

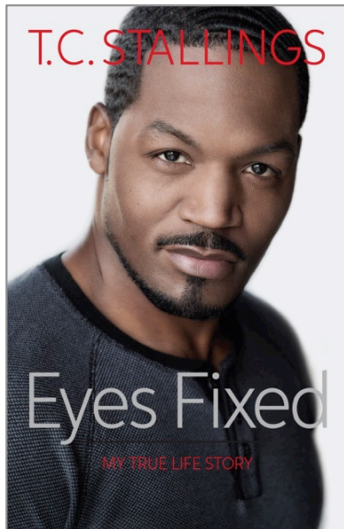
# BroadStreet

P U B L I S H I N G

**CONTACT:** Ben Laurro 615-595-8466  
[Ben@purepublicity.com](mailto:Ben@purepublicity.com)

## EYES FIXED

ACTOR T.C. STALLINGS OF *WAR ROOM* REVEALS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH CHILDHOOD POVERTY, AN UNFULFILLED NFL DREAM, AND THE RECENT LOSS OF HIS MOTHER



**T.C. Stallings**, professional NFL athlete turned actor, is best known for his award-winning role in the #1 box-office film *War Room*. What fewer people know is that he sensed a spiritual battle over his life from a young age and often found himself in tragic, life-threatening circumstances.

T.C. was desperate to escape the housing projects of Cleveland, where he grew up surrounded by gangs, crime, violence, and drugs. Raised by a single mom, T.C. was one of six children and the first in his family to earn both high school and college diplomas.

Although his greatest dreams were to pursue a career in the sports and entertainment industries, T.C. accomplished his greatest successes after submitting his life to God and remaining committed to his faith.

In his memoir, ***Eyes Fixed: My True Life Story*** (BroadStreet® Publishing), T.C. recounts poignant moments from his life, including professional failures, financial setbacks, and football dreams that God used to redirect T.C. to a career in acting. With vulnerability and honesty, T.C. shares additional experiences, such as:

- Dedicating his life to the relentless pursuit of becoming an NFL player. Although that dream never happened, he found success in college football (Univ. of Louisville), Arena football, and in European and Canadian football leagues. (CFL/Calgary Stampeder)
- Meeting and falling in love with his wife, Levette, from playing basketball on their first date to becoming parents and raising two children, and her unwavering support through his darkest times.
- Landing starring roles in the Kendrick brothers' films *Courageous* and *War Room*, and winning Animal Planet's *King of the Jungle*.
- Starring in his award-winning documentary, *24 Counter: The Story Behind the Run*, which exposes his weaknesses while pursuing his NFL dream.
- The death of his mom to Covid-19 in April 2020 and his grandmother shortly thereafter but finding peace in the knowledge that they're now in heaven.

T.C. also discloses how he struggled with fears and insecurities that stemmed from his childhood and how a film role motivated him to forgive his father, whom T.C. did not meet until he was eighteen years old.

~more~

Through *Eyes Fixed*, T.C. hopes readers come to recognize both the trials and rewards that come from focusing on God, His Word, and His purpose for their lives. As T.C. reveals in his book, when you live with an unwavering commitment to honoring God, you find strength and guidance through even the most uncertain of times: “The story of my life is best summed up as a relentless attack by Satan to distract me from my purpose, bump me off center, and cause me to ignore my God-given purpose in life. But God has never failed to care for my family and me, and His goodness, faithfulness, patience, and grace are the reasons I keep my eyes fixed on him.”

Join Stallings as he recounts the gritty details of his inspiring journey from pain, fear, and darkness to strength, courage, and success—all by refusing to settle for anything less than God's plan. No exceptions. No compromise.

Product Details: BroadStreet® Publishing  
Release Date: June 9, 2021  
Paperback: 240 pages

SRP: \$16.99  
ISBN-10: 1-424-560-47-9  
ISBN-13: 978-1-4245-6047-0

### About the Author:



**T.C. Stallings** was born in 1977 and is a former professional athlete now finding success in film and television. T.C.'s desires shifted from football to acting in 2004, when he landed a spot on Animal Planet's *King of the Jungle*, a reality television show where he emerged as the season 2 champion.

In 2011, T.C. made his feature film debut in the movie *Courageous*, in which he portrayed the memorable character “TJ.” In 2015, he starred as “Tony Jordan” in the number-one box-office film *War Room*. He would later land a nomination for Best Actor for his leading role in *God's Compass*, followed by a Best Actor win for his supporting role in *Unbridled*.

In 2019, his production company, Team TC Productions & Purpose Studios, released the documentary *24 Counter: The Story Behind the Run*, which he wrote, directed, and self-produced.

T.C. regularly travels the country as a speaker and has been licensed in ministry since 2003. He is a nation-wide brand ambassador for Clearplay, a filtering company with the mission of providing families with clean, wholesome entertainment options. T.C. is married to the beautiful Levette Stallings and has two children. His website is [www.tcstallings.life](http://www.tcstallings.life) and his Instagram handle is [@realtcstallings](https://www.instagram.com/realtcstallings).

**About BroadStreet® Publishing:** BroadStreet® Publishing Group is a Christian book publisher that creates meaningful, inspirational products that share God's truth with quality, beauty, and creativity. Its imprints include Belle City Gifts, BroadStreet Español, BookStreet, and BroadStreet Kids. BroadStreet publishes The Passion Translation (TPT), which has sold over 1.5 million copies, as well as Bible study materials, biographies, Christian living nonfiction, devotionals, journals, gift books, planners, children's books, and accessories for books and Bibles. Learn more at [www.broadstreetpublishing.com](http://www.broadstreetpublishing.com).

# BroadStreet

P U B L I S H I N G

## Suggested Interview Questions:

1. T.C. what is the meaning of the title of your book? What lessons do you hope to share with readers?
2. You and your five siblings were raised by your mom. You met your dad when you were eighteen years old. What is your message to young people who are growing up in high-risk circumstances? How did you learn to forgive your father for abandoning your family?
3. You grew up attending church. Looking back, do you believe that was a safeguard over your life from becoming entangled in a gang, addicted to drugs, or even killed?
4. You experienced a traumatic encounter with police when you were young, which involved a joke and a gun. How did this event help to prevent you from getting into trouble?
5. You were determined to play football after high school but humbled when your grades initially prevented you from earning a scholarship. God then gave you a second chance. Can you elaborate on this?
6. In your twenties, you were happily married with a family, but you struggled emotionally and financially while working odd jobs in pursuit of your NFL dream. Looking back, what did you learn about God's faithfulness during those tough times?
7. You played Arena and international football, but after a serious injury you realized that the NFL was not God's will. Did you hold on to the dream for too long? What is your advice to young people who might be pursuing a dream that is not happening for them?
8. After you saw the film *Fireproof*, your passion changed from football to acting, and you prayed to meet the Kendrick brothers. God allowed you to audition for them, and you were cast in the films *Courageous* and *War Room*. How did these roles change your life?
9. You moved to Hollywood in 2012, continued to find work, and committed yourself to roles that did not contradict your convictions as a Christian. How tough was that decision? Did you find it difficult to turn down roles that did not meet your criteria?
10. Your mom passed away from Covid-19 in 2020 and then your grandmother passed away shortly thereafter. Despite her shortcomings, you still honor and respect your mom. What would you say to families who are split or dealing with anger and unforgiveness?

## Notable Quotes from *Eyes Fixed*:

We tend to follow our focus. Our gaze. If this focus is consistently on Jesus, sinning is much less likely to entice us and catch us up. On the other hand, eyes away from Christ on a regular basis (and sometimes, even just for a moment!) gives sin an open invitation to take the lead. And if Satan can get you to take your eyes off Christ and God's purposes for your life, then he has your spiritual temperature right where he wants it—*lukewarm*. Revelation 3:15–16 shows just how dangerous it is to find yourself in this situation: *I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.* (ESV) A lukewarm life is one that can potentially make us happy while angering God. We become willing to take sinful chances, risks, and concessions that—if we had been focused on Jesus—we would never have agreed to take. At least not so easily. (pg. 11)

In my younger days, I saw a lot of danger. I saw a lot of people hurt themselves and others. Worst of all, I saw sin play a regular trick on my family: success through sin. This is like a drug addiction. There are not many things in the world that are harder to stop doing than finding pleasure by sinful means. It's the simple gravity or magnetic attraction to pleasurable outcomes. Who cares how you get it—it just matters that you get it. Whether it was friends in the neighborhood where I lived, family, friends of family, or even something crazy I saw on TV, I learned how to do all those sinful things. The consistency of what I was exposed to made it easier for me to learn it—and eventually, copy it. (pg. 29)

The problem arises when a positive idea takes the place of God in our lives. This is what was happening to me as a young teenage ball player. I didn't fully know what it was like to make Jesus the center of everything or the foundation of my life. I wasn't taught to give my goals, dreams, desires, and passions to the Lord and let Him decide what happens next. No, I best understood God as someone you take along for the ride. You pray for food, energy, strength, safety, touchdowns, and wins! But not for permission. Not about purpose. Those things were foreign to me in relation to my faith. But football at the center of my life stole God's glory. I was crediting football for everything good in my life and trusting it to open up so many opportunities. Spiritually, this was not sustainable. (pg. 66)

My mind was trying to come up with any logical way out of that commitment that we made at the altar. Satan almost had me. Either my fear or flirtatiousness were at risk of going too far if God did not intervene quickly. But intervene he did. Through Scripture I realized that these tempting thoughts and fears of inadequacy were Satan's way of trying to derail our union; they were not from God. I learned how to use the power of God to calm the fears and kill the temptation from anyone outside of my marriage before anything came close to destroying what God had built. I also began to consider my daughter, this newborn child who needed to grow up in something solid—not the divorce or brokenness that I was born into. (pg. 88)

My agent asked me if I was done with football, and I told him yes. *But*—if someone ever called with an offer, I'd definitely "at least listen." And honestly, part of me started to hope again. Whatever God felt, I don't think what happened next was a coincidence at all. And I know for sure the next set of events was directly from God. Divine intervention and inspiration at its best. I may have been stubborn, ambitious, and a risk-taker at times. But I never stopped praying. And that always kept me in a position to keep God in the lead, out front, where He belonged. Now when He wants my attention, it's a lot easier for me to recognize the prompting—and give it to Him. (pg. 144)

# BroadStreet

P U B L I S H I N G

I realized that having my plans work or be successful could not be the criteria for determining if I was doing God's will. And doing something positive may not seem like something that would be displeasing to God, but I learned from Scripture not to think with human logic. There are a lot of people who do that and who will one day hear Jesus say, "I never knew you. Away from me" (v. 23 NIV). And I assure you that they logically were expecting to hear something else. I did not want this to be me. So that same day, I made a promise to myself and my family that I would never put anything above pursuing God's will for my life. I told them that I was always going to hold them accountable for doing the same thing. I asked everyone to commit to never wasting a day because we never know when we might be breathing our last breath. (pg. 156)

I came to Hollywood with a clear intention and plan to honor God with my career. I wanted to make it to the top without forgetting to follow Jesus the entire way. I didn't want to ever compromise my beliefs, ignore Scripture, or use sinful means to gain *any* measure of success. Satan consistently tempted me to abandon the plan, but the grace of God always kept me upright and strong. Then, after three years of trusting in, walking with, and staying behind Jesus, I woke up one day as the lead actor in the *number one* movie in America, *War Room*. It was a movie about prayer. A movie about faith. A movie about courage. A movie about persistence. A movie about *Jesus*. And this all happened in Hollywood—a place where I was almost too afraid to let God take me. (pg. 174)

Once you get it in control and start succeeding at attaining some of the things you want in life and achieving some of your goals, that control becomes even harder to let go. You tighten the grip around *your* life. That was me. But I have learned that my life, plans, goals, dreams, desires, pursuits, and the control of it all are best left in the hands of God. Nothing in Scripture tells me that I was meant to have control over my life. Everything in Scripture tells me that I belong to God, that He used Jesus to buy me, and He gifted His Spirit to guide me. I've learned to live a life owned by God. He paid for it. It no longer belongs to me. To take control of it would be stealing. I had already done that once in my life. I'm never doing it again. *Lesson learned*. (pg. 185)

Horses wear the "blindners" when they race to keep them focused on running their own individual race. I aim to live my life that way. I'm putting on the spiritual blinders. I don't even want to see Satan's options. I don't desire an easier path or an alternate route. But Satan doesn't care what you want or don't want. He aims temptation at us based on what *He* wants, which is for us to fall and fail in our walk with Christ. And there are many things all around us that He can use to accomplish His agenda. Minds that are open too wide are easy targets. Call me what you want. Close-minded. Intolerant. When it comes to Satan and sin, I will agree with you. I don't want anything he has to offer. I'm trying not to look at anything influenced by him. I'm running my own race. And I aim to finish well. (pg. 198)

Everything I have been through in my life has led me to understand that there is only one way to do all of this. *With my eyes fixed*. Permanently fixed. Fixed on my heavenly Father, His purposes, His Word, His Spirit, and on living with an unwavering commitment to honoring Him in every area of my life, while using every gift I have for the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ. When I fail, I will repent. But I won't let Satan keep reminding me of my shortcomings. I'll look at the cross and remember that Jesus died so that I can have the power to turn away from any sin and shame. As a result, just as the Lord has always done, He will give me the strength, courage, guidance, and endurance necessary to continue this wonderful journey of purpose. (pg. 201)