

A Plan in the Tragedy

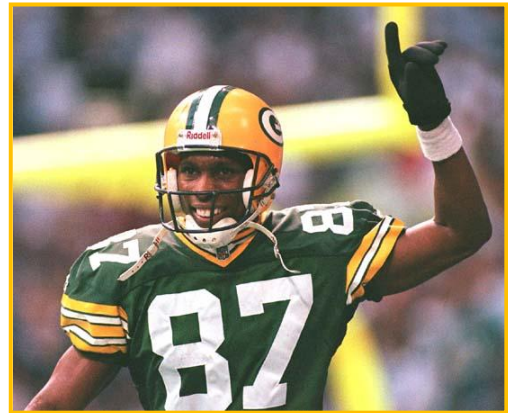
Star wide receiver Robert Brooks of the 1997 Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers suffered a terrible season-ending knee injury after six games in 1996.

Drew Baker wrote in *Sports Spectrum* that Brooks (who started the Packer tradition of jumping into the stands after a touchdown) is a Christian, and as he sat in the locker room after the injury, he thought about what purpose God could have in this discouraging blow:

“God was telling me He needed to use me,” said Brooks, “to show people that through Christ you can overcome anything – based on the way I was going to handle my injury. It was going to touch a lot of people’s hearts and change a lot of people’s lives in their everyday struggles. It wasn’t a personal thing. I knew I was going to be okay. If I didn’t play in the Super Bowl, that’s fine, because it is more important that God is going to use me.”

Before surgery, team chaplain Steve Newman visited Brooks’ home and shared 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. This passage confirmed Brooks’ post-injury conclusions: “It was the exact reason God was telling me He was using me. It took me to another spiritual level with God. If I hadn’t known God was using me, I wouldn’t have handled it as well.”

Packer teammate and free safety Eugene Robinson, NFL leader in interceptions among active players, observed the change in Brooks. He describes him as “real fired up. The Lord got hold of Robert.”



To everyone’s surprise, Brooks recovered completely from his injury and played outstandingly the following season. In 1997, he won the NFL Comeback Player of the Year award, catching 60 passes for 1,010 yards and seven touchdowns.

Brooks today is married and the father of three children. He is the minister of Trendsetters Church at RBM Center in Phoenix.

Whatever adversity you may be facing, be comforted by the fact that Brooks learned: God can use you.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

– Beecher Hunter