



# Eternal Perspectives

*We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen...*

**Winter 2007**

## Managing God's Money by Randy Alcorn



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**Eternal Perspective  
Ministries**

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Considering everything else God could have told us that we really want to know, why did He say more about how we are to view and handle money and possessions than about nearly any other single thing? It's because the everyday choices we make regarding money and possessions—which affect nearly everything we do—are of eternal consequence.

There are two equally incorrect beliefs about money: 1) that it's always evil, and 2) that it's always good. Both views have an advantage shared by all unbalanced positions—they require no discernment. Unfortunately, they both result in excesses that undermine, rather than further Kingdom purposes.

Christian compassion can accomplish great good through giving to alleviate suffering. Money can be used to feed, clothe, and provide shelter. It can fund the translation and printing of Bibles, provide for missionaries, or build houses of worship. In this sense, money appears to be good. But it's really the giver who's doing good. People may be moral or immoral, but *things* are morally neutral. Money can be an instrument of good, but it's not intrinsically good.

Likewise, money can be used to buy a slave or a whip to use on a slave. Money can buy cocaine, and fund terrorist acts. But in each case the evil resides in people, not money, just as in other cases the good resides in people, not money. Fire is a gift of God which, when misused, brings destruction and death. So money has potential to be used for either good or evil.

If this were a morally neutral world, we would expect money to be used in a morally neutral way. But the world is not neutral; it's sinful and under a curse (Romans 8:20-22). In the hands of sinful people, money becomes an idol, a false god. In rejecting a God they don't wish to serve, sinful people instead serve—and serve themselves with—money.

Although there's nothing inherently wrong with money, there's something wrong with devotion to

money. "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:9-10).

Far too many evangelical Christians have fallen into that trap. They believe the lie that their money and possessions are theirs to do with as they please. Never have so many thought that as long as they affirm with their lips a certain doctrinal statement, they may live their lives indifferent to human need and God's command. But without a balanced, God-directed view of money and how to use it, we miss God's blessing and incur His wrath.

### Ownership vs. Stewardship

God doesn't just own the universe. He owns you and me. Stewardship is living with the awareness that we are managers, not owners; that we are caretakers of God's assets. How we handle money and possessions demonstrates who we *really* believe is our true owner—God or ourselves.

God says, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). To illustrate this when teaching, I sometimes ask someone

to lend me a pencil for a moment. I then take it, break it in half, throw it on the ground and crush it under my foot. The audience's reaction is shock and disbelief. What right do I have to break someone else's pencil? But when

I explain that it's really my pencil which I loaned to the person, suddenly everything changes. If it's mine, then I have the right

to do with it as I please—which is precisely Paul's point in his letter to the Corinthians.

The believers in Corinth lived as if their lives were their own. But Paul says, "No, you own nothing, not even yourself. When you came to Christ you surrendered the title to your life. You belong to God. He is the only one who has the right to do what He



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wants with your life—your body, your behavior, your money, possessions, everything.”

If we really believe God is the owner of all that has been entrusted to us, shouldn't we frequently ask Him, "What do you want me to do with your money and your possessions?"

As a lesson in stewardship, some churches have conducted reverse offerings, in which a plate is passed and each person takes five or 10 dollars *out* of it. The receivers' job is to ask God to guide them in choosing a way to make a spiritual investment. In one church, someone used the money to buy a meal for a street person and talk to him about Christ. Someone else bought a book to give to a neighbor who needed encouragement. Another person bought flowers and took them to a shut-in. Several pooled their funds and bought an antibiotic and some rice for someone in need.

This exercise drives home the true nature of stewardship: that all the money we have belongs to God and is entrusted to us by Him every day, week, month, and year of our lives. He wants us to pray and ask Him to guide us into choosing the best eternal investments, both small and large.

## Transferring the Title Deed to God

When I take to heart the truth that God has a claim, not merely on a few dollars to throw in an offering plate, not on 10% or 50%, but 100% of "my" money, it's revolutionary. Suddenly, I'm not God. I'm simply God's money manager. Money isn't God. God is God. He is in His place; I am in mine, and money is in its place too.

Not only does God own everything, God controls everything. Again, the implications are enormous. It's in better hands than mine. God's ownership and sovereignty offer such a life-changing and freeing perspective when the house is robbed, the car is totaled, the bike is stolen...or when the diagnosis is terminal cancer.

When I grasp that I'm a steward, not an owner, it totally changes my perspective. It's the ultimate paradigm shift. Suddenly, I'm not asking, "How much of my money shall I, out of the goodness of my heart, give to God?" Rather, I'm asking, "Since all of 'my'

money is really yours, Lord, how would you like me to invest it today?"

Life becomes much clearer—and in some respects much easier—when we consciously recognize this and actively live this way. The question isn't whether we theoretically affirm God's ownership. The question is whether we've deliberately transferred everything to Him. Have we extended the invitation again after we've forgotten and taken things back into our hands? This self-surrender to God is the beginning of true stewardship. To make it real, however, it's a surrender that must happen daily—every day for the rest of our lives.

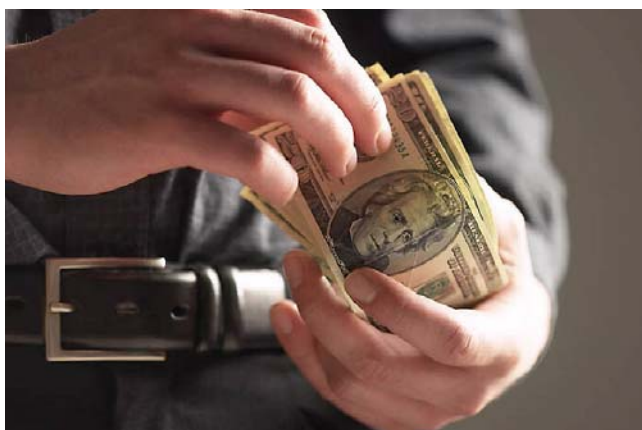
## Practical Ways to Wisely Manage God's Money

The following guidelines are designed to help you exercise self-control in spending, become a better steward of God's resources, and free funds to use for Kingdom purposes:

**1. Examine every purchase in light of its ministry potential.** We must weigh the value of every item we buy against what the same money could have done if used another way—for instance, to feed the hungry or to evangelize the lost.

I don't say this to induce a guilt trip but to indicate the obvious—whenever money is used one way, it prevents it from being used another. For instance, I cannot justify spending thousands of dollars on jewelry when that same money could keep people alive or reach them with the gospel. I'm not saying it's wrong for anyone else to have nice jewelry. I'm saying that jewelry, like everything else, must be subjected to the scrutiny of conscience, the Holy Spirit, and God's Word. None of us should impose our personal standards on others, nor on the standards of God. We should ask God to direct us when it comes to handling His money.

**2. Pray before you spend.** When something's a legitimate need, God will provide. How often do we take matters into our own hands and spend impulsively before asking God to furnish it for us? Several years ago my friend wanted a good exercise bicycle. He even picked out the exact model, a Tunturi with a retail price of \$350. But instead of going out to buy it, he told me he was praying that God would provide him with that exact bike. By not spending the money, he would have more to give. A few days later, I was in a thrift store and was stunned to see a Tunturi bicycle, the exact model my friend wanted. It looked like it had never been used. I called my friend and he got the exact bicycle he had asked for, paying \$25 instead of \$350.



Often we either buy what we want or forgo what we want when there's a third alternative: asking God to provide it for us. If He doesn't provide it, fine—He knows best. But why don't we just give Him a chance?

Waiting eliminates most impulsive buying. Many things that are attractive today hold no interest two months later. Look at garage sales and you get the picture. Setting a waiting period gives God the opportunity to provide what we want, to provide something better, or to show us that we don't need it and how to use the money differently.

**3. Realize that nothing is a good deal if you can't afford it.** Paying \$190,000 for a house that is worth \$220,000 sounds like an excellent deal. Paying \$80 for a pair of barely used skis that cost \$400 new seems like a great deal. But if we can't afford them, it simply doesn't matter. It's always a bad choice to spend money on a "good deal" we can't afford.

**4. Recognize that God isn't behind every good deal.** Suppose we can afford it. Does that mean we should buy it? Self-control often means turning down good deals on things we really want because God may have better plans for His money.

**5. Understand the difference between spending money and saving it.** Saving is setting aside money for a future purpose; it stays in our wallet or in the bank. It can be used for other purposes, including our needs or the needs of others. Money that's spent leaves our hands and is no longer at our disposal. If we buy an \$80 sweater on sale for \$30, we've spent \$30. If we think we've just saved \$50, we simply don't understand the concept of saving. If we keep "saving" like that, we'll soon be broke!

**6. Look at the long-term cost, not just the short-term expense.** If we buy a nice stereo, we'll also end up buying a lot of CDs. If something breaks, we pay to get it repaired. If we buy a new car, we fret about dents and buy insurance to fix them. Count the cost in advance. Everything ends up being more expensive than it first appears.

**7. Understand and resist the manipulative nature of advertising.** People earn master's degrees in persuading us to buy things we don't need. Advertising enlarges our wants by telling us, "You need

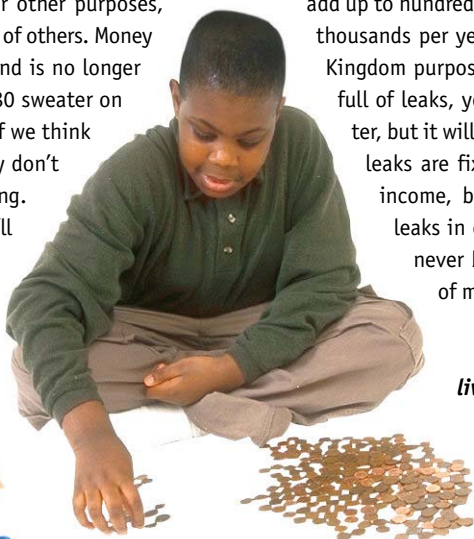
this car," "You won't be loved unless you wear these kinds of clothes," and "You won't have fun unless you use this product."

Advertising is seductive and manipulative. It programs us. We must consciously reject its claims and counter them with God's Word, which tells us what we really do and don't need. We should withdraw ourselves from advertising that fosters greed or discontent. That may mean less television, less flipping through sales catalogs and newspaper ads, and less aimless wandering through shopping malls.

**8. Learn to walk away from things you want but don't need.** Once I received a large, unexpected check. After giving a portion to the Lord, I still had \$2,000 left. Before long, I was out looking at something I'd wanted but had never been able to justify. The price tag read \$1,995. But in my heart there wasn't peace when I considered what that money could do for God's Kingdom. Finally, I decided I shouldn't make the purchase. When I turned and walked away, something unexpected happened. I was suddenly filled with a deep sense of relief and joy. To be free of it was the first blessing; to know the eternal difference that amount would make was the second blessing.

**9. Realize that little things add up.** One dollar here and ten dollars over there; a hamburger here and mocha there; movie rentals and rounds of golf.... These things may seem inconsequential, but they can add up to hundreds of dollars per month and thousands per year that could be used for Kingdom purposes. If a swimming pool is full of leaks, you can pump in more water, but it will never be enough until the leaks are fixed. We can take in more income, but until we fix the little leaks in our spending habits, we'll never be able to divert the flow of money for higher purposes.

**10. Set up a budget and live by it.** Imagine you entrust a large sum of money to a money manager, telling him to wisely invest it on your behalf. A few months later, you call him to see how the investments are doing. Embarrassed by your call, he admits, "There are no investments. None of your money is left." Shocked you ask, "Where did it all go?" Sheepishly, your money manager responds, "Well, I can think of some expenses here and there, but for the most part I really can't say. There was this and that, and next thing I knew, it was all gone."



## EPM Information:

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*It's not how  
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What would you think? How would you feel? How does God think and feel when at the end of the month nothing's left from the money He entrusted to us, and we don't even know where it went? If some of us ran a corporation and handled its money like we do God's, we'd go to prison!

Two practical steps can greatly help us get a grip on our spending: recording expenditures and making a budget. These steps will help us detect problem areas by clarifying our spending habits. This will improve our mental and marital health because financial disorder is one of the leading causes of personal and familial stress.

Living on a budget will free up lots of money. When I was a pastor, I met with families who followed a budget and did fine on a very meager income. I met with others who made much more and were always in financial crisis.

## **Handling it is the Key**

It's not how much money we make, but how we handle it that matters. And it all begins by recognizing the money we're handling is not our own. It belongs to another, before whom we will one day stand, and from whom the best words we could ever hear are these: "Well done my good and faithful servant. Enter into your Master's joy."



# **Theology of Money Class**

*Taught by Randy Alcorn*

**June 8 & 9, 2007,  
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Western Seminary, 5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, OR 97215  
(Webcasting is available for those who want to join but can't come to the campus.)

To register, contact Krista Cain: [kcain@westernseminary.edu](mailto:kcain@westernseminary.edu), 503-417-1809  
[www.westernseminary.edu](http://www.westernseminary.edu)

**Cost:** \$100 for audit and enrichment (either in person or webcasting);  
\$365 for one hour/credit class

*Registration is required.*

## **Casting Multiple Votes Each Day** by Randy Alcorn

Voting isn't something you do every few years, or twice a year. We cast multiple votes each day. We cast votes for heaven or hell, for grace or truth, for legalism or error. For self-control or self-indulgence. For the Spirit or the Flesh. For abiding in Christ, or independence from Christ. For wisdom or foolishness, and for blessing or curse.

Every decision we make, every action we take—and the heart attitude with which we conduct our lives—casts a vote for one kingdom or another. Every vote counts. God tallies them. Eternity will be affected by them.

Parental notification didn't pass in Oregon and other states, but you can talk to parents and kids in your neighborhood about the value of unborn children, and offer support and help as

needed. Your ballot may not have made a difference, but loving your neighbor will, and God won't overlook it, as He won't overlook a single cup of water given to little ones in His name.

Our next chance to vote is right here and right now, whether we spend time with God, pray for His help, read His Word, help the poor, give to the needy, entertain this thought, speak these words, watch this television program, or click on this internet site.

The key to change and influence in this world is not politics. It is faithfulness to Jesus. In the end, which will never end, acts of faithfulness—many of them quiet, some seen only by God—are the votes that will count, bringing the eternal results that will matter.





# A Compelling Reason for Rigorous Training of the Mind by John Piper

I was reading and meditating on the book of Hebrews recently, when it hit me forcefully that a basic and compelling reason for education—the rigorous training of the mind—is so that a person can read the Bible with understanding.

This sounds too obvious to be useful or compelling. But that's just because we take the preciousness of reading so for granted; or, even more, because we appreciate so little the kind of thinking that a complex Bible passage requires of us.

The book of Hebrews, for example, is an intellectually challenging argument from Old Testament texts. The points that the author makes hang on biblical observations that come only from rigorous reading, not light skimming. And the understanding of these Old Testament interpretations in the text of Hebrews requires rigorous thought and mental effort. The same could be said for the extended argumentation of Romans and Galatians and the other books of the Bible.

This is an overwhelming argument for giving our children a disciplined and rigorous training in how to think an author's thoughts after him from a text—especially a biblical text. An alphabet must be learned, as well as vocabulary, grammar, syntax, the rudiments of logic, and the way meaning is imparted through sustained connections of sentences and paragraphs.

The reason Christians have always planted schools where they have planted churches is because we are a people of THE BOOK. It is true that THE BOOK will never have its proper effect without prayer and the Holy Spirit. It is not a textbook to be debated; it is a fountain for spiritual thirst, and food for the soul, and a revelation of God, and a living power, and a two-edged sword. But none of this changes the fact: apart from the discipline of reading, the Bible is as powerless as paper. Someone might have to read it for you; but without reading, the meaning and the power of it are locked up.

Is it not remarkable how often Jesus settled great issues with a reference to reading? For example, in the issue of the Sabbath he said, "Have you not read what David did?" (Matthew 12:3) In the issue of divorce and remarriage he said, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female?" (Matthew 19:4) In the issue of true worship and praise he said, "Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babes

you have prepared praise for yourself?'" (Matthew 21:16) In the issue of the resurrection he said, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone?'" (Matthew 21:42) And to the lawyer who queried him about eternal life he said, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" (Luke 10:26)

The apostle Paul also gave reading a great place in the life of the church. For example, he said to the Corinthians, "We write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end" (1 Corinthians 1:13). To the Ephesians he said, "When you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:3). To the Colossians he said, "When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea" (Colossians 4:16).

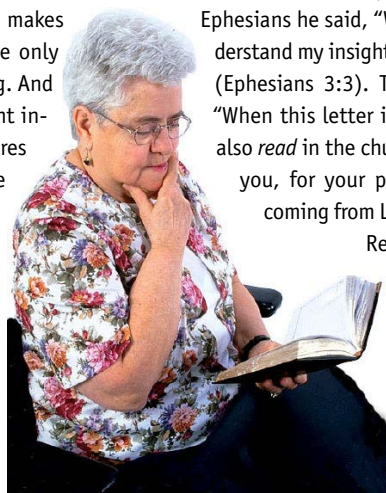
Reading the letters of Paul was so important that he commands it with an oath: "I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren" (1 Thessalonians 5:27).

The ability to read does not come intuitively.

It must be taught. And learning to read with understanding is a life-long labor. The implications for Christians are immense. Education of the mind in the rigorous discipline of thoughtful reading is a primary goal of school. The church of Jesus is debilitated when his people are lulled into thinking that it is humble or democratic or relevant to give a merely practical education that does not involve the rigorous training of the mind to think hard and to construe meaning from difficult texts.

The issue of earning a living is not nearly so important as whether the next generation has direct access to the meaning of the Word of God. We need an education that puts the highest premium under God on knowing the meaning of God's Book, and growing in the abilities that will unlock its riches for a lifetime. It would be better to starve for lack of food than to fail to grasp the meaning of the book of Romans. Lord, let us not fail the next generation!

By John Piper. ©Desiring God, "Thoughts on the Significance of Reading," July 13, 2005. Website: [www.desiringGod.org](http://www.desiringGod.org). Email: [mail@desiringGod.org](mailto:mail@desiringGod.org). Toll Free: 888.346.4700.



*We need an education that puts the highest premium under God on knowing the meaning of God's Book...*





# Kids: How Will We Relate to God in Heaven?

by Randy Alcorn

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes.*

*Job 19:25-27, NIV*

*As for Aslan himself, the Beavers and the children didn't know what to do or say when they saw him. . . . For when they tried to look at Aslan's face they just caught a glimpse of the golden mane and the great, royal, solemn, overwhelming eyes; and then they found they couldn't look at him and went all trembly. . . .*

*And so the girls did what they would never have dared to do without his permission, but what they had longed to do ever since they first saw him—buried their cold hands in the beautiful sea of fur and stroked it and, so doing, walked with him.*

C. S. Lewis,

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

## Will we actually see God?

Think about the person you would most want to spend time with. Who would that person be? Your favorite singer, author, or athlete? Your best friend who moved away? A family member who's already died?

Many Christians would say they'd want to spend time with Jesus. They'd want to see the Savior who created them, died for them, and made their life in Heaven possible—the one who loves them more than anyone else.

During his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8). So that means, yes, we'll see God. But Jesus also said, "God is Spirit" (John 4:24). By this he meant that God the Father doesn't have a body. But Jesus, God's Son, does. And because Jesus is God himself, to see Jesus will be to see God.

Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, had a vision of God. "He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple" (Isaiah 6:1). Isaiah knew that the great and awesome God was seated on a throne. He didn't have to be told, "Hey, that's God."

Seeing God made Isaiah afraid—just like Peter, Susan,

Lucy, and Mr. and Mrs. Beaver "went all trembly" when they saw Aslan.

We can't blame Isaiah for his fear, any more than the children in Narnia, because people usually don't see God. Even the sight of an angel will terrify people. (See Daniel 10:7-10.) Perhaps Isaiah thought of God's words to Moses, "You may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live" (Exodus 33:20). But God allowed Isaiah to see him. In Heaven, we also will be allowed to see God (Revelation 22:3-4).

The more time we spend with God, the better we'll know him. He's by far the most fascinating person in the universe. (After all, he's the one that made all the interesting people we've ever known or read about.) Think of the questions we'll be able to ask God. Are you getting your list ready? I sure am!

When you get to know Jesus better, he'll be at the very top of your list of people you'd want to spend your day with. Sport and movie celebrities might be fun to meet, but they would get boring pretty soon. Jesus will never bore us. And the great thing is, you don't have to wait to be with him. You can spend time with him right now. You do this by reading his Word, the Bible, praying to him, and thanking him for being with you all day long.

## What does *eternal* life mean?

There are some events in life that seem to go on forever: the half hour before the end of school each day (especially the last day of school), or the speech you have to make in front of the whole class, or the family dinner that takes so long for everyone to finish when you're waiting to eat dessert. And there are some unbelievable moments—when you finally learn to snowboard or win the game for your team or get a hug from someone you love—that you wish *would* last forever. While none of these events actually lasts forever, eternal life does. It wouldn't be called *eternal* if it didn't.

Jesus said, "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This never-ending life is promised to those who believe in Jesus. "But how can this be?" you might ask. "After all, everyone will die at some point." True. But death isn't the end of the story. Jesus promised that someday we'll live forever with him. That means we'll live again after we die.

As a promise that this will happen, we have the Holy Spirit. Jesus told his followers that the Holy Spirit would come and make his home within every person who believes in Jesus. (Don't just take my



word for it. Read John 14:15-17, 26.) We're told about the guarantee in Ephesians 1:14. "The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised." That inheritance, which we will receive as God's children, is eternal life.

Eternal life is more than an existence that never ends. It's a quality life that's filled with joy.

In the Star Trek movie *Generations*, Guinan tells Captain Picard about a place called the Nexus. She describes it this way: "It was like being inside joy, as if joy was something tangible and you could wrap yourself up in it like a blanket."

I don't believe in the Nexus. But I *do* believe in the new heavens and the New Earth. What will it be like there? Like "being inside joy, as if joy were something tangible and you could wrap yourself up in it like a blanket."

## How will we worship God?

What do you think *worship* means? Singing to God? Going to church? Some people have an idea that worshipping God is boring, something you *have* to do. They forget, or really aren't sure, how awesome God is. They think of Heaven as a long church service. Ever think that way?

You'd probably wait all day to see your favorite celebrity if you knew that he or she was soon to appear at your local mall or bookstore. No one has to drag you there. You *want* to see that person! And when you see him, what do you say? Probably something like, "Wow, I'm so-o-o glad to meet you. This is the best day of my life!" You'd probably name something you appreciate about the person—his book, her tennis serve, the cool way he played the invading alien general in his last movie.

Even if you are nervous, no one has to tell you to say something nice to the celebrity you've met. In the same way, no one will have to tell you in Heaven, "Say something nice to God." You'll just naturally do it and want to do it and *enjoy* doing it. Worship simply means expressing your appreciation for God.

Some might wonder if all we'll do in Heaven is worship God. Well, yes and no. *No*, because the Bible says we'll be doing many other things—eating, working, relaxing, learning, etc. And *yes*, because all that we do will show our appreciation for God in an act of worship that will never end.

Worship involves more than singing and prayer. We're commanded, "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We know that God expects us to do many different things on Earth, such as work, rest, and spend

time with our families. So if we are to be joyful, pray, and give thanks all the time, we must worship God *even while doing other things*. Same deal in Heaven.

## Why would God want to serve us in Heaven?

Have you read how Jesus washed the feet of his followers (John 13)? They were amazed that a leader and teacher they respected so much would do the work of a servant. Peter especially couldn't bear the thought of Jesus doing that. But Jesus insisted on washing his friends' feet.

Jesus also said, "The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat" (Luke 12:37)!

Imagine being served by Jesus. Whoa! That's even greater than the president coming to your house and making a meal for you! If we came up with this idea ourselves, we'd be crazy! The Creator serving us? *Yeah, r-i-i-i-g-h-t*. But we didn't come up with the idea—God did!

We owe him everything. He owes us nothing. But that doesn't keep God from choosing to serve us, his servants. Jesus served us when he died for us. He said about himself, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

As a father who loves his children goes out of his way to help them, God promises that he will always give of himself for us. Why? Because he loves us and wants to show forever his appreciation for our loyalty and service to him in this life. Does that mean we deserve God's grace? Of course not. By definition, God's grace is something we don't deserve. If we deserved it, it wouldn't be grace!

Somehow, in his great love for us, our King becomes a servant, making us, his servants, kings! Notice that he won't merely command his *other* servants to serve us. He will do it himself. That's why the grace we sing about in church is called "*Amazing Grace*." If you think about it, there's nothing more amazing than that God would love us so much.

Doesn't that make you want to love him more and more every day?

*Excerpted from Randy Alcorn's book, Heaven for Kids (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers), 2006, pp. 41-49.*



# Can God Forgive Abortions? by Randy Alcorn



**Please Note:** In order to conserve space, footnotes are not included in this article but are marked with an asterisk and may be found in *Why ProLife?* by Randy Alcorn, Chapter 18, pages 102-107.

Millions of women and men, both in society and in the church, are suffering under the guilt of abortion. Nearly one out of five women getting an abortion identifies herself as an evangelical Christian.\* This means a quarter of a million abortions are performed on Christians each year. Many of the fathers of these children are also part of our churches.

If you're a woman who's had an abortion, or advised another to have one, this chapter is for you. If you're a man who's been involved in an abortion decision—whether it concerned your girlfriend, wife, daughter, or anyone—it's also for you.

It's counterproductive to try to eliminate guilt feelings without dealing with guilt's cause. Others may say, "You have nothing to feel guilty about," but you know better. Only by denying reality can you avoid guilt feelings. Denial sets you up for emotional collapse whenever something reminds you of the child you once carried. You need a permanent solution to your guilt problem, a solution based on reality, not pretense.

Because the Bible offers that solution, I will quote from it. Ask your pastor, women's group leader, or a Christian friend or family member, to help you understand.

## The Work of Christ

The good news is that God loves you and desires to forgive you for your abortion, whether or not you knew what you were doing. But before the good news can be appreciated, we must know the bad news. The bad news is there's true moral guilt, and all of us are guilty of many moral offenses against God, of which abortion is only one. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Sin is falling short of God's holy standards. It separates us from a relationship with God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin deceives us, making us think that wrong is right and right is wrong (Proverbs 14:12). "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Jesus Christ, God's Son, loved us so much that He became a member of the human race to deliver us from our sin problem (John 3:16). He identified with us in our weakness, without being tainted by our sin (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15-16). Jesus died on the cross as the only one worthy to pay the penalty for our sins demanded by God's holiness (2 Corinthians 5:21). He rose from the grave, defeating sin and conquering death (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 54-57).

When Christ died on the cross for us, He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The Greek word translated "it is finished" was written across certificates of debt when they were canceled. It meant "paid in full." Christ died to fully pay our debt.

## Full Forgiveness

Because of Christ's work on the cross on our behalf, God freely offers us forgiveness. Here are just a few of those offers:

*He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities....*

*As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

*As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him (Psalm 103:10-14).*

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

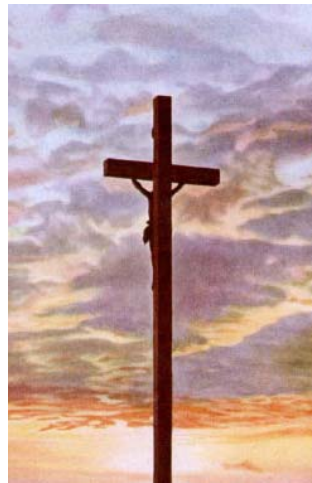
Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

## A Gift that Can't be Earned

Salvation is a gift—"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). This gift cannot be worked for, earned, or achieved. It's not dependent on our merit or effort, but solely on Christ's sacrifice for us.

God offers us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life, but it's not automatically ours. In order to have the gift, we must choose to accept it.

You may think, "But I don't deserve forgiveness after all I've done." That's exactly right. None of us deserves forgiveness. If we deserved it, we wouldn't need it. That's the point of grace. Christ got what we



*The good news is that God loves you and desires to forgive you for your abortion.*



deserved on the cross, so we could get what we don't deserve—a clean slate, a fresh start.

Once forgiven, we can look forward to spending eternity with Christ and our spiritual family (John 14:1–3; Revelation 20:11–22:6). You can look forward to being reunited in heaven with your loved ones covered by Christ's blood, including the child you lost through abortion (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

## No Need to Dwell on Past Sins

A promiscuous woman wept at Christ's feet, kissed them, and wiped them with her hair. Jesus said to a judgmental bystander, "Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much" (Luke 7:47). Jesus offers the same forgiveness to all of us.

God doesn't want you to go through life punishing yourself for your abortion or for any other wrong you have done. Your part is to accept Christ's atonement, not to repeat it. Jesus said to an immoral woman, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (Luke 7:47–50). Women rejected by society came to Jesus, and He welcomed them with compassion and forgiveness.

No matter what you've done, no sin is beyond the reach of God's grace. He has seen us at our worst and still loves us. There are no limits to his forgiving grace. And there is no freedom like the freedom of forgiveness.

You may feel immediately cleansed when you confess your sins, or you may need help working through it. Either way, you're forgiven. You should try to forget what lies behind and move on to a positive future made possible by Christ (Philippians 3:13–14). Whenever we start feeling unforgiven, it's time to go back to the Bible and remind ourselves, and each other, of God's forgiveness.

Joining a group for post-abortion healing can help you immensely. There are post-abortion Bible studies designed for women, and others for men. Many online resources can help you find the support group you need.\*

## Forgiveness Followed by Right Choices

Many women who've had abortions carry understandable bitterness toward men who used and

abused them, toward parents who pressured them, and toward those who misled them into a choice that resulted in their child's death. God expects us to take the forgiveness He's given us and extend it to others (Matthew 6:14–15).

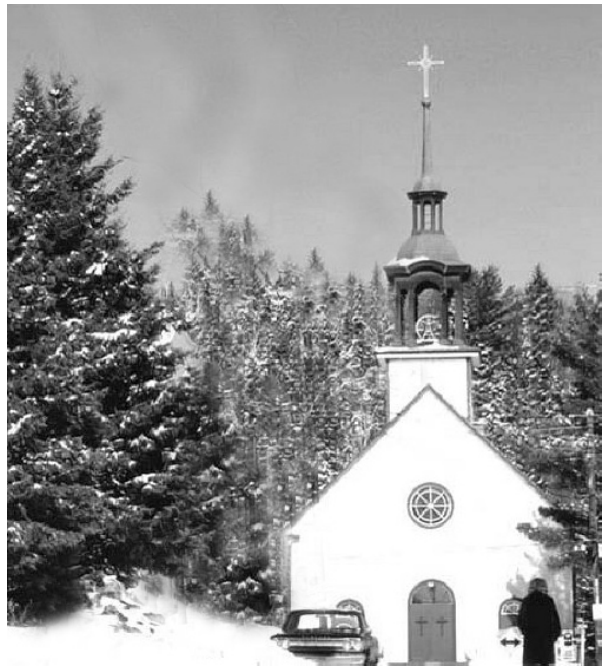
You need to become part of a therapeutic community, a family of Christians called a church. (If you're already in a church, share your abortion experience with someone to get the specific help you need.)

You may feel self-conscious around Christians because of your past. You shouldn't. A true Christ-centered church isn't a showcase for saints but a hospital for sinners. You won't be judged and condemned for sins Christ has forgiven. The people you're joining are just as human and just as imperfect as you. Most church people aren't self-righteous. Those who are should be pitied because they don't understand God's grace.

A good church will teach the truths of the Bible, and will provide love, acceptance, and support for you. If you cannot find such a church in your area, contact our organization and we'll gladly help you.

A healthy step you can take is to reach out to women experiencing unwelcome pregnancies. God can eventually use your experience to equip you to help others and to share with them God's love. My wife and I have a number of good friends who've had abortions. Through their caring pro-life efforts they've given to other women the help they wish someone had given them. Telling their stories has not only saved children's lives, and mothers from the pain of abortion, but has helped bring healing to them. It can do the same for you.

*Adapted from Randy Alcorn's book Why ProLife? (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2004).*



*A good church will teach the truths of the Bible, and will provide love, acceptance, and support for you.*



## Joni and Friends International Disability Center

Agoura Hills, California



The new 33,700 square foot Joni and Friends International Disability Center is being built in Agoura Hills, California, near their current rented facility. This new home will provide:

- Expanded space for growing programs such as Family Retreats, Wheels for the World, Field Ministries and Special Delivery.
- The Christian Institute on Disability offers a biblical response on critical issues that impact the disability community. The Institute will develop curriculum on disability-related topics as well as offer internships, fellowships, and scholarships to students at Christian institutions of higher learning. The Institute will also offer training to Joni and Friends staff, missionaries, and volunteers throughout the world.



## Perspectives by Joni Eareckson Tada



Joni and Friends help people in other parts of the world such as this Tibetan boy in a makeshift wheelchair

*"After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time— if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God and provoking him to anger, I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed."*

— Deuteronomy 4:25-26

Reward and punishment may work as a training technique for animals, but it does not work when it comes to God's dealings with us. Listen to what my friend Phillip Yancey observes:

The Bible itself records a kind of behavior-modification experiment on a national scale—God's covenant with the Israelites. For a time, God resolved to

reward and punish his people with strict consistency, as detailed in the book of Deuteronomy. What were some of the results of obedience? Prosperous cities...guaranteed military victories and total immunity to diseases. What about the punishment? If they disobeyed, violence and crime, infertility and crop failure. So what resulted from this reward and punishment system? Within 50 years, the Israelites disintegrated into a state of anarchy and much of the rest of the Old Testament recounts the dreary history of those predicted curses coming true.

Years later when New Testament authors referred to that history, they saw those days of reward and punishment in a new light. They said the Old Testament law serves as an object lesson: It demonstrates that human beings are incapable of fulfilling a contract with God.



James 2:13 announces that "Mercy triumphs over judgment!" Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in Christ! You can rejoice that you do not live in a reward-and-punishment type of world. God did not punish my stiff-necked, teenage stubbornness with a broken neck, and he will not zap you with a lightning bolt if you sin. So today, forgive others of their trespasses against you, as he—the Lord Jesus—has forgiven you. It's all about mercy. It's all about grace.

*Oh, how grateful I am for your mercy and grace, Lord Jesus.*



*"The eye never has enough of seeing, or the ear its fill of hearing. What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun."*  
— Ecclesiastes 1:8-9

No verse better describes the plight of a man without God in his life: bored, and itching for something more. People look for happiness in marriage, money, and mischief, but nothing completes their joy. Our desires and cravings continue to irritate, making us restless for more. But earth can never satisfy, it can never keep its promises.

I sometimes see this on nights when I wheel into a hotel after a speaking engagement. The bedtime hour has long passed, but the lounge is still crowded, smoky, noisy and packed with people on a search. What's even more sad is to pass that lounge the next morning and still see people leaning on the bar and fingering a half-empty drink. The scene is not unlike that described by W. H. Auden...

Faces along the bar  
Cling to their average day.  
The lights must never go out,  
The music must always play  
Lest we know where we are,  
Lost in a haunted wood,  
Children afraid of the dark  
Who have never been happy or good.



Randy & Nanci Alcorn, Doug (CEO of Joni & Friends) & Lorraine Mazza, Ken & Joni Tada during a recent visit to the Tadas' home

It's strange how people are bent on mad pursuit, making the same mistakes every day, hoping that life will some day reveal an answer, even though the experiences of most have taught them otherwise. Why do people keep seeking and pushing past the boredom? Because people have to. Our seeking is a stirring of a fundamental need that simply must be satisfied — our need for God. Every desire, longing, aspiration, hunger and thirst is no less than a desire for God.

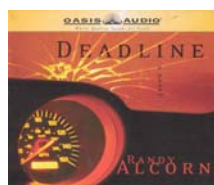
Are you bored? Anxious? Toying with temptation? Looking for something new, exciting or enticing to satisfy some inner craving? Listen to those wants. They show you what you really desire: "...God is the answer to our deepest longings" I Corinthians 6:13 (Phillips).

*I want to be satisfied with you, Lord. Completely. Remind me of this when my heart starts to wander.*

*These devotionals were first sent out October 30 & 31, 2006. To subscribe to Joni's Daily Devotional Delivery, go to: [www.joniandfriends.org/daily\\_devotional\\_signup.php](http://www.joniandfriends.org/daily_devotional_signup.php)*

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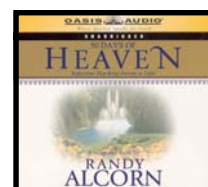
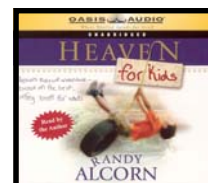
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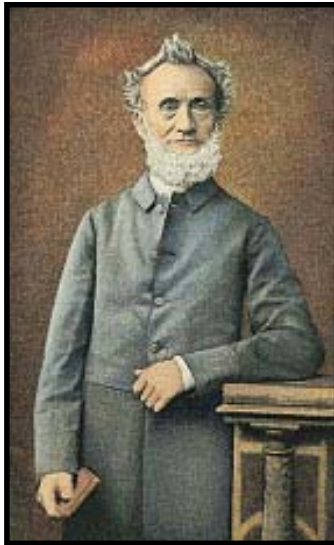


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George Müller

September 1805-March 1898

*“Expect great things from God, and great things you will have.”*  
George Müller

Müller’s first church in Bristol



## An Hour With George Müller, Man of Faith

**Note from Randy Alcorn:** *I’ve taken the following excerpts from an excellent booklet, **An Hour With George Müller, The Man of Faith to Whom God Gave Millions**, edited by A. Sims. Printed by Chapel Library, A Ministry of Mt. Zion Bible Church, Pensacola, FL*

Pastor Charles R. Parsons describes an hour’s interview with George Müller toward the close of his life:

A warm summer day found me slowly walking up the shady groves of Ashley Hill, Bristol. At the top there met my gaze the immense buildings which shelter over two thousand orphans, built by a man who has given to the world the most striking object lesson in faith it has ever seen.

The first house was on the right, and there among his own people, in plain, unpretentious apartments, lived the saintly patriarch, George Müller. Passing the lodge gate, I paused a moment to look at House No. 3, one of the five erected at a cost of \$600,000.

The bell was answered by an orphan who conducted me up a lofty stone staircase and into one of the private rooms of the venerable founder of that great institution. Mr. Müller had attained the remarkable age of ninety-one. As I stood in his presence, veneration filled my mind. “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man” (Lev. 19:32).

He received me with a cordial handshake and bade me welcome. It is something merely to see a man by whom God has accomplished a mighty work: it is more to hear the tones of his voice; far greater than either is the privilege of being brought into immediate contact with his spirit and of feeling the warm breath of his soul breathed into one’s own.

The communion of that hour will be graven on my memory while life shall last. This servant of the Most High opened his heart to me, counseled me, prayed with me, and gave me his blessing.

In that hour the source of George Müller’s great spiritual strength was clearly made manifest. The aged saint, with all his faculties unimpaired, was eloquent the whole time on one theme, the praise of Jehovah, the great Hearer and Answerer of His people’s prayers. My own words were few.

“You have always found the Lord faithful to His promise, Mr. Müller?”

“Always! He has never failed me! For nearly seventy years every need in connection with this work has been supplied. The orphans from the first until now have numbered nine thousand five hundred, but they have never wanted a meal. Hundreds of times we have commenced the day without a penny, but our Heavenly Father has sent supplies the moment they were actually required. There never was a time when we had no wholesome meal. During all these

years I have been enabled to trust in the living God alone. In answer to prayer \$7,500,000 have been sent to me. We have needed as much as \$200,000 in one year, and it has all come when needed. No man can ever say I asked him for a penny. We have no committees, no collectors, no voting, and no endowment. *All has come in answer to believing prayer.* God has many ways of moving the hearts of men all over the world to help us. While I am praying He speaks to one and another on this continent and on that to send us help.”

*“My faith is tried as much as ever, and my difficulties are greater than ever.* Besides our financial responsibilities, suitable helpers have to be found constantly, and suitable places provided for hundreds of orphans constantly leaving the homes. Then often our funds run very low. Only the other week we had come nearly to the end of our supplies. I called my beloved helpers together and said to them, ‘Pray, brethren, pray!’ Immediately five hundred dollars was sent us, then a thousand, and in a few days seven thousand five hundred came in. But always we have to be praying, always believing. Oh, it is good to trust in the living God, for He hath said, ‘I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee’ (Heb. 13:5). Expect great things from God, and great things you will have. There is no limit to what He is able to do. Praises for ever to His glorious name! Praise Him for everything! I have praised Him many times when He





sent me ten cents, and I have praised Him when He has sent me sixty thousand dollars.”

“I suppose you have never contemplated a reserve fund?”

“To do so would be an act of the greatest folly. How could I pray if I had reserves? God would say, ‘Bring out those reserves, George Müller.’ Oh no, I never thought of such a thing. Our reserve fund is in Heaven. The living God is our sufficiency. I have trusted Him for one dollar, I have trusted Him for thousands, and never trusted in vain. ‘Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him’ (Ps. 34:8).

“Of course you have never thought of saving for yourself?”

...he unbuttoned his coat and drew from his pocket an old-fashioned purse with rings in the middle separating the character of the coins. Placing it in my hands he said quietly, “All I am possessed of is in that purse—every penny! Save for myself? Never! When money is sent to me for my own use, I pass it on to God. As much as five thousand dollars has thus been sent at one time; but I do not regard such gifts as belonging to *me*; they belong to *Him*, whose I am and whom I serve. Save for myself? I dare not save; it would dishonor my loving, gracious, all-bountiful Father.”

I asked him if he spent much time on his knees.

“Hours every day. But I live in the spirit of prayer; I pray as I walk, when I lie down, and when I rise. And the answers are always coming. Tens of thousands of times my prayers have been answered. When once I am persuaded a thing is right, I go on praying for it until the end comes. I never give up!”

“Oh, how good, kind, gracious, and condescending is the One with whom we have to do! He has given me, unworthy as I am, immeasurably above all I have asked or thought! I am only a poor, frail, sinful man, but He has heard my prayers tens of thousands of times and used me as the means of bringing tens of thousands of souls into the way of truth in this and other



Ashley Downs Orphanage,  
Bristol

lands. These unworthy lips have proclaimed salvation to great multitudes, and very many people have believed unto eternal life.”

“Seek to depend entirely on God for everything,” he answered. “Put yourself and your work into His hands. When thinking of any new undertaking, ask, *Is this agreeable to the mind of God? Is it for His glory?* If it is not for His glory, it is not for your good, and you must have nothing to do with it. Mind that! Having settled that a certain

course is for the glory of God, begin it in His name and continue in it to the end. Undertake it in prayer and faith, and never give up!

“If it pleases Him with a work requiring about \$222,000 a year, to make me do again at the evening of my life, what I did from August, 1838, to April, 1849, I am not only prepared for it, but gladly again would I pass through all these trials of faith, with regard to means, if He only might be glorified, and His church and the world be benefited. Often and often this last point has of late passed through my mind, and



Girls playing around  
the orphanage maypole

I have placed myself in the position of having no means at all left, and two thousand one hundred persons not only at the table, but with everything else to be provided for, and all funds gone; one hundred and eighty-nine missionaries to be assisted, and nothing whatever left; about one hundred schools, with about nine thousand scholars in them, to be entirely supported, and no means for them in hand; about four millions of tracts and tens of thousands of copies of the Holy Scriptures yearly have to be sent out, and all the money expended. Invariably, however, with this probability before me, I have said to myself: God, who has raised up this work through me, God who has led me generally year after year, to enlarge it, God who has supported this work now for more than forty years, will still help and will not suffer me to be confounded, because I rely upon Him, I commit the whole work to Him, and he will provide me with what I need in the future also, though I know not whence the means are to come.”

*“Our reserve  
fund is in  
Heaven.  
The living  
God is our  
sufficiency.”*  
George Müller



## Testaments of George Müeller's Faith

*"I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King."*



*Samuel Chadwick in his must inspiring book, The Path of Prayer, relates an occasion when Dr. A. T. Pierson was the guest of George Müeller at his orphanages:*

"One night when all the household had retired he [Müeller] asked Pierson to join him in prayer. He told him that there was absolutely nothing in the house for next morning's breakfast. My

friend tried to remonstrate with him and to remind him that all the stores were closed. Müeller knew all that. He had prayed as he always prayed, and he never told anyone of his needs but God. They prayed—at least Müeller did—and Pierson tried to. They went to bed and slept, and breakfast for two thousand children was there in abundance at the usual breakfast hour. Neither Müeller nor Pierson ever knew how the answer came. The story was told next morning to Simon Short of Bristol, under pledge of secrecy until the benefactor died. The details of it are thrilling, but all that need be told here is that the Lord called him out of bed in the middle of the night to send breakfast to Müeller's orphanage, and knowing nothing of the need, or of the two men at prayer, he sent provisions that would feed them a month.

*Charles Inglis, the well-known evangelist, relates the following remarkable incident:*

"When I first came to America thirty-one years ago, I crossed the Atlantic with the captain of a steamer who was one of the most devoted men I ever knew; and when we were off the banks of Newfoundland he said to me: 'Mr. Inglis, the last time I crossed there, five weeks ago, one of the most extraordinary things happened that has completely revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. Up to that time I was one of your ordinary Christians. We had a man of God on board, George Müeller, of Bristol. I had been on that bridge for twenty-two hours and never left it. I was startled by someone tapping me on the shoulder. It was George Müeller.

"'Captain,' said he, 'I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.' This was Wednesday.

"'It is impossible,' I said.

"'Very well, if your ship can't take me God will find some other means of locomotion to take me. I have never broken an engagement in fifty-seven years.'

"'I would willingly help you, but how can I? I am helpless.'

"'Let us go down to the chart room and pray,' he said.

"'I looked at this man and I thought to myself, 'What lunatic asylum could the man have come from? I never heard of such a thing.'

"'Mr. Müeller,' I said, 'do you know how dense this fog is?'

"'No,' he replied, 'my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life.'

"'He went down on his knees, and he prayed one of the most simple prayers. I thought to myself, 'That would suit a children's class, where the children were not more than eight or nine years of age.' The burden of his prayer was something like this: 'O Lord, if it is consistent with Thy will, please remove this fog in five minutes. You know the engagement You made for me in Quebec for Saturday. I believe it is Your will.'

"'When he had finished, I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray.

"'First,' he said, 'you do not believe God will do it; and, second, I believe He has done it. And there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.'

"'I looked at him, and George Müeller said this: 'Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King. Get up, Captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone.' I got up, and the fog was gone. On Saturday afternoon George Müeller was in Quebec."

## Letters to EPM

*Why ProLife?* is an excellent book. I am a pastor and former science teacher. This book should be required reading by everyone!

R. N.

I'm a 25-year-old actress in New York City. I was given your book *The Treasure Principle* by my church when I inquired about church membership. Thank you for writing this book. Every time I opened it up, I felt God talking to me. I now feel so free about the money God allows me to have. I don't have much and I work very hard at menial jobs to support myself but I am so rich. I have all the basics times ten. Over the past year I've been prompted by God to tithe regularly and donate money to Christian charities. I feel so blessed by reading your book. I'm not going to worry about how I will pay off my school loans or how I will afford health care. I know that I need to trust him to make the means I have go farther than I could ever make them. Thank you so much. Praise the Lord for I know that my investment in heaven is growing.

J. K.



I just now finished your beautiful book *Safely Home*. I was so moved that many times I had to stop reading and dry my eyes. Your words truly opened my eyes and I want to thank you. I have been studying God's Word for just under twenty years now, and although I am pretty knowledgeable about the Bible and know many, many verses by heart, I have been so missing the mark.

While it is true that we have given our lives to the Lord and are remaining faithful through all that we go through here on Death Row (which we call "Life's Row"), it is apparent that we do not know trials or affliction like many do across this planet. I do know that your book was fiction, but I also know it speaks volumes in truth.

In the midst of reading your book, my prayer life has changed and I now wake up with tears knowing that out of the 34 people in my area, twenty of those wake up lost each day. I now cry over them.

I will be bringing up those in bondage throughout this world and about their clothes, their safety,

their families, their food, and their clean water. I will have my fellow brothers pray the same. We will pray for revivals throughout those prisons and for the Word of God to be brought to light more and more throughout this world and especially that Bibles would be made readily available to those in need.

H. J., Death Row inmate

After reading *The Purity Principle*, I finally really understood how the struggle against sin can be overcome. I falsely believed that I could give it to God and He would take care of it for me. Doing this I failed so often that on some things I was developing a defeatist complex. I always knew it was a partnership. Why when it came to sin did I expect God to do all the work? Since I have joined in the war against sin the battles are much easier and we are winning. God and I, working together, truly are a majority. I feel as though the millstone weight has been lifted from my shoulders and the occasional depression from failure has been replaced with a sense of confidence and joy I have not felt for a long time.

O. B.

I have been saved for 48 years and spent 11 years in full-time ministry after retirement. Somehow I missed the principle of ownership and did not manage God's assets efficiently. I am half-way through *Money, Possessions & Eternity* and it has changed my lifestyle and philosophy, miraculously!

Thank you for teaching an old man (81, but very active) the biblical plan for a productive Christian life.

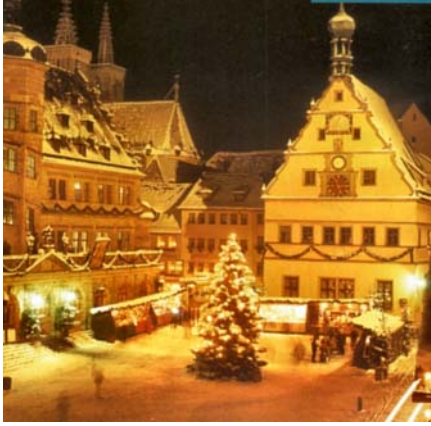
C. B.

My 15-year-old son confided to me about a year ago that he hadn't had a serious relationship with God until God used your writings to get his attention. He said that he hadn't been impressed with the concept of hell, but things I had shared from your book *In Light of Eternity* finally got his attention. He went to the scriptures and looked up everything he could find about heaven. Then he got the copy of your book that I had given to his grandmother and read it. From his new excitement about the prospect of spending eternity in heaven, he committed his life to Christ. Since then he has read most of your books with great relish. The ones I didn't already have in my collection, he obtained on his own. He is no longer lukewarm about his relationship with Christ Jesus!

B. P.







## C. S. Lewis on the Christian Life

*Experience:  
that most  
brutal of  
teachers.*

☞ A man who is eating or lying with his wife or preparing to go to sleep in humility, thankfulness and temperance, is, by Christian standards, in an infinitely higher state than one who is listening to Bach or reading Plato in a state of pride.

☞ Affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives.

☞ Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What! You too? I thought I was the only one!"

☞ Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.

☞ It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.

☞ Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement.

☞ Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see.

☞ Some people feel guilty about their anxieties and regard them as a defect of faith [but] they are afflictions, not sins. Like all afflictions, they are, if we can so take them, our share in the passion of Christ.

☞ Telling us to obey instinct is like telling us to obey 'people.' People say different things: so do instincts. Our instincts are at war... Each instinct, if you listen to it, will claim to be gratified at the expense of the rest...

☞ The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of 60 minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is.

☞ The long, dull, monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity or middle-aged adversity are excellent campaigning weather for the devil.

☞ There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way."

☞ We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.

☞ Experience: that most brutal of teachers. But you learn, oh, do you learn.

### Eternal Perspective Ministries

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