

# Forever – Why You Can’t Live Without It.

By Paul David Tripp

## **Chapter 5 Grace Frees us to Live with Eternity in View**

*Preparatory Thoughts: “To the one who is the Author of life, death is unacceptable. For death to be alive and well is not all right. For every human being to face and fear death is not okay. Nor is it acceptable for the spiritual death of separation from God and the physical death that ends every person’s life to dominate the human story. ... Death must die because it stands in the way of the forever we were created to enjoy.” P. 68*

1. a. From page 68, under the title “What the Bible is all about”, make a list of all the things Tripp says the Bible is NOT. (I found 9)

b. Instead, he says “*the Bible is one story from cover to cover with God’s explanatory notes*”. In your own words, how would you summarize the 1 story of the Bible?

2. In what ways is sin more than just disobedient behavior?

3. In what ways is the “promise of the cruel cross and the empty tomb profoundly bigger than a happy life in the here and now”? p. 71

4. From pages 73 and 74, list as many benefits of the “gift of forever” as you can find. Do any of these stand out especially to you to give you hope, peace, comfort, motivation?

5. “*In eternity you will no longer search horizontally for what you will only find vertically.*” p. 75 Are there areas in your life where you find yourself looking for the “horizontal” to fulfill only what the “vertical” can fill?

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## **Chapter 6 Why is Faith Sometimes so Miserable?**

*Preparatory Thoughts: p. 91 “Celebrate life even when you don’t see it, knowing that your problem isn’t that God is absent or unfaithful, but that there are times when all of us simply don’t see him very well. If you’re struggling with a miserable faith, don’t run from God; run to him. He understands your struggle, and he alone can offer you the life that holds the promise of the resurrection and the hope of forever.”*

**Memorize 1 Cor 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

*p. 79 “his life wasn’t marked by pain and suffering, it was simply harder day by day than he ever thought it would be.”* Do you ever feel this way about your life? Do any of the “signs of a miserable faith” resonate with you?

1. “The resurrection of Jesus and the hope of forever tell us what is really important in life.” P. 83. Compare the list of things that are **not** the most important with what Tripp says is of most importance. (p.83-5)

NOT Important

Is most Important

2. Find some scripture verses to support the idea that “this defeat [of sin] is a process that begins in the here and now and stretches to forever.” P. 86
3. “The resurrection of Jesus, it’s guarantee of a final resurrection to come and the forever that will follow, defines who you are, what you need, what your life is about, and where you are going.” P. 88 In light of the resurrection of Jesus, answer the following:
  - a. Who are you?
  - b. What do you need?
  - c. What is your life about?
  - d. Where are you going?
4. God has called us to be oaks of righteousness (Isa 61:3) not “toadstools of righteousness”. What are some differences between oaks and toadstools? How does this affect your view of waiting?

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## Chapter 7 Hope Can't Live without Forever

*Preparatory Thoughts: p. 93 "The thing we place our hope in will influence the way we interpret and respond to life." p. 102 "How different would your life be if you remembered that everything that exists is meant to be a finger pointing us to the only place where hope can be found?"*

*"Hope is a wish for something that is attached to a confident expectation that the wish will be fulfilled." P. 97*

1. *p. 93 "Our biggest celebrations and our deepest sadnesses are connected to hope. Here is the problem: most of the things we hope in and hope for will disappoint us. The reason is simple and clear: if your hope is not connected to forever, your hope will somehow die."* What are some things you hope for (or have hoped for) that are **not** connected to forever?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are some hopes you have had that have become disappointments? (Either because they didn't happen or they didn't live up to your expectations)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. From the book of 1 Peter, answer these questions (if you can, notate the chapter and verse by your answer)
  - a. Who are you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What is your hope?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How should you then live?

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## **Chapter 8 Suffering is Harder When you Have no Forever**

1. *“Nicole’s accident confronted me with the reality of just how broken our world actually is.”* p. 109  
In what way(s) have you experienced this reality in your own life?

2. *“We held on to eternity. No, not just the comfort that someday all of our trials would end, but the peace that comes from knowing that if we are guaranteed a place in eternity, then we can be assured that God will protect and provide for us along the way”* p. 110, *“Forever can radically alter the way we suffer, because it offers us hope and help, not just in the future, but right here, right now.”* P. 111

How does “forever” offer hope and help right here and now? (Use your own words, use quotes from this chapter, use scripture verses)

3. What are you most tempted to forget or to stop believing when you go through hard times? What can you do to help you remember these truths in those times?

*Please bring these questions to our zoom call at 7pm on May 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*If you can spend some time answering these for yourself before our meeting, you will get the most benefit out of our discussion.*

*Our last meeting for Chapters 9-14 will be June 3<sup>rd</sup>.*