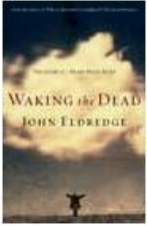


Digging Deeper Question . . .



Waking the Dead: The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive, by John Eldredge

Chapter 1

1. Is there a difference between existing and living? How would you describe it? Which are you doing right now?
2. Why does being "fully alive" seem to be so out of reach most days?
3. "Twenty clear days a year--that sounds about like my life. I think I see what's really going on about that often. The rest of the time, it feels like fog, like the bathroom mirror after a hot shower." (p. 5). In what ways do you relate or not relate to what John Eldredge is saying? Take a few moments to reflect on the last time you remember having perspective and clarity about your life and walk with God? What was clear to you, and what helped you to have that clarity?
4. In the excerpt from The Perfect Storm (p. 8), the term "alert and oriented times four" is defined and contrasted with "alert and oriented times zero." Where do you see yourself on this grid as it relates to God's plan for your life?
5. What is really going on here? Life is brutal. Day after day it hammers us, until we lose sight of what God intends for us. If a good God is really in charge....how come_____? (p. 9). Why do we need eyes of the heart? What are we looking for? How will it help us with our life, relationships, and walk?
6. Have you struggled with the belief that God "means us well" (p. 9)? How so, or why? Are there practices or experiences that serve to restore your confidence in God's goodness to us?
7. In the time that you have been a Christ-seeker or a Christ-follower, how often have you heard teaching on original glory? Compare that to how often you've heard teaching on original sin (p 14). Internally (intellectually, emotionally, theologically), do you find yourself uncomfortable with, and resisting the idea of "glory" and it's importance for your life? Why or why not?
8. Eldredge proposes that Jesus' statement in John 10:10 that "the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy" is an indication that we are at war with the enemy (p 13). What does this mean? Has God abandoned us? How have you experienced this? What part of you is most vulnerable? How do you protect yourself?
9. How have you, even in the midst of battle, been able to more fully embrace the rest of Jesus' declaration, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" ? What does having life to the full mean for a Christian? What does it mean to you in particular?