



SS: Reggie, let's talk about this year. What was that like?

Reggie: It was a lot of fun. What's exciting about it is that my wife, my friends, and I really saw God in my coming back. We really saw the Lord giving me strength to endure with my back and take the pain so I could perform at a high level. It's been exciting. It's great to see how God works, because everybody was saying I can't do it. Some people were ridiculing me for saying that God spoke to me, but the way the Lord has allowed me to come out has been tremendous. Some people say, "Hey, maybe we shouldn't underestimate what He said."

SS: You went through a lot of pain with your back a year ago. With that physical pain, how difficult was it to make the decision to play again?

Reggie: That was extremely difficult. Nobody knew what I was going through. Nobody saw me on Mondays when I was walking like I was 80 years old. I had to battle with it all week—go out and practice and try to keep my level of play up. I not

He's been feted as a humanitarian, praised as one of the best defenders ever,

End Game

With Roman Gabriel III

and honored for his faith —yet defensive end Reggie White has his detractors. Roman Gabriel III talked with the minister of defense to find out his thoughts and feelings about some key issues as he comes to the end of his stellar career.

only dealt with a bad back, I caught pneumonia in the middle of the season and my blood count was low. Also, I had a rare lung disease, which caused lumps to grow on my lungs. It was affecting my wind. So I was struggling with all of that. I lost my strength and lost some weight, but I was still able to come out with good numbers. I didn't want to come off the field. I tried to help the team as much as possible.

Only Jesus could give me the strength to be able to endure that.

In the process of struggling with my back during the offseason, I thought I would retire. And the Lord pretty much told me, no I want you to play one more year. I went from a sense of disappointment to excitement when He spoke to me.

SS: Two years ago, the Super Bowl win was an apex for you. Last year you went to the Super Bowl, and the Packers ended up losing the big game. You also had all of the physical problems to get there and then other problems later. How was your

faith tested in the past year?

Reggie: It was a difficult year. With the Broncos, I think we underestimated them. But they did a good job. They did an excellent job of running the ball. That's why they beat us. They didn't beat us in the air, they beat us on the ground. We didn't play well enough for us to win. The Broncos were an excellent team.

There was a lot going on in my life last year. There was losing that game and then going to speak to the Wisconsin state assembly and the problems with my back.

But I'll tell you what, this was probably the best year of my life spiritually. God showed me that a lot of times when you go through hardships, that draws you closer to Him. In the midst of the difficulty, it turned into excitement because I saw God move like I've never seen Him move before.

SS: A lot of people have heard about the speech you gave to the Wisconsin legislature and then the commercial you did against same-sex

