



POWER *for* LIVING

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Higher Goals



BY **DANNY SUMMERS**

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So much for being Mr. Irrelevant. Brock Purdy went from being known as the final player selected in the 2022 NFL Draft to arguably the most popular player in the league months later. The San Francisco 49ers quarterback did it all while steadfastly proclaiming his dedication and love for Jesus Christ.

“My identity has to be in something other than football,” Brock maintains. “After this is over, where am I going to go? What am I going to do? Who am I going to lean on? I am so glad I chose to go with Jesus and follow Him.”

The 49ers selected Brock with the 262nd and final pick. The term Mr. Irrelevant is given to the

last player chosen last in the NFL Draft. That player is usually not thought of as being a franchise-changing guy.

Brock broke that mold.

The Florida native, who played his college ball for Iowa State, beat out veteran Nate Sudfeld for the 49ers’ 53rd and last roster spot on Aug. 31, just days prior to the start of the regular season. At the time, the 49ers were not figuring that Brock would be piloting a team many experts predicted had all the weapons needed to make a Super Bowl run.

From the day he was drafted, Brock never considered himself irrelevant, even though the title stuck to him like black tar to the bottom of his shoes. Rather than shy away from the topic in



conversations with reporters, Brock made light of the situation, even when he was designated to start the season as the third quarterback on the team's depth chart behind Trey Lance and Jimmy Garoppolo.

By early January, any mention of Brock being the most irrelevant player in the draft was quickly quashed when the 49ers—with Brock under center as the starter—found themselves one victory away from the Super Bowl. By then Brock Purdy was considered Mr. Significant.

While the mainstream media told and retold Brock's remarkable football story, and the wave of attention he garnered seemed overwhelming to him at times, Brock did his best to keep grounded. He made sure his fans knew who he really was outside of football. His Instagram and Twitter bios both stated, "Believer in Christ," with his Twitter banner being Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." (NIV)

"I'm living apart from the world," Brock says. "People can think this or that about me, or whatever. That's fine. The bottom line is that my identity is in Jesus. I'm going to roll with that."

BROCK AND THE GOAT

The early stage of Brock's football career is strikingly similar to that

of Tom Brady, considered the greatest quarterback of all time. Like Brock, Brady didn't have the pedigree of a future star when he joined the NFL.

Brady was selected by the New England Patriots in the 6th round of the 2000 NFL Draft, the 199th player among 254 chosen that spring. Most NFL experts considered Brady an afterthought. They were proven correct when he saw action in just one game his rookie season, completing one pass for six yards.

Brady began his sophomore season as the Patriots' No. 2 quarterback behind Drew Bledsoe. When Bledsoe was injured in Week 2, Brady stepped in as the starter and led the Patriots to an upset Super Bowl victory over the St. Louis Rams. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Brady went on to play in nine more Super Bowls with New England and Tampa Bay, winning six more championships and rewriting the NFL record book. Brady was named the Super Bowl MVP five times.

Brady was motivated by those who doubted him. He embraced the challenges. He inspired everyone around him. He always strived to prove people wrong.

In the same way, Brock never appeared to hesitate when he was handed the reins of the 49ers'



offense after Garoppolo went down with an injury during a Week 14 game against the Miami Dolphins. Brock directed the 49ers to a 33-17 victory that day—the first of six consecutive wins.

With the news that Garoppolo (he took over when Lance suffered a season-ending injury in Week 2) was out for the season, the 49ers hosted Brady and the Buccaneers seven days later in Brock's first NFL start. The result was a dominating 35-7 victory. The torch, some said, had been passed.

After the game, Brock told reporters it was “surreal” to be playing on the same field as Brady.

Brady caught Brock at midfield after the game and offered some words of encouragement.

“Good playing, my man,” Brady told Brock. “You played great. Keep it up. Keep going.”

Brock, who was born when Brady was a senior at Michigan, thought it was “pretty cool” that Brady took the time to talk with him.”

GROUNDING IN HIS FAITH

Brock learned early in his collegiate career that football needed to be second if he was truly going to serve Jesus Christ.

“Football is a game, it's not my life,” Brock says. “Every time I play I want others to see God through my actions. I want to bring Him glory every time I step on a field. I point to God and thank Him for the opportunity, even when we lose.”

Brock was a four-year starter

for the Cyclones. He was the 2018 Big 12 Freshman of the Year, and two-time All-Big 12 selection his junior and senior seasons. Brock threw for 12,170 yards and 81 touchdowns in his college career.

Brock committed his life to Jesus while in college, getting down on his knees on campus after a tough week and asking for Jesus to lead the way

“Jesus is who I continue to lean on,” Brock says. “I have peace knowing Him. No matter what I am going to face going forward in football, or life, God and Jesus are going to be my identity. Whatever I face, I won’t be shaken.”

The 2022 football season didn’t end the way Brock or the 49ers

had hoped. He injured the ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) in his right throwing elbow early in the NFC Championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles. Brock played through the injury, but he was only able to throw four passes (all completions) during the 31-7 loss.

As for his future in the NFL and beyond, he takes things one day at a time.


“I am called to witness,” Brock says. “I’m called to share the Word. I have this knowledge of the Spirit and I want to share it with as many people as I can. I just want to be able to witness and defend the Christian faith as best I can moving forward.” 



PHOTO COURTESY OF IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Brock Purdy was a multi-faceted threat in college as a passer and runner



When Johann Sebastian Bach was praised for his skill as an organist, he said, “There’s nothing very wonderful about it; you have only to hit the right notes at the right moment and the instrument does the rest.” This musical genius—whose religious cantatas and brilliant organ works continue to be performed three hundred years after his death—exhibited a rare humility. Before he wrote a note of music he would scratch two words at the top of the page: *Jesu Juva*.. “Jesus, help me.”

It is not always popular to be humble. We like to toot our own horns and have people think we are important, But the Bible is clear: “What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

Jesus is our example. He washed the disciple’s feet and touched despised lepers. He associated with tax-collectors and prostitutes. “Made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:7). As followers of Christ, we choose

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to give preference to others and willingly serve them.

John the Baptist took second place. In contrast to the proud Pharisees and Sadducees of his day, John the Baptist said, “He [Jesus] must become greater. I must become less” (John 3:30). He served namelessly, simply calling himself a “voice.” Christians are also willing to serve behind the scenes without recognition, being a servant.

Moses did not defend himself. The Bible describes Moses as “a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3). Aaron and Miriam, jealous of their brother’s power and influence, criticized him. Moses did not say a word in his defense. When accused, the humble person sees no need to defend himself because God promised to come to his aid. “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5).

A humble attitude is a choice. “Humble yourselves, therefore,

under God’s mighty hand” (1 Peter 5:6). Day after day we make a conscious effort to walk as Jesus did. Prayer is an act of humility and demonstrates our dependence upon Almighty God.

In day-to-day relationships, we avoid the tendency to dominate conversations. Rather, we listen to people. “In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” (Philippians 2:3, 4).

Humility is rewarded. God hears the prayers of the humble. “If my people. . . will humble themselves and pray and seek my face ... then will I hear from heaven” (2 Chronicles 7:14). God honors the humble. “Those who humble themselves will be exalted” (Luke 14:11).

The person who walks with the carpenter of Nazareth, chooses to walk as He walked—on the pathway of humility.

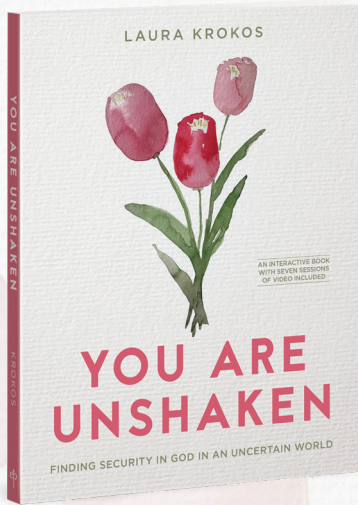


All Scriptures from the
New International Version

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acts 10–11
MONDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acts 12
TUESDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acts 13–14
WEDNESDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acts 15
THURSDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acts 16
FRIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acts 17–18
SATURDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acts 19–20





Knowing God... Changes Everything

Through unique biblical insight, Laura Krokos shows us that how we view God transforms how we view ourselves and our circumstances. As we use God's Word as a weapon against anxiety, shame, and fear, we realize that we are not powerless or hopeless, hidden or unwanted. We are, instead, *unshaken*.



Laura Krokos is an author, a speaker, and a ministry leader with a passion to know God and make Him known. She is director of women's ministries for Master Plan Ministries, and her *Missional Women* blog engages readers from 110 countries. Laura lives in Colorado with her husband and six children.

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