

What if you could take a little something out of your pocket today that would make God visible—and then give that little something to another person you just met?

Of course, I'm asking you to imagine a shocking idea, but I'm completely serious.

Picture the moment. You strike up a conversation with a passerby outside a restaurant, or someone you've just met in the mall, or a newcomer in your church lobby. Suddenly you realize this is the moment. You smile at your new acquaintance, reach into your pocket, then lean forward. The other person doesn't suspect a thing. But before

they know what's happening, you press into their hands the very presence and touch of our loving God.

Stay with me.

Now imagine that this person *only minutes earlier* had been secretly calling out to God for help, for an answer, for any shred of evidence that Heaven even noticed their crisis.

And then you showed up! There you are, placing (so to speak) an enormous ball of light into the hands of the person who has been standing alone in the dark for days. Or years.

Wouldn't that be something?

Assuming for a minute you could do such a thing, that one experience would change your life. Wouldn't it?

This book is about
a mysterious little idea
that's almost too big
for words.

The joy would be contagious. And you'd be so lit up inside with your own happiness that everyone would notice. Years later you'd still be talking about it.

And imagine the impact on the person who, out of the blue, received what you had to share. They'd see their life

and their future differently from that day on. They'd feel very differently about God too.

This book is about a mysterious little idea that's almost too big for words. Sure, you don't exactly pull our mighty, living God out of your pocket or purse. But it feels very, very close to that. You'll see. It's happened countless times for me and for thousands of others who have said yes to the God Pocket. If you're willing to try it, you'll know it was God who showed up to touch your heart and meet an urgent need in someone else's life.

And you'll be in a rush to say yes to another God Pocket adventure soon.

I hope you turn the page.



THE GOD POCKET

He owns it. You carry it. Suddenly, everything changes!

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HEAVEN LEANS DOWN

What happens when God makes
Himself visible through you

This God Pocket story starts at the counter of a pharmacy in South Carolina at two in the afternoon. A young husband is there to pick up a prescription for his wife. The cashier gives him back his change, then hands him the prescription. “Thanks,” he says, and he turns to go.

That’s when the young man freezes. He’s staring down at his change to be sure of what he’s seeing. But he *is* sure.

The cashier has returned incorrect change. Too much. A lot too much, actually.

Have you ever found yourself in such a circumstance? Most of us have.

All of this happens in seconds, of course. But here's the thing: The young husband is out of work—laid off like a lot of other folks when the economy fell apart. It's been a while now, and he and his wife are getting desperate. Then today he gets this lucky break—finally!—and it's really going to help. Groceries, some breathing room, maybe a little something for his wife (he can already see her smile).

But then again...

The young man's heart sinks. And sinks some more. "Ma'am," he says. It's so hard for him to get the word out.

The cashier glances up from her next customer, wondering what his problem is.

"Ma'am, I think you gave me the wrong change," he says.

Sure enough, she did. Quickly she takes back the extra. "Sorry," she says.

By the time he walks out of the pharmacy, his heart is down in his shoes. He did what was right, but he still feels like he lost. Like he's a permanent loser. Out in the park-

ing lot, he climbs dejectedly into his old red pickup and hands the prescription to his wife.

That little drama at the cash register? He can't bring himself to mention it.

“I’VE BEEN CARRYING AROUND SOME
OF GOD’S MONEY”

At the same time, across town a woman is driving toward Kentucky Fried Chicken. She's on an emergency mission—to buy a bag of hot-sauce packets. Not a bite of lunch or even a drink, mind you. Just KFC hot sauce. Her name is Darlene, and she's my lovely wife (and that's how I know what happened). You see, we were about to embark on a speaking tour of South Africa, where our son David currently lives. When she asked him what he'd like us to bring for him, he immediately came out with, “Kentucky Fried Chicken hot sauce!”

Some things you just can't explain.

At KFC, Darlene walks up to Margie, the woman behind the counter, and delivers her unusual order. Margie's eyebrows shoot up. Apparently people don't often stop by for whole bags of hot-sauce packets. The

manager goes in the back to fill Darlene's order, and since business is slow, Darlene and Margie begin talking. It doesn't take long for Darlene to discover that Margie is struggling financially and very discouraged.

"I remembered that I had placed several bills in my God Pocket the week before," Darlene told me later. "I took one out, folded it, and taking her hand, quietly placed the bill there. I told her, 'Just something to remind you that God knows your situation and wants you to be encouraged today.'"

Apparently, customers don't often do that kind of thing either at KFC. Maybe never, because right away Margie's eyes fill with tears. "You just have no idea—," she begins. But before the two can talk further, a twenty-something customer enters, steps up to the counter, and puts in her order.

"How much for a glass of water?" she asks.

Darlene glances at Margie. "You charge for water here?"

"Restaurants have to pay for the cup," Margie explains. Then to the young woman, "Thirty-seven cents."

The customer rummages in her purse and finally plunks a quarter on the counter. "I have to take some

medicine,” she says wearily. Then her shoulders sag. “I guess I only have a quarter.”

Do you see what’s going on here in South Carolina a little after two in the afternoon?

What Darlene sees is God at work. Smiling, she asks the young woman to let her buy the water for her, and she does. The young woman gives her a quiet thank-you in return, takes the water and her quarter from the counter, and hurries out.

A minute later Darlene is walking out of the restaurant too, carrying her bag of Africa-bound hot-sauce packets. But in her heart she’s trying to make sense of her recent encounters. *Lord, she prays, I haven’t helped anyone in need with my God Pocket for weeks, and then today You place two people in my path. I wish I had responded faster and given that young woman the money left in my God Pocket.*

She has already gotten into her car when she notices that she is parked next to a red pickup. Seated on the

I took one out, folded it, and taking her hand, quietly placed the bill there. I told her, “Just something to remind you that God knows your situation and wants you to be encouraged today.”

pickup's passenger side is the young woman. In her hand she holds the cup of water. Right away Darlene realizes that Heaven has given her another chance.

Here's how she described to me what happened next:

“With the bills from my God Pocket in hand, I opened my car door and gently tapped on her window. When she lowered it, I asked if she would do me a favor. ‘I’ve been carrying around some of God’s money,’ I said, ‘and I believe He would like me to give it to you.’ That was all. Then I handed her the money.”

You can imagine the young woman's surprise. She catches her breath. Her hand flies to her mouth. She can't begin to explain what is happening. But if you've been following this story carefully, maybe you can.

Only then does Darlene look across at the young man behind the steering wheel. He is staring at the money in his wife's hand, and tears are starting to roll down his cheeks. “You're not...going to believe this,” he says.

And he proceeds to tell Darlene their story. (Did you see this coming?) He had lost his job, times were tough, and just a few blocks away, when he'd gone for his wife's medicine, the cashier had given him back too much money by mistake. At first it had seemed like a huge provision,

but the money didn't belong to him, so he had returned it. What a struggle that had been!

The young husband leans over to his wife. He can barely get the words out. But this is what he says: "Look at this! God used someone we don't even know to bless us with far more than I gave back!"

HOW WE SEE THE WORLD

Think back over your life. Have you had your own experience where Heaven seemed to plant you squarely in the crossroads of somebody's life and—in that place, in that moment, you just *knew* that you'd been specially sent? And then God showed up in an amazing way. Ever since, you've been filled with gratitude that, out of all the people in the universe that day, God picked you.

What if God is inviting you into those kinds of experiences on a regular basis? Actually, there are a lot of reasons why He would, but here's a big one:

You and I see the world differently than many do. We look out the window and see God. Not in physical form, but left and right we see evidence of His presence. We see His steadfast faithfulness all through the story of our lives,

working for our good in the wonderful ups and the difficult downs. We open the Word and experience His loving guidance. We look in the faces of our children and see amazing grace.

Not always, but usually.

But for a lot of folks, it's not like that at all. They look

How does God
break into our material
world to touch troubled
individuals with His
great love?

out the window and don't see any sign that God is real or that He cares. They look at the story of their lives and see a lonely, disappointing journey. They have long since decided that if God is some-

where about, He must be otherwise occupied, because when they call, He doesn't seem to answer.

You might say that, for some people in our world, God's reputation is in trouble.

Let me ask you this: When Heaven leans down to make God "visible" in someone's life—maybe yours—how does that happen? How does God break into our material world to touch troubled individuals with His great love and show them His personal attention?

At a KFC in South Carolina one ordinary afternoon, God took four people by surprise and revealed Himself to each of them in tangible, unforgettable ways. Could anyone but God have brought it all together so perfectly?

Consider:

- A young, unemployed husband struggles to return an overpayment to a cashier. When no one else knows, God knows what it is costing him to do the right thing.
- God knows the young couple's need and seeks to meet it. Most of all, I think, He longs for them to know that He is with them in their trials and that He cares. But how can He get the message to them?
- Across town, Margie, the KFC employee, is secretly struggling too. God knows. He wants to encourage her and show her how deeply He cares.
- Enter Darlene, prepared on a moment's notice to be God's representative. Of course, after that phone call from Africa, what's on her mind is...hot sauce. Why? God knows that

Darlene, who wouldn't ordinarily stop by Kentucky Fried Chicken at two in the afternoon, wouldn't hesitate to go there at any hour for a bag of hot-sauce packets if that's what her son said he really wanted.

- At that exact moment, God brings Margie, the young wife, and Darlene together. God knows what's about to happen, but do they? Not on your life!
- In quick succession, two "out of the blue," God-arranged encounters follow. Darlene reaches into her God Pocket to bless Margie and into her purse to buy water for the young wife.
- But God is not finished. He sets up a third "out of the blue" encounter at the window of the couple's truck, where Darlene again reaches into her God Pocket to bless the young wife and her husband. Was that almost-missed appointment a mistake? I don't think so, because Darlene got to see firsthand why God's provision through her was so special—and so miraculous—for the young couple in need.

Talk about a God moment! Only God could have arranged such “chance” encounters that led to very real physical and emotional needs being met. And that is what He did.

God was willing and able, and thankfully one of His servants was ready. And look what happened!

When Darlene was telling me about her encounter, she described the conversation with the young couple that followed as she stood by the truck. “We talked for a while about God’s faithfulness and how He alone is our supplier and giver of every good and perfect gift. When I finally returned to my car and watched them drive away, my heart was overwhelmed with gratitude that God had given me the opportunity to see Him display His love for that precious couple.”

She paused and then added, “Oh, and guess what? The manager gave me the bag of hot-sauce packets for free!”

BY THE TIME YOU FINISH THIS BOOK

You might be wondering where all this is going.

For example, what exactly is a God Pocket? Where did the money in Darlene’s God Pocket come from?

How would you or I know when to reach for it so that the miracle Heaven had in mind could actually happen through us?

In the pages ahead we'll explore these questions and more. Already it should be clear to you that the God

The God Pocket has as much to do with God's deep desire to bless you as it does with His desire to bless others through you.

Pocket prepares a person to deliver God's provision to someone in need. You can be that delivery person. By the time you finish this little book, you'll understand how to be in the right place at the right time to partner with

Heaven in a God-arranged encounter. And you'll come away *knowing* God, not you, made it happen.

But let's begin with a couple of things you might not have figured out.

First, the God Pocket has as much to do with God's deep desire *to bless you* beyond anything you can imagine¹ as it does with His desire *to bless others through you*. Over and over again, the Bible declares that He's never desired anything less for you, and you honor Him by desiring nothing less for yourself.

And second, while the God Pocket is primarily a ministry with money, it's not your money.

You see, when you reach into your pocket or purse, you're not intending to give anything of yours away.

Curious how this could be possible? The next chapter will show you.



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