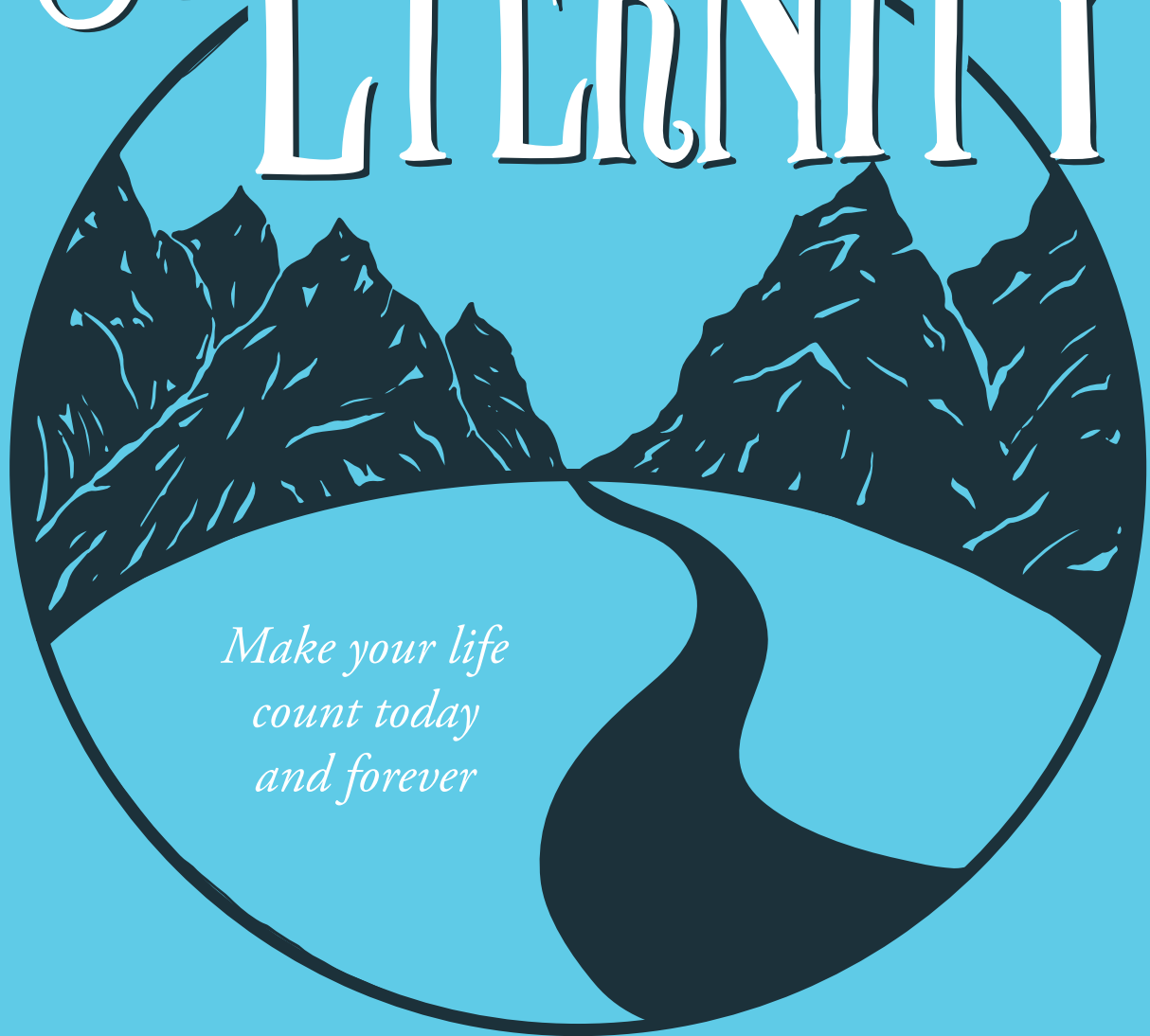


DRIVEN | COURSE GUIDE BY ETERNITY



JOHN BEVERE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome!

Thank you for choosing to study the *Driven by Eternity* course.

The day will come when each of us will stand before God and give an account for our life. The question is, will we be ready? At that moment, it will be too late for a do-over.

I'm thrilled you're going through this course, because that moment doesn't have to catch you off guard! Throughout this guide, you'll find lesson summaries, reflective questions, devotional content, and challenges designed to help you prepare for eternity.

Let's run our race and make our life count, both now and forever.

Sincerely,

John Bevere

LESSON ONE

THE ETERNAL

Concepts like eternity and the size of our universe are too big for us to understand with our minds. Our finite understanding cannot grasp them, and our words cannot accurately define them.

But eternity has been placed in our hearts and can be understood by the heart. Even those who have hardened their hearts to convince themselves there is no God come to realize at the end of their lives, there is something more beyond death. They know there is an eternity, even if they don't know what it holds.

In this lesson, we learned:

- Our choices today will impact our destiny forever.
- God is eternal, and He does not view our lives the same way we often do.
- Unless it's suppressed, there is a desire for success that God has placed in each of us, because He also wants us to succeed.
- God's definition of success is unlike our earthly, human definition.
- Every believer will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and will give an account of their life.
- How we respond to the cross determines where we'll spend eternity—heaven or hell. But the way we live as believers will determine how we'll spend eternity.

REFLECT

1. How does having an eternal perspective change the way you view life on earth?

2. What does living a successful life mean to you? Does this perspective agree with God's definition of success?
3. Are you living a life that will count both now and for eternity?

TIMELESS TRUTH

Teach us to make the most of our time . . . and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful! (Psalm 90:12, 17 NLT)

VOICE OF THE AGES

Nothing is more often misdiagnosed than our homesickness for Heaven. We think that what we want is sex, drugs, alcohol, a new job, a raise, a doctorate, a spouse, a large-screen television, a new car, a cabin in the woods, a condo in Hawaii. What we really want is the person we were made for, Jesus, and the place we were made for, Heaven. Nothing less can satisfy us. —Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*

SEIZE THE DAY

When the love of God is matured in us, we can face Jesus on Judgment Day with great confidence. How is the love of God matured in us? By keeping His commandments. We need to know what God's Word says in order to keep His Word. The next time you read the Bible, don't read it alone—ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what He's communicating to you as you read. When the Holy Spirit illuminates the Scriptures, you'll be able to mature in your love for God.

LESSON TWO

THE ETERNAL HOME OF THE DEAD

Scripture tells us hell is a real place, not figurative as our society has endeavored to promote. Because it is one of His elementary teachings, Jesus discussed hell frequently, much more often than the subject is mentioned from pulpits today. He didn't view its mention as insensitive or as lacking compassion. Rather—motivated by love for others—He saw the teaching of hell as an essential component for preparing people to receive the gospel.

In this lesson, we learned:

- There are several names given to hell in Scripture: Sheol, Hades, and the grave are a few names given to the intermediate chambers of death. Gehenna and the Lake of Fire are the names given to the eternal hell.
- Hell is a place of torment where those who dwell there have no relief. The struggles and torments they experienced while on earth are amplified in hell.
- Hell is a place of utter loneliness and hopelessness. It is also a place of eternal remembrance.
- Nothing is greater than the Word of God to produce the belief it takes to follow God to the end.

REFLECT

1. Why is it important to talk about the reality of hell?

2. What might it look like for believers (as individuals and in church settings) to address the subject of hell from a place of love?
3. In Luke 16:23–31, Jesus shared a story about Lazarus and the rich man. Gleaning from this story, make a list of facts you learn about the reality of hell.

TIMELESS TRUTH

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. (Matthew 7:13–14 NLT)

VOICE OF THE AGES

It's incredibly arrogant to pick and choose which incomprehensible truths we embrace. No one wants to ditch God's plan of redemption, even though it doesn't make sense to us. Neither should we erase God's revealed plan of punishment because it doesn't sit well with us. As soon as we do this, we are putting God's actions in submission to our own reasoning, which is a ridiculous thing for the clay to do. –Francis Chan, *Erasing Hell: What God Said about Eternity, and the Things We've Made Up*

SEIZE THE DAY

According to Matthew 25:41, hell was not created for human beings; it was created for the devil and his angels. Don't lose sight of the horrific reality that many people will be separated from God for eternity.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the person(s) in your world of influence who have yet to give their life to Jesus and ask Him to show you in what ways you can show the love of God to them. It can be doing a simple service, spending time with them, telling them about the gospel, and so on. Let Him lead you in reaching out with His love and be sure to do what He shows you.

LESSON THREE

THE FOUNDATION

When we lack a firm foundation in the truths of eternal judgment and punishment, we'll be hindered from building a proper and healthy life in Christ. It could be compared to attempting to advance your education without the basic tools acquired in elementary school, such as the ability to read and write.

In a careful study of the gospels, you'll notice that Jesus spoke of and described hell more than He did heaven. He did this to plant a foundation within us—the fear of God. The fear of God keeps us continually aware that nothing can be hidden from Him and that nothing can escape His judgment—and His judgment is just.

Those who lack this foundation will surely slip into the fear of man, and we ultimately serve who we fear. So if we lack a conscious understanding of eternal judgment and punishment, we will lack a certain measure of the fear of the Lord, for a holy awe of the judgments of Christ is indeed one aspect of the fear of the Lord.

In this lesson, we learned:

- By the fear of the Lord that we'll esteem and obey God's Word, building a life that endures.
- With the fear of the Lord planted in our hearts, we'll be protected from backsliding and will not compromise our devotion to Jesus.
- The fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom.
- Wisdom is the knowledge and ability to make the right decision at the opportune time.
- We carry out and complete our salvation with the reverential fear and trembling.

REFLECT

1. How can a skewed focus on the mercy of God—without the influence of the fear of the Lord—lead a believer into deception?
2. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
3. What are the benefits of the fear of the Lord?

TIMELESS TRUTH

But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ . . . So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (Romans 14:10, 12 NLT)

VOICE OF THE AGES

Measured against eternity, our time on earth is just a blink of an eye, but the consequences of it will last forever. —Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?*

SEIZE THE DAY

The fear of the Lord is our foundation. When we walk in it, we will be empowered to walk in obedience to His Word. Find Scriptures related to the fear of the Lord and begin to meditate on them. Ask God to fill you with understanding of the reverential fear of the Lord, so you can experience transformation in your life like never before.

LESSON FOUR

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Everyone will face judgment one day, including Christians. No one is exempt. It will surely come for all people. Sadly, numerous individuals in the church are unaware that they will give an account of what they've done during their short stay on earth. Many have the erroneous idea that all future judgment is eradicated by their salvation. Indeed, Jesus's blood cleanses us from the sins that would have kept us from the kingdom; however, it does not exempt us from the judgment of how we conducted ourselves as believers, whether good or bad.

In this lesson, we learned:

- Heaven and hell are real places.
- Our goal as believers is to be well pleasing to the Lord. Nothing we do can make God love us more or less, but we are responsible for how pleased He is with us.
- Jesus Christ is not only our Savior; He is also our Judge and will soon judge His own household.
- At the Judgment Seat of Christ, there will be full, partial, and no-reward scenarios.
- The judgments or decisions made at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be eternal and will last forever. They will never be altered or changed.

REFLECT

1. It is wise to prepare for your future. How would your life look different if you prepared for eternity like you would prepare for retirement?
2. How can you prepare for eternity? What are some immediate things you can do?

3. Despite the various reward scenarios at the Judgment Seat of Christ, why do you think heaven will be a place of joy where every tear is wiped away?

TIMELESS TRUTH

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body. (2 Corinthians 5:10 NLT)

VOICE OF THE AGES

In heaven I'll wish with all my heart that I could reclaim a thousandth part of the time I've let slip through my fingers, that I could call back those countless conversations which could have glorified my Lord—but didn't. —Billy Graham

SEIZE THE DAY

Every true believer's desire is to please Jesus. Read Ezekiel 44:9–28 and meditate on the differences between the priests that followed the behavior of the people and the sons of Zadok. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you with grace to walk in a manner that's pleasing to Him.

LESSON FIVE

GOD'S CUSTOM HOUSE

Our ability to build the kingdom is entirely based upon our obedience to the Holy Spirit because we can do nothing of eternal value unless it is by the grace of Jesus Christ. We can build apart from God's Spirit, yet that labor is worthless in the light of eternity. It will be burned up at the Judgment Seat. Only acts of obedience will guarantee that our labor is not in vain.

In this lesson, we learned:

- At the Judgment Seat of Christ, believers will be judged in two major areas. First, our involvement in building the kingdom of God. Second, how we built individual lives.
- God is building Himself a custom home and has named it Zion.
- Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone of God's home. We, believers, are living stones.
- Not only are believers the building material; we are God's co-laborers (subcontractors).
- Every single person has a calling on their life that plays a part in building God's house.
- At the Judgment Seat of Christ, we'll not be judged according to what we did, but according to what we were called to do.
- God rewards those who diligently seek Him. Those who are planted in a local church will flourish.
- Don't allow money, security, or relationships to make you stumble as you run your race.

REFLECT

1. We know that God doesn't need us to do anything for Him—but He does want us to labor with Him. What does this tell us about God and ourselves?

2. It's possible to spend our lives on seemingly good things and still miss out on what we were called to do. Is there anything you've allowed to go dormant because of fear or discouragement that you might now seek God to renew in your life?
3. From the entanglements mentioned, which one are you most susceptible toward and why? How can you prevent becoming entangled in that area?

TIMELESS TRUTH

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. (Psalm 127:1 NKJV)

VOICE OF THE AGES

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage; but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself. —C.S. Lewis

SEIZE THE DAY

God wants you to know what He's called you to do! There are three specific things that we can do to find out our calling:

1. Seek God diligently and ask Him what He's called you to do.
2. Get planted in a local church and faithfully serve there.
3. Remove any entanglements that will keep you from fulfilling your calling.

LESSON SIX

MULTIPLICATION AND PERSONAL INFLUENCE

Those who serve faithfully in the kingdom will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We will be rewarded for our work individually, as each of us have been given different callings and responsibilities with the purpose of impacting lives for eternity. And God does not reward as man does. He rewards according to righteous works of obedience. He'll reward us according to what we've been called and empowered to accomplish.

In this lesson, we learned:

- Each of us have gifts that enable us to function in our calling.
- Each of us are responsible to faithfully steward our gifts.
- To be faithful means we multiply what has been entrusted to us.
- Giving, serving, and prayer enable us to multiply effectively.
- Personal influence is a result of intimacy with God and intentional personal growth.
- How we view others determines our behavior toward them.
- Those who win souls are wise.

REFLECT

1. Are there aspects of your life that seem unimportant or unimpressive to you? Think about these things from heaven's perspective. Why might your faithfulness in those seemingly insignificant areas be significant to God?

2. Is your life rich with multiplication? How can you better steward your time, prayer, talents, and resources?
3. How can you, right now, be intentional to build a life of eternal influence? How can you better influence individual lives?

TIMELESS TRUTH

The one who plants and the one who waters work as a team with the same purpose. Yet they will be rewarded individually, according to their own hard work. (1 Corinthians 3:8 NLT)

VOICE OF THE AGES

A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble. –Charles Spurgeon

SEIZE THE DAY

The best way to influence others for eternity is to value them as God values them. Ask the Lord to fill you with His love for the people in your world of influence, to fill you with true honor for each individual you meet in everyday life. Every day, look for opportunities to show the love of God to one person you come in contact with.

DRIVEN BY ETERNITY: COURSE GUIDE

Copyright 2019 by John Bevere

Published by: Messenger International, Inc., P.O. Box 888, Palmer Lake, CO 80133-0888

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without prior permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Written by John Bevere

Edited by Chris Pace