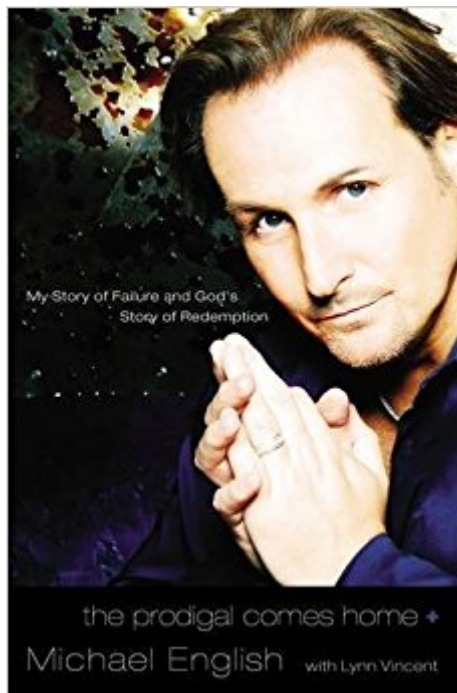




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# The Prodigal Comes Home: My Story Of Failure And God's Story Of Redemption



## Synopsis

Eleven years ago, amidst scandal, sin, and shattered lives, Michael English fell from the pinnacle of the Christian music world. In 1994, newspapers around the world blared the headline, "Gospel Singer Named Artist of the Year Turns in His Awards After Confirming He Had an Affair with a Fellow Married Singer." From 1994 to 2002 Michael English's life went from bad to worse. Public shame, divorce, broken relationships, drug addiction, even homelessness. But in 2002, God reached out and rescued Michael from himself. Today Michael is whole again, and in this book he tells his story of redemption.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In May 1994, just a week after receiving four of the Christian music industry's coveted Dove Awards, English's double life came crashing down around him, as he confessed to an extramarital affair with a fellow singer who was pregnant with his child. But being fodder for national headlines was hardly the nadir of the North Carolina musician's fall from grace. After separating from the wife he had married barely out of his teens, he had a string of lovers and embraced the Nashville party scene, eventually becoming dangerously addicted to prescription painkillers like OxyContin. His memoir spares none of the gruesome details of how his addiction damaged or severed important relationships and wrecked his health. After a stint in rehab, English got clean, only to relapse a couple more times before rediscovering the God he'd been singing about all those years. He likens himself to the biblical prodigal son, "who had to get all the way to the absolute bottom before his

desperation drove him home." English's loyal fans will enjoy this revealing kiss-and-tell, which often reads like a who's who of gospel music and ends with an encouraging if predictable message about God's forgiveness. (Apr. 10) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Michael English, whose singing career began in Southern Gospel, performed with the Goodmans, the Gaither Trio, and the Gaither Vocal Band before going solo in 1991. As a solo artist, Michael won multiple Dove Awards, among them Best New Artist and Best Male Vocalist.

I read a few pages and then hid the book because I thought I couldn't relate to the experiences. Bothered by the intense personal reaction, I picked it up again but could not put it down. I found it deeply disturbing because it reflected the depth of my pain, despair and isolation that I carried for so long. And when I realized that I could not appreciate the depths from which this child of God ascended to experience the redeeming Love of Christ if it were not for the courage to be completely transparent, I then realized that his testimony was a message to me. There were many details that as a healthcare professional, the truth of which I could validate and also appreciate the enormity of God's mercy. Individuals who have never walked the road cannot testify effectively of the breadth of God's Love nor His enduring desire for us to return home. Reading this book broke through every wall that I had hid behind and encouraged me to just reach past the pain to the real and true Father. Shortly after reading this book that upset my tidy but simmering emotions, I had a life-changing encounter with My Lord. For God, You bent down and lifted Michael up, would you do that for me too? It was the story of wandering into the wilderness & the degree to which God has gone to redeem us that pierced more than 42 years of demonic lies and darkest depressive bondage that was barely circling the drain. Now I don't wonder how much longer before I make my final descent or whether I should give the enemy a helping hand, I am restored and living in His Love. How could I have believed that God would welcome others & not myself? I pray that God will continue to minister through Michael English, there are so many who need to be reassured of His saving Grace.

It was only hard to read because of the tragic things Mike has put himself through. The honesty was so amazing and I have been where he was so I know it must have been very difficult to expose his life the way he did. He, in my estimation could not have a bigger fan than me. However, I know that he knows that it will be an hour to hour struggle for the rest of his life (us Rx junkies cannot fool each other either because it is so easy to break the "rule" about prescription meds. The harder

drugs are not as difficult to avoid.) I hope he has an accountability friend that knows what he knows so that he doesn't slip. He has a high probability of making a mistake here or there unless he has someone every day he can Skype with or whatever it is called. I would have my friend give me drug screens every week. Only way I could make it would be to do it that way. Praying for Michael. He has great talent.

Great project from Michael - the story of his struggle to find his way back -- WITHOUT depending on having any "Christians" to help him. I find it horrible that those who even now think they "prayed" for him never bothered to give him anything to eat --- but that sadly is how the church is - we kick and kill our wounded. Michael even came back to work and be associated with some that hurt him the worse - only to be hurt more.

I love Michael English and this book did not disappoint! This book is a **MUST READ** for anyone, but especially for someone who has gone through the pits of hell and are trying to get themselves back up. It shows just how merciful and loving our God truly is. It is an inspirational book for all! God Bless Michael and his ministry. AND I am so thankful he wrote this book!

~Michael English: THE most gifted singer ever, felt lead to pen his experiences of his highest hilltops to his lowest valleys! From having it all to losing to all! But there's so much more to this story, to this man, that people are deeply moved by, are feeling so comfortable with, and it's **CHANGING LIVES!!!** Whether you know someone struggling through love, faith, addiction, and hearing from God, or it's for you yourself, you'll quickly see, on the first page of this book, why this story is capturing audiences very where! In hopes that TBN turns this story in to a movie, pray it does (and if you are led, write to TBN requesting the movie) because there are countless **MILLIONS** who desperately need to hear Michael's unusual story, but not so unusual that it couldn't happen to any of us! An **EXCELLENT** read, you **WONT BE ABLE TO PUT IT DOWN!** ~As a vocalist, the Christian world **KNOWS** there is none better than Michael English! Every CD, concert, performance, TV show, and yes, a personally written book, does **NOT** disappoint! ~His Music: Listen to Michael English sing, **BETTER YET, SEE** him sing and you're suddenly caught up, as he swoons and swells, belts out and buttons up, with soft and powerful diction, his music, as **NO OTHER** can. ~"Michael English's **GREATEST HITS**"... **WOW!** Is a sampling of the best! But don't stop there! Since this CD, Michael English has recorded **MORE** incredible CDs' either solo or with The Gaither Vocal Band. You will also find him on loads of performances as an Accompanist, Producer,

Background vocals, even Movie tracks, and yes, an Author HIMSELF! Search these out. You'll be so glad you did.~Michael English's Book: "The Prodigal Comes Home" which is sweeping the masses with its total relevancy to human err, love, faith, humility, even addiction, while proving that God does not speak to all of us the same way! From "having it all" to "losing it all" to... (You'll have to read it to find out. Lol)~Greatest Vocalist Ever: Michael English is by far the greatest vocalist ever! (Reserving only a few spots for Elvis and Michael Jackson, maybe Lol,) and that's not all! To watch him sing is another gift in itself! From Christian leaders to church goers, they have all said that "Michael English has a way of CONNECTING with ALL of the audience."~ How he does it? It MUST be God! Michael English's singing and performances are like no other! I've often TRIED to describe his vocals. The best I can come up with is, "It's like he's singing every word as if each word is a song in itself!"In every vocal number Michael will capture you with-in the first few words! As you listen on, (and you will) you'll hear so many wonderful singing variations you'll feel as if you didn't pay enough for all these voices! And you'll NEVER say to yourself, "Ooh, that note wasn't quite the best", like we do with even our most favorite singers! Because EVERY NOTE IS THE BEST! Sorry, it's just true.~The Listening Experience: Listening and watching him sing is like riding on a roller coaster! You're heart will pound for joy for what comes next; At times either slowly climbing up, as Michael softly and sweetly, with perfect diction, builds the lyrics! Or by suddenly SWOOPING DOWN THE TRACK with hands lifted high in sheer excitement of the soul! It's very cool to watch him when he does that cool dip thing with his knee, while vocally digging DEEP, then BELTS OUT the highlights of the "Message" of the song with more power than you've ever heard! (Most certainly the VIP of what is received from his ministry of music, whether you came for it or not.)~No matter how you describe your experience from hearing Michael English's voice, I know you'll feel the excitement of not only a seasoned professional, but an extremely gifted, multi-talented, diverse vocalist with the richest baritones you've ever heard to the highest Motown-type vocals that suddenly shoot out and shock!~As I just gave you a blip, here I will say, Michael English has a vocal range other male singers can only wish for! Because of this range, AND the plethora of different tones his voice has; deep and gritty like the Blues, bold and boisterous that gives goose bumps (and swoop you on that roller coaster ride lol!), soul-full and sweeter than soul music itself, even a JAZZ style, he WILL blow you away!IM NOT DONE YET!~AHeart For the Hurting: Michael English also has a HEART for God and a heart for hurting people. This man could have taken the road of stardom and fame years ago, singing what others told him to sing, taking in millions, and sitting back resting on his talent alone. Yet because he is the true blue Christian man that he is, he stays humble, dedicating all he sings to the direction of the Lord, which may (?) reach less people but

reaches them far deeper and reaches them for ETERNITY! Michael doesn't look for but knows, that from The Word, (The Bible) his pay-back is and will be received from God Himself, which is far richer than this world could ever offer! (Personally I believe, because of his humility, Michael English may not even realize just how gifted he really is!) but maybe we'll just keep it this way. read on...~Response to Fans: Michael English amazes me when he often responds to fans PERSONALLY, and patiently allows pictures to be taken with his fans at his many concerts, freely swiping his permanent marker with his John Hancock as fans stand in line for these treats!~His Gospel Album is phenomenal! He often says it is his "favorite"! I'm glad HE can pick a favorite! I can't! But then again, he could sing the Alphabet and still bring everyone to their feet and faces would be streaked with tears of joy!~In a nut shell... (Lol) ANYTHING by Michael English, especially his own penned song, "Heaven", will never disappoint! Enjoy! And get ready, If you're not already a Michael English fan, you WILL be!~ Find Michael on: Twitter @MEnglish001 or his web site, [www.MichaelEnglishMusic.com](http://www.MichaelEnglishMusic.com). Contact the web site for a concert near you!~New Show on TBN: Don't miss his NEW SHOW on TBN, "The Michael English Show" which started in September 2014, on Saturday nights, or Sunday mornings, depending on your time zone. You can also get the TBN app and catch up on the shows via iTBN, on demand.~ Enjoy! I'll be thinking of you as I enjoy too!

Most of have some kind of addiction that is harmless, or completely consuming and destructive, and all things in between. Michael's journey, as told, is the latter. The importance of this book is not the slow painful story of a man destroying himself, and being "saved", but is an honest, raw look inside a human beings soul, laying everything at the foot of the cross, for the world to see, to hopefully stop someone else from becoming a prodigal son. In excellent read that reassures us that through Him all things are possible.

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