



"Punch your way through" is an idiom meaning to break through obstacles, resistance, or challenges and succeed despite difficulties. This phrase brought to mind a recent viral sensation reporting the unforgettable tale of a monkey named Punch that swept across news outlets and social media.

In February, Punch's story spread rapidly, capturing hearts worldwide. Abandoned by his mother just after birth, he spent six months being lovingly bottle-fed and cared for by two concerned zookeepers. But when he rejoined the other monkeys, he faced new challenges: bullying and isolation.

To ease Punch's loneliness, one of the zookeepers brought him an oversized stuffed orange orangutan from IKEA. Punch instantly clung to it as if it were his mother. Heart-melting videos of him carrying and snuggling with his plush companion also went viral, and the orangutan became his sanctuary.

Today, Punch is connecting with the other monkeys and relying less on his orange friend. In many ways, that big stuffed toy helped him punch through the pain of abandonment and loneliness.

Punch's newfound fame drew crowds with flashing cameras to the zoo where he lives, inspired a wave of donations to that zoo, and even sparked the creation of *Punch the Musical* in Canada. And, of course, the orangutan toys quickly sold out in IKEA stores.

At some point, many of us have felt the sting of loneliness, loss, or the longing to belong. That is why Punch's heartwarming journey resonated so deeply with people of all ages and backgrounds. His struggles mirrored those feelings and produced such joy, knowing he overcame them.

Our own stories of overcoming challenges might not go viral or become as well-known as Punch's; however, because of Jesus, we have a renowned source of comfort. Before His ascension to heaven after His resurrection, Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to be with us always as our companion, supporter, and guide.

Just as Punch found comfort in his plush companion, we are held and embraced by the Holy Spirit's presence and love. The Holy Spirit reminds us that we are never alone and that nothing can separate us from God's love. Unlike Punch, who began to rely less on his companion, we are encouraged to rely more on God each day and to lean fully on Him.

Dear Father, thank You for giving us a constant companion. Thank You for Your presence, which fills every corner of our lives.

August 2026

Praise & Prayer Calendar

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:18 NASB

Seeing God in Everything

Scriptures	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
John 14:16	Even amid difficulties, remember you are never alone. God has a way of bringing people and opportunities into your life when you least expect it.						1 Praise Jesus for His promise to give us The Holy Spirit.
Psalms 27:10	2 Give praise, the Holy Spirit is our helper at all times.	3 Give praise, the Holy Spirit is our guide and teacher.	4 Give praise, the Holy Spirit is our comforter.	5 Pray that we realize the Holy Spirit gives us support in every circumstance.	6 Give praise, the Lord will never abandon us.	7 Praise God for His unwavering care for us.	8 Praise the Lord for His unconditional love and acceptance.
Galatians 6:2	9 Pray that we will listen to, encourage, be present for, and lift those in need of support.	10 Pray for our youth as they seek to belong.	11 Pray for our youth who are being bullied or pressured.	12 Pray for those who are orphans or in foster care.	13 Pray for the elderly and those in nursing homes.	14 Pray for those who have suffered loss.	15 Pray for those with disabilities.
Philippians 2:4	16 Pray for those with health issues.	17 Pray for those who are living away from family.	18 Pray for those who are experiencing loneliness and depression.	19 Pray for single parents.	20 Pray for those who have gone through a divorce.	21 Pray for those who are seeking godly friendship.	22 Pray for those seeking God's plan and purpose for their lives.
Colossians 3:12							
John 10:28	23 Praise God for giving us the opportunity to have eternal life.	24 Pray that we realize we belong to God and that we will never perish.	25 Pray that we recognize that our lives are in God's hands.	26 Give praise, Jesus has a grip on us, and no one can take us away from Him.	27 Give praise, God is our constant companion.	28 Pray that we realize we can share our feelings and fears with God.	29 Praise God for those who inspire and encourage us.
Hebrews 10:24-25	30 Praise God for those who walk with us on our Christian journey.	31 Praise God for His community of believers to share life with.	"I don't feel very much like Pooh today," said Pooh. "There there," said Piglet. "I'll bring you tea and honey until you do." <i>Winnie the Pooh</i> It's ok to ask for help...				