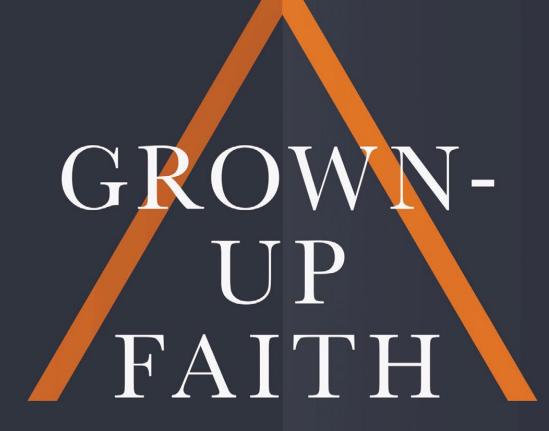
The BIG PICTURE for a BIGGER LIFE



# KEVIN MYERS

WITH CHARLIE WETZEL

## INTRODUCTION

### Invitation to a BIGGER LIFE

1.	How does Kevin Myers' opening invitation to a better life—and his candid honesty about h					
	own immaturity and need to grow up—speak to you?					
2.	Is there any area of your life where you're experiencing difficulty, and you suspect it may be caused by spiritual immaturity?					

3.	At the outset, which of the questions the author poses in the chapter titles jumps out at you
	the most? Why?

### Why Do People GET STUCK?

1.	Which of the author's four reasons people get stuck resonates with you in your own journey of
	faith?
	• We Don't Know the Big Picture of What God is Doing in the World

- We Want the Faith Without the Cost
- We Try Out Faith Instead of Training In Faith
- We Neglect to Engage Our Whole Selves in the Process

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	e difference between <i>trying out</i> faith and <i>training</i> in faith, and why is the latte bach?
What is the wiser appro	

4.	What is the benefit of engaging our whole person to grow in spiritual maturity?
<b>5.</b>	
	focus on the most? The least?
6.	What difference does it make to broaden our view to see "the bigger life" that God intends
	for us to experience? What will you do differently as a result?

Is Life an Accident or Am I Here ON PURPOSE?

	Why are we here?" What is your answer to that question?
	What are your intellectual, emotional, and spiritual responses to the author's initial
1	reflections on all that is "good and right" in the world?
(	Conversely, how do his thoughts about the brokenness of the world speak to you?

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	r response to to on purpose"?		essertion that	, "God has h	ad a purpose	e all along
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Why Do Bad Things Happen to GOOD PEOPLE?

passages come to life in a fresh way?
Why does the author assert that understanding "the two trees" in the Garden is critica to grasping the transformative message of the Bible?
In what ways have you experienced the results of the "relational death" the author describes as a result of sin's entrance into the world and humanity?

4.	Where do you find yourself most prone to cast blame (on God or other people),
	and have you experienced the freedom of confessing, I need to take responsibility?
<b>5.</b>	What are the dangers of trying to live according to the Utopia of <i>Me</i> and the Utopia of <i>We</i> ?
	and the second s
6.	The author says, "When we do acknowledge God and ask for his help, incredible things
	happen." Have you seen this principle at work in your own life? If so, how?

### Can I Really TRUST GOD?

1	Which, if any, questions were stirred by your reading of Genesis 12, 15 and 21?
(	Can you relate to the author's defense of Julisa in the face of bullying? Do you identify
٦	with her, the two boys, their father, or the author in this account? Explain.
1	Why is "Will you trust God?" the key question in life?



•	God made big promises to Abraham and Sarah, but they had to wait for him to fulfill then
	what lessons for your life do you see in how they handled the waiting?
	In light of the author's story of personal financial struggle and setbacks, when is a time
	you've had to trust God in the midst of a painful or uncertain season?
	Why is it so important to begin building trust in God <i>before</i> we encounter life's most
	challenging moments?

### Why Can't I Make MY OWN RULES?

1.	Which "rule" that you are supposed to follow (at home, on the road, at work, etc.) is most
	frustrating to you, and why?
2.	Pharaoh could have surrendered in humility as the plagues worsened, but instead
•	he "hardened his heart and became entrenched in his stubborn rejection of God,"
	with catastrophic consequences. What do you learn from his choice? How can you apply it
	to your own life?

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the rules he l	bless you" is God based on how much you submit to him and seek to fonas established in love? In what areas do you realize a need to grow mor
the rules he l	

### Why Can't God Just Accept Me AS I AM?

d our culture"?						
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	elf on the spectru	elf on the spectrum of <i>revering</i> th	elf on the spectrum of revering the rules, relaxing

1	e tabernacle, the ceremonial law, and the sacrificial system of atonement h
o deepen o	our understanding of God, his mercy, and the need for an ultimate sacrific
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### Isn't Only One Way to God NARROW-MINDED?

. Ir	n what ways does our culture's reliance on multiple options (apps, phones, cars, clothes, e
m	take it difficult for many to accept Jesus as "the way, the truth and the life"?
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	oes the assertion in Scripture that Jesus is the only way to God ever make you cringe? So, to what extent is others' reaction to Jesus an influencing factor in your attitude?
	low do you think God desires you to react?
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Н	low do the many prophecies Jesus fulfilled, as laid out in this chapter, serve to bolster
h	is claims to be Messiah, God, and the only way to the Father? Do they give you greate
C	onfidence? Explain.
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	o you agree with the statement, "Acknowledging that Jesus is the only way isn't being igoted or narrow-minded. It's being truthful"? How should you live in response to it?
	to you agree with the statement, "Acknowledging that Jesus is the only way isn't being goted or narrow-minded. It's being truthful"? How should you live in response to it?

•	What is the difference between asking in protest, "Why did God create a narrow way to
	him?" and asking in humility, "Why did he create a way at all?"
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	The author asserts, "God goes to extremes motivated by love." How have you experience
•	The author asserts, "God goes to extremes motivated by love." How have you experience this truth in your life? In the lives of your family and friends?
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### What Does It Mean to BE FORGIVEN?

•	Can you think of a time when you needed to be rescued, as the author's friend Chris did?
	If so, who rescued you, and how?
2.	Why can't God issue a blanket forgiveness of everyone in the world in one moment and
•	take us all to heaven?

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	some of the si	gns that Je	sus had co	mpleted the	· Covenant	through his	sacrifi
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		gns that Je	sus had con	mpleted the	· Covenant	through his	sacrif

	your view of God similar to any of the four imaged the author shares from John Maxwence, ladder, garbage can, door)? Explain.
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Н	ave you opened the door and accepted the Father's invitation to dwell in you and transl
ye	ave you opened the door and accepted the Father's invitation to dwell in you and transfou from the inside out? If you haven't, are you willing to take that step of trust today? you're reluctant, what stands in your way?
ye	ou from the inside out? If you haven't, are you willing to take that step of trust today?
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yo	ou from the inside out? If you haven't, are you willing to take that step of trust today?

# Why Don't Christians **LOOK DIFFERENT**from Everybody Else?

Have vo	a ever found yourself "out of alignment" with God and living as an outsider
	u ever found yourself "out of alignment" with God and living as an outsider
	u ever found yourself "out of alignment" with God and living as an outsider "pizza guy" who almost caused a fistfight)? What did you do to resolve it?

How do the author's reminders about the new identity God gives us in Christ speak to you Do you embrace them easily or with difficulty? Explain.					
Do you embrace them easily or with difficulty? Explain.					
What makes it difficult to become more dependent (vs. independent) as we grow in faith?					
The author shares candidly about his "fits of rage." Is there any area of your character					
that God has transformed, is transforming, or desires to transform as you progress toward					
a grown-up faith?					

Is there any	relationship in your	· life that need	s to change fo	r the good as v	you grow into
	relationship in your entity and character				

### Who Needs THE CHURCH?

1.	How does viewing the work of Jesus and his church as bigger and more lasting than everything				
	else (movies, sports, music, fame, etc.) change the way we understand God's mission? What				
	does it prompt you to want to change in your life?				
2.	What does it mean to "LiveSent," and what difference does it make when we see the places				
	we live, work, and play as part of God's plan to reach others with his love?				

Have you experienced the church's power to bless, either as a recipient of blessing or a
participant in bestowing it on others? If so, what happened, and how has it affected your
How does the author's focus on the church's important role to <i>train</i> believers speak to you.
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hat knowledg	ge encourage	you? Exp	lain.	
	didn't start o	didn't start out life as a po	didn't start out life as a people perso	is your response to the reminder that "you can develop a he didn't start out life as a people person. We learn to love by leath that knowledge encourage you? Explain.

### Are Heaven and Hell REAL?

1.	Why does the author describe a single day as the best day and the worst day ever? Does this
	statement motivate you? If so, how?
2.	What difference does it make to know that as followers of Christ, we are on the "winning
	team" even though our opponent will throw everything at us before the end of the game?

	author lays out Satan's "character" as the sworn, mortal enemy of God and God's ren. How does understanding our enemy help to equip us for spiritual battle?
	S. T.
then	the end draws near, Jesus promises to "gather his faithful followers" (the church) and to heaven with him (1 Thess. 4:16-17). How does God's promise that his redeemed live forever in paradise encourage you? What action on your part does it prompt?
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С	reate a sense of urgency in you to keep growing up and living out God's redeeming lov
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С	The chapter closes with a reminder that heaven and hell are both <i>very</i> real. How might reate a sense of urgency in you to keep growing up and living out God's redeeming low thers to see?
С	reate a sense of urgency in you to keep growing up and living out God's redeeming lov
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## **EPILOGUE**

### What NOW?

	What has changed in your worldview since you first looked at the list of tough questions
	in the introduction (which were the titles to chapters 2 through 11)?
2.	If someone asked you one of those questions, do you think you would be able to give a reasonable answer based on your understanding of the Bible? Explain.

3.	What is your answer to the author's final challenge: what now? What do you think God is
	prompting you to do?