

Dave Burchett

STAY

*lessons my dogs taught me
about life, loss, and grace*

















































In Memory



JUST A FEW WEEKS after the editing and revisions were completed on this book, Hannah's best friend, Sadie, finished her journey. She was a sweet and gentle spirit who graced our family with nearly fourteen years of loving faithfulness. Hannah would want her best friend to be remembered. You were loved as much as you loved Scott, Caroline, and "your" precious babies, Bennett and Clara. Good-bye, Miss Sadie.

Notes

BE PRESENT

1. Deborah M. Custance and Jennifer Mayer, "Empathic-Like Responding by Domestic Dogs (*Canis Familiaris*) to Distress in Humans: An Exploratory Study," *Animal Cognition* 15 (May 2012): 851–859.
2. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life*, rev. ed. (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2004), 38.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT

1. C. S. Lewis, *Christian Reflections* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1967), 113.

GOOD FRIENDS

1. Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird* (New York: Anchor Books, 1995), 22.
2. Howard Hendricks, "Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy," in *Men of Integrity: A Daily Guide to the Bible and Prayer*, ed. Harry Genet, Ashley Nearn, and Linda Gehrs (Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1999), 16.
3. Joshua Wolf Shenk, "What Makes Us Happy?" *The Atlantic*, June 1, 2009, http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2009/06/what-makes-us-happy/307439/2/?single_page=true.

RUN TO THE MASTER

1. Quoted in Nick Lannon, "Things Fall Apart . . . for RGIII," *Liberate* (blog), August 26, 2013, <http://liberate.org/2013/08/26/things-fall-apart-for-rgiii/>.
2. Timothy Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* (New York: Dutton, 2013), 234.

SHAKE OFF THE LIES

1. Enjoy this article on the very same topic: Alexis C. Madrigal, "Science: Dogs Can Shake 70% of the Water from Their Fur in 4 Seconds, Here's How," *The Atlantic*, August 15, 2012, <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2012/08/science-dogs-can-shake-70-of-the-water-from-their-fur-in-4-seconds-heres-how/261191>.
2. Timothy Keller, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work* (New York: Dutton, 2012), 137.

LIVE OUT OF WHO YOU ARE

1. Watch Andrew Peterson, Ben Shive, and Andy Gullahorn perform this song at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0SBamE107Y>.
2. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith* (New York: HarperCollins, 1997), April 23.
3. Truefaced is an invaluable resource for helping people experience this reformation of God's grace by restoring the lost blueprint of trusting and loving. The "Two Roads, Two Rooms" message challenged and completely changed my thinking about grace. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rfy03PEVUhQ>.
4. John Lynch, Bruce McNicol, and Bill Thrall, *The Cure* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2011), 29.
5. C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves* (San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1960), 96–97.

GRATITUDE STARTS WITH ATTITUDE

1. George Herbert, *Poems* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004), 148.
2. Ed Underwood, *When God Breaks Your Heart: Choosing Hope in the Midst of Faith-Shattering Circumstances* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2008), 58.
3. C. S. Lewis, *The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis: Books, Broadcasts, and the War 1939–1949*, ed. Walter Hooper (New York: Harper Collins, 2004), 869.
4. Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing about Grace?* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997), 112.

BURY THE BONES OF BITTERNESS

1. Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and John Lynch, *TrueFaced Experience Edition* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2004).
2. Marilyn Elias, "Psychologists Now Know What Makes People Happy," *USA Today*, December 8, 2002, http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/health/2002-12-08-happy-main_x.htm.
3. Quoted in Tullian Tchividjian, *One Way Love* (Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Publishing, 2013), 72.

WELCOME WAGGIN'

1. Quoted in *Humour for All Ages*, ed. Mel Bergstresser (Bloomington, IN: Xlibris LLC, 2013), 83.
2. Dave Barry, "Earning a Collie Degree," *Miami Herald*, September 8, 1985, <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/07/31/2279225/earning-a-collie-degree.html>.
3. Karen Allen, Jim Blascovich, and Wendy B. Mendes, "Cardiovascular Reactivity and the Presence of Pets, Friends, and Spouses: The Truth About Cats and Dogs," *Psychosomatic Medicine* 64, no. 5 (September/October 2002): 727–739.

ONLY THE GOOD DIE YOUNG?

1. Sir Walter Scott, *The Complete Works of Sir Walter Scott with a Biography and His Last Additions and Illustrations in Seven Volumes—Vol. VII* (New York: Conner & Cooke, 1833), 371.
2. Dan Patrick, *SportsCenter*, IMDb.com, <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0136668/quotes>.
3. See John 14:1-3.
4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, quoted by Eric Metaxas in *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2010), 531.
5. Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle: Discovering the Secret of Joyful Giving* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2001), 42.
6. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2009), 136–137.
7. See this happy reunion at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SABCyA2rbxM>.

GOOD-BYE

1. Billy Graham, “Will There Be Animals in Heaven?” ArcaMax, January 30, 2013, <http://www.arcamax.com/religionandspirituality/billygraham/s-1260302>.
2. George Graham Vest, “Tribute to the Dog,” *The History Place*, <http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/vest.htm>. The recording of “Tribute to a Dog” by Walter Brennan is found on the album *Old Shep* © 2000 Universal Special Products.

THE IMPACT OF OUR STORY

1. See Romans 5:6-8.
2. See Luke 15:11-24.
3. See Luke 15:25-32.
4. See Matthew 20:1-16.
5. See Romans 8:14-16.
6. See Romans 5:10-11.
7. See Ephesians 2:13.
8. See Colossians 3:10.
9. David Kinnaman, *UnChristian* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007), 28, 182.
10. See Romans 8:1-2.
11. Russell D. Moore, “A Purpose-Driven Cosmos: Why Jesus Doesn’t Promise Us an ‘Afterlife,’” *Christianity Today*, February 27, 2012, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/february/jesus-afterlife.html?paging=off>.
12. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit* (New York: Crossroad Publishing, 2006), 71.

SIT! STAY!

1. Dane Ortlund, *Defiant Grace: The Surprising Message and Mission of Jesus* (Faverdale North, Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 2011).

GENTLY LEADING

1. James Botts, “Rest for the Stressed” (sermon, The Crossing Community Church, Crystal Lake, IL, August 11, 2002), <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/rest-for-the-stressed-james-botts-sermon-on-fulfillment-49844.asp>.
2. Tullian Tchividjian, Twitter post, February 9, 2013, 4:08 p.m., <https://twitter.com/PastorTullian/status/300380784072720385>.
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LIFE INTERRUPTED

1. I heard this on a podcast while I was walking, from Tullian Tchividjian’s book *Surprised by Grace: God’s Relentless Pursuit of Rebels* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2010), 57–58.
2. Paul Tautges, “The Difference between Punishment and Discipline,” *Counseling One Another* (blog), October 14, 2013, <http://counselingoneanother.com/2013/10/14/the-difference-between-punishment-and-discipline/>.
3. This heading is in the New Living Translation, Second Edition, published in 2004. In the *NLT Study Bible*, the heading was changed to “Endure by Keeping Your Eyes on Jesus” for Hebrews 12:1–4, followed by the heading “Endure God’s Loving Discipline” for Hebrews 12:5–13.
4. Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace: God’s Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006), 93.

O MAGGIE, WHERE ART THOU?

1. Tim Keller Wisdom, Twitter post, September 5, 2013, 2:08 p.m., <https://twitter.com/DailyKeller/status/375727076587741184>.
2. *The Onion*, “Report: Today [*sic*] the Day They Find Out You’re a Fraud,” January 31, 2014, <http://www.theonion.com/articles/report-today-the-day-they-find-out-youre-a-fraud,35133/>.

LEARNING TO LIVE

1. Cesar Millan, “What Your Pet Can Teach You,” *Parade*, January 11, 2009, <http://parade.condenast.com/39524/parade/what-your-pet-can-teach-you/>.
2. *Ibid.*