

**Sponsored YCL**  
**Dorothy Savage**

***Special Youth Culture Lesson***  
**Finding Teachable Moments from Culture Experts and Makers**  
**From *YouthWorker Journal* and YouthWorker.com**

**Glorious Mess**

Singer Dorothy Savage Isn't Perfect. Thank God.

By Paul Asay  
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**What's Up?**

Nobody's perfect. It's a truth all of us know, but many of us still struggle with. We can all struggle with the idea that we should be perfect—that somehow we're called to be perfect—and we wonder why we feel like we're disappointing our friends, our family or, most often, ourselves.

Singer/songwriter Dorothy Savage understands this pressure to be perfect. "I'm a perfectionist who always has been motivated to work harder, reach higher," she says. "Nothing I did was good enough to me—in spite of the praise of other people—I was always empty and exhausted by having fallen short of my own expectations. I remember one day falling in a heap and crying out to God, 'Why can't I just get it right?'"

"What He said back to me changed my life," Savage continues. "In my heart, I could hear Him saying, 'Dorothy, I never asked you to be perfect or anything more than you are. This glorious mess you think you are is exactly who I created you to be!'"

The moment became the inspiration for her song "End of Me," one of the tracks on Savage's debut album, *Glorious Mess*. The album was released March 26, 2010, during a gala party in Franklin, Tennessee.

*Glorious Mess* showcases Savage's pop sensibilities and breathtaking voice, but its real power is in its true-to-life, autobiographical lyrics. In *Glorious Mess*, Savage traces her ongoing quest to deal with life's and her own, imperfections and to find a space closer to God.

In "Finder of the Lost," she sings:

*Finder of the Lost and Forsaken*  
*Seeking the forgotten and the taken*  
*Even when it seems there's no hope of rescue*  
*At the very moment that we're breaking*  
*That's the very moment that You break through*  
*This is when we know we're found.*



“This song might be interpreted at first listen to be talking about people that are just now being found by God,” Savage says of the song, “but to me—as someone who has been saved since I was a little, little girl—this song speaks also of people who are saved, but perhaps caught in spots in life where we never, ever thought we would be as Christians. Still, wherever we are, He continues to find us, and reach us with the reminder that His mercies are new every morning.”

**Talk About It:**

Do you sometimes feel pressured to be perfect? Who or what makes you feel this way? Your parents? Your friends? A coach? A teacher?

Do you sometimes tell *yourself* that you should be perfect? When do you feel like you’re disappointing yourself? Do you ever feel like you’re not perfect enough for God?

**What the Bible Says:**

“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins” (Eccl. 7:20).

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest in me” (2 Cor. 12:8-9).