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Bob Kauflin Wife Julie Dies Suddenly During Date Night

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"This past Monday was the last day God had written for my precious wife and best friend, Julie. She's home."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Julie Kauflin, the wife of worship leader Bob Kauflin, died on Monday 9 November 2026 after collapsing during the couple's weekly date night in Louisville, Kentucky. She was gone less than 90 minutes after her fall, after doctors at the hospital could not revive her. Bob announced her death in a Facebook post on Wednesday 11 November, writing: "This past Monday was the last day God had written for my precious wife and best friend, Julie. She's home."

They had just finished dinner. They were walking to the car, the way they had done on countless date nights across 50 years of marriage, when her knees suddenly buckled. Bob laid her on the ground and found her unresponsive, and someone nearby called an ambulance.

At the hospital, fellow pastor Brian Chesemore was already waiting for him. Doctors struggled to restart Julie's heart, but they could not revive her. In less than an hour and a half, an ordinary evening out had become the end of a marriage that began in 1976.

Bob Kauflin And Julie: 50 Years Of Marriage

Bob and Julie married in 1976 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary earlier in 2026. They raised six children together, and their family has kept growing with grandchildren. The date night that ended her life was not a special occasion. It was a weekly habit, the small ordinary rhythm of a long marriage.

Julie grew up in Northern Virginia, where she was a state champion pony rider. She came to faith in Jesus during her senior year of high school, the same year she met Bob. That meeting became a marriage that lasted 50 years, and the kaufline family grew to six children and an ever-growing number of grandchildren.

The Songs Bob Kauflin Wrote For The Church

Bob Kauflin has directed Sovereign Grace Music since 1997 and serves as a pastor at Sovereign Grace Church of Louisville. He wrote the book Worship Matters in 2008, and his songs are sung in churches around the world. They include "All I Have Is Christ," "Behold Our God," "Jesus, Thank You," and "O Come, All You Unfaithful."

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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