

Interview with Van Beasley and Michael Neale

Van Beasley

October 6, 2026 | Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalms 147:3

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

****Michael:**** I'm not crying, you're crying. Amazing, huh? A miracle.

****Van:**** You're a miracle.

****Michael:**** That's right. We all are, actually. Right now, we're breathing. That's a miracle.

Van and I have been friends for a lot of years. I've known his family for a long time, and it's just extraordinary. You could sense God's hand on his life even as he's leading worship. I told you, I'm not crying, you're crying.

There's a lot of story behind this conversation.

****Van:**** That's really beautiful.

****Michael:**** We're just going to kind of let you in on it, so it's pretty cool.

Van, I think it would be great if you would take us back a little bit. We're getting to see a little bit of the end of the story, but take us back before the surgeries, before you knew you had this heart condition. What was life like? What was your trajectory? What was going on in your life? Take us there.

****Van:**** It's funny. You guys already know the punchline, so it's interesting starting at the beginning.

Yeah, I was wilding out. I mean, you want to go that far back?

****Michael:**** You just go wherever the Lord leads.

****Van:**** I want to have an honest conversation with you guys tonight, if that's cool. A real, genuine, authentic, raw conversation, like we're together.

By the way, I love you guys, and it is an absolute honor to be here. You go, "How do you love me?" I'm telling you, I love you. I love you, every single one of you, man. It is an honor to be in Houston. This is so wild.

My dad actually just - I don't know if you know this - sent me a text message. Back in the day, when I was supposed to hang with Michael, he came over to my house to pick me up in the morning. My dad did, in Nashville. I don't know if you know this, but I didn't make the flight because I was hungover. I was still drunk from the night before.

What God has done since back in the day, man - you guys have no idea. Anything is possible, okay? I want

you to know that. No matter what you're battling, no matter what addiction you have, there are literal chains that are broken with the Holy Spirit, and He can do these things. I'm a walking testimony. This is just a small glimpse of it, right?

So, yeah, back in the day, I was living a life literally for myself. I grew up in the church, but it was a lot of religion, you know? By the time I got out of high school, like I said, I was wilding out. I'm the keg-stand guy, you know what I'm saying? I thought that was going to land. A little laugh? No keg-standers out here?

My whole life, I wanted to do music for my life, right? It was one disappointment after another that just kind of led me down to numbing out my pain. I became an alcoholic and drug addict for 18 years of my life.

Like I said, I loved God, guys. I did. I had a relationship with Him, but I was kind of serving two kingdoms, and that's actually impossible. You can't do both. I was kind of like, "Hey, God, come over here. I feel like I'm led to this," but I was really just serving myself and what I wanted. So that was the beginning.

****Michael:**** Amazing. So you find out you have this heart condition. It totally changes your life and throws it upside down. You go on a journey for years - literally years - fighting for your life as a young man.

We know that pain and deep valleys come to all of us. None of us escapes it on one level or another. But when you go through that kind of trauma and that kind of suffering, how did it change you? What did it change in you? What did it teach you about God?

****Van:**** Man, this guy knows how to ask questions. That's a good one.

I don't know how it can't change you when you experience the presence of God like I did. I'll never forget, man. I was in the ambulance after they had told me.

This is really bizarre: I was in the studio recording a song called "Heartbeat" when my aortic valve burst. The song was all about, "If you've got a heartbeat, you've still got a purpose," which, by the way, is still the message for you guys. If you've got a heartbeat, there is a purpose. Every single one of you is here tonight.

Ironically enough, I'm singing this song, and in the middle of a take, it burst. I felt like an elephant was sitting on my chest, and I knew something was terribly wrong.

I remember being in the ambulance, and the EMTs were like, "Hey, you need to call your family. You're probably not going to make it." That's a wild experience.

By the way, Billy Graham used to say this: 100 percent of us in this room have at least one thing in common, and that's that none of us is making it out alive, right? One of my favorite lines Jon Foreman wrote is, "These skin and bones are a rental." It's just a rental.

That became reality to me very quickly. I'm in that ambulance, and I remember just knowing about God. I knew about God, like I just told you guys. I had a relationship with Him. But, man, I was forced in this moment, with this incredible opportunity, to see where my faith actually was.

I realized that knowing about God was not going to be enough in that moment. I didn't trust Him. There's a

major difference between knowing Him and trusting Him.

That moment really shifted everything for me because of all the things that were weighing me down. We have issues in this room, you know? Disappointments are weighing you down, or you have these dreams that haven't come true yet, and you're disappointed. Those are real. These are real things, man.

But I'm just telling you, in that moment, I wasn't thinking about the record deal that almost didn't happen or did happen, whatever. I wasn't thinking about my bank account. I was literally thinking about a couple of things.

One was, "I don't want to die an addict." The other thing was, "I want to be a better brother, a better son, a better friend. Man, I want to love You with everything I have, God - with everything. I want to lose my life to find it."

Did I answer your question?

****Michael:**** Yeah. I mean, I could listen to you talk all day.

First of all, thank you for sharing your story. We all have a story, and the story is invitation. It's not just information, telling people about Jesus, but saying, "Hey, this is my story. This is how Jesus changed my life."

You stepping into that, reliving those memories - that costs you something. To be able to come out and talk to us about it, get out here, get on a plane, and come - thank you.

I've got one last question, and then I'm going to crack the Word for a few minutes.

It's a big group of people. There's a good chance that a lot of folks in here are walking through a deep valley.

****Van:**** Yeah, 100 percent.

****Michael:**** They're experiencing some kind of pain, some kind of isolation, rejection, or suffering. It could be physical. It could be emotional. Whatever it is, if you could sit down and have coffee with them, what would you say?

****Van:**** The first thing I would say is, "I'm so sorry. I'm really sorry that you're hurting."

Pain is real, man. We were talking about pain yesterday. Pain is pain. This is just my little story. Like Michael was just saying, there's a bunch of that in here this evening. I would say, "I'm really sorry. I'm really sorry. Right now, I'm sorry."

But I would also say, "It's going to be okay. You're going to be all right." Why? Not because of what Van says, but because of what the Scripture says.

This is Jesus, man. He says what He does:

He heals the brokenhearted.

— Psalm 147:3

****Michael:**** That's right.

****Van:**** Right now, man, I'd be a fool to think there weren't broken hearts in here. He can heal you. This is what He does.

And you know what else He does?

He binds up your wounds.

— Psalm 147:3

I don't know and I don't understand why you're having to go through the things you're going through. You might say, "Van, you don't understand what I've gone through. That's cool that you believe that."

But I'd say, "You know what? Maybe I don't understand, but I know one man who does. His name is Jesus."

Read the Book. He's in the garden. You say, "Van, no. I prayed for things and it didn't work out." Read the Book. What does He do? "Lord, please, can this cup pass?" He's praying to get out of that, right? "But if it be Your will." So He can understand how you're feeling.

I'd say the last thing, man - I mean, if we were having coffee, we'd probably be on round two of vanilla lattes at this point, but we could go on and on. I would want to hear about your story. By the way, please come talk to me after this. I want to get to know you.

But I would say this, man. The last thing is - this is just the Holy Spirit right now:

Lean not on your own understanding.

Acknowledge Him in all your ways.

— Proverbs 3:5-6

And what will He do?

****Audience:**** Direct your path.

****Van:**** Yeah, He'll make your path straight.

It's really easy. We like that: "Lean not on your own understanding." But that's hard, man. That's difficult because we like to control things.

Lean not on your own understanding. He is Alpha and Omega. He knows exactly what you're going through. He's in the details of your life, and He cares with everything in Him. You are worth it. You're worth it.

****Michael:**** That's right. Van, would you just voice a prayer over us? I think that would be appropriate right now.

If you have a need, let's just let the Holy Spirit wash over this moment. Voice a prayer over us, and then we'll go to God's Word.

****Van:**** Holy Spirit, I just thank You. I thank You that You are Healer. I thank You that You are here right now.

What a crazy concept this is - that it's reality, that the God of the universe, the One who split the sea and the

sky, is in this room tonight, and You hold our hearts in Your hand.

God, do something tonight. I'm going to ask this for my brothers and my sisters tonight. I'm going to ask for the presence of the real Holy Spirit - not religion, but the presence of You, God - to invade hearts tonight, where people leave and they don't think of Michael or think of Van. They literally go, "I can't escape this, man. I can't shake this," because there's nothing we can say, but there's something that You can do by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God, I just pray for those broken hearts to be mended tonight, and for the wounds to be mended. God, I pray that we realize this life is short. It's a vapor. God, I pray for a realization of the importance of this air that You've given us that's in our lungs.

God, I pray for courage and strength. I pray against all fear and all anxiety in this room, in the name of Jesus Christ.

God, I love You with everything in me. Thank You for forgiving us. Thank You that You're okay with us being so imperfect. I love the fact that it's okay that we don't have to have it figured out. You never ask us to figure it out. You just want our hearts in full surrender.

Jesus, I ask for that tonight, that we all lay our lives down as living sacrifices to You.

God, I love You, and we're expecting. I pray for my brother Michael as he's about to bring the heat.

God, I love You. In Jesus' name I pray all these things, amen.

****Michael:**** Amen. Amen. Would you guys thank Van? Would you thank him for being here?