

"BIG GOD, BIG LOVE, BIG CROSS"

CWR AUDIO MESSAGE

BY WM. PAUL YOUNG & BRAD JERSAK

PAUL YOUNG: I have a band of friends. That alone is a miracle since I spent much of my life hidden behind masks of performance and shame, isolated and lonely. You wouldn't have known. Addiction, fear and an inability to love myself kept me from being known, but I seemed friendly enough. Behind the mask was deep sadness and a desperation that leaked out as witty and biting humor, the need to be right, a perfectionism that covered a deep sense of unworthiness. So, for me to have a band of friends is rather stunning and miraculous.

If my friends and I chose a motto it might go like this: If you like someone you give them your time and money, but if you love them, you give them your friends.

For those of you who don't already know my friend, Brad Jersak, I want to give him to you. He is a theologian, a father, a husband and much more. He is brilliant and broken, and kind tenderness slips through his words and presence. Like me, he was saved, in part, by his wife.

Brad and I participated in a weekend gathering in British Columbia called, *The Grand Embrace*. The link below leads to a message near the end of the last day and is one of those heart-engaging, simply-profound few minutes that invite you to sit under a warm, embracing waterfall of truth and grace. I tell a beautiful story at the end, but that is only to offer a small example to frame the magnificent and expansive portrait of God that Brad presents.

You are my friends. I want you to hear this. Enjoy!

<https://www.ptm.org/big-god>

Note: The photo to the right was taken at the Grand Embrace conference where the "Big God" message was given. It features Paul Young, author of *The Shack*, sitting on Brad Jersak's shoulders, with light from the stained glass window behind them forming a cross-shaped shadow on the tile floor.

