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Alive In Him: How Being Embraced By The Love Of Christ Changes Everything



Synopsis

Discover the Immeasurable Love of Christ God—His grand plan for the redemption of his creation has been in motion since before time began. The book of Ephesians lays out this glorious vision, revealing what Christ's redemptive work means for the people of God and showing us how we should live in light of that reality. *Alive in Him* draws us into the main themes in the book of Ephesians, showing us how the blessings we have received in Christ empower our obedience and love for God. Designed to be read alongside an open Bible, *Alive in Him* helps us apply Paul's letter to our daily lives, reminding us of our purpose on earth and directing our gaze to the love of Jesus Christ—a love that has the power to transform how we live.

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Customer Reviews

"Paul's definitive declaration on church life is found in the book of Ephesians—life through, from, in, with, for, and under the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of sinners, the Redeemer, risen, reigning, and returning, now and henceforth forever, by the Father's appointment, Lord of all. The whole of this comes into focus in Gloria Furman's applicatory overview of Ephesians, which I enthusiastically commend as vitamin-packed nourishment for Christians everywhere." —J. I. Packer, Board of Governors' Professor of Theology, Regent College "Some expositions are careful, line-by-line, evenhanded explanations of the biblical text. This exposition is exuberant, irrepressible, and intoxicating. Its strength is that its author, Gloria Furman, has tasted for herself the bliss of

being loved by God, and she wants her readers to drink deeply from the same fountain.

• D. A. Carson, research professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; cofounder, The Gospel Coalition

“Ephesians 4 tells us, ‘He gave some as teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.’ I am deeply grateful that God gave Gloria Furman to the church. Because geography separates us, I can count on one hand the number of times I have gotten to sit under her teaching in person. Each time I was mesmerized, thoughts whirling, unable to write fast enough. Each time I was challenged, edified, and humbled. This book yielded the same result. Alive in Him is a precious chance to sit at Gloria’s feet and hear Ephesians expounded with grace and clarity. Get your pen ready.”

• Jen Wilkin, author, *Women of the Word* and *None Like Him*; bible teacher

“Alive in Him brings together the rich reality of both the transcendence and immanence of life in Christ. The truths found within its pages remind us that relationship must always precede response. But when that relationship is rooted in the riches of his grace, that treasure transforms every other relationship.”

• Karen Hodge, Coordinator for Women’s Ministry, Presbyterian Church in America; coauthor, *Transformed: Life-Taker to Life-Giver*

“This is a wonderfully heartwarming overview of Ephesians that will encourage and inspire even the most weary of saints. Gloria has worked hard to show how Paul’s letter fits into the bigger picture of God’s revelation and writes in a way that makes these foundational truths both accessible and digestible. Each chapter helps us to join the dots of God’s great plan of salvation that is bringing all things together under the lordship of Christ. With well-worked illustrations and realistic applications, this book challenged me again and again to delight in the love of God and its transforming power so that I might become more like Christ and bring him greater glory.”

• Carrie Sandom, Director of Women’s Ministry, Proclamation Trust; Associate Minister for Women, St. John’s, Tunbridge Wells; author, *Different by Design: God’s Blueprint for Men and Women*

“Reading *Alive in Him* was like sitting down to a beautiful, soul-nourishing meal, hosted by a good friend. Gloria packs each chapter full of rich truths from Ephesians, and you can’t help but be swept up into her enthusiasm for God’s Word and the gospel story. Gloria is especially skilled at lifting our eyes up from out of the weeds to see the bigger picture: the glorious reality of being alive in Christ and what that means to our every day. Accessible, faithful, full of contagious exuberance and joy, and rich with nourishment for your soul, I highly recommend this book.”

• Caroline Cobb, singer-songwriter

“*Alive in Him* is engaging, refreshing, and marvelously surefooted. A

delightful read! — Gary Millar, principal, Queensland Theological College; author, *Calling on the Name of the Lord* — “In the best possible way, *Alive in Him* is an unusual book. It is not a commentary, atomizing and analyzing each word and verse. It is not asking the reader to pick a side in a contentious current debate. It is not a greeting card-type devotional that reduces the biblical text to pious platitudes. Rather, it is an in-depth reflection on Ephesians that, in style and content, captures Paul’s bounding enthusiasm in that letter for the majesty of Christ and his gospel and asks us to respond in wonder and praise to God. — Claire Smith, Bible teacher; author, *God’s Good Design: What the Bible Really Says about Men and Women*

Gloria Furman (MACE, Dallas Theological Seminary) is a wife, mother of four, cross-cultural worker, and writer. In 2008 her family moved to the Middle East to plant Redeemer Church of Dubai where her husband, Dave, serves as the pastor. J. I. Packer (DPhil, Oxford University) serves as the Board of Governors’ Professor of Theology at Regent College. He is the author of numerous books, including the classic best-seller *Knowing God*. Packer served as general editor for the English Standard Version Bible and as theological editor for the ESV Study Bible.

How Jesus changes everything - from our souls, our beliefs, our doctrine, our behavior, our lives. These insights on Ephesians from Gloria Furman have definitely been refreshing to read — at times very convicting. She takes readers on a journey through all the chapters of Ephesians beginning where Paul begins — with doctrine and theology. The sound doctrine and pure truth of Christianity — that the salvation of our souls and the forgiveness of our sin is found only in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. While all of her book is so good and she covers a ton of content, my favorite part was her admonition and discussion of Christian unity. That the mystery that Paul explains is what God has revealed to us — that very different and even opposing people groups (like the Jews and the Gentiles) can be brought together as one through the sacrifice and life of One for the purpose of building God’s church on earth. While fellowship with the body of Christ is challenging and never easy, Jesus gives us all we need to first submit to Him and to submit to others in love as we walk worthy of the gospel. Because the gospel is here to change us, to tear down wrong beliefs and walls that prevent love from blossoming. Even our gifts from God are to share with the body, to use to build up and edify believers. The love of Christ compels us to love others, to study His word, to speak the truth in love, to fight against false doctrine and to pray for the good of our brothers and sisters. To worship Him because — “we will become what we

worship. And it is all for the purpose of bringing everything and everyone under the rule and reign of Jesus Christ. As we live for Him and wait for Him, we serve with our fellow believers covered with the armor of God to fight against Satan's schemes and show others with our word and deeds the beauty of God's kingdom.

Inspiring. Will touch your heart and stir your faith in Christ!

Just finished going through this book in a ladies bible study and feel very equipped and challenged by the book of Ephesians! It is a very dense book but highly applicable with truths straight from the text. I am grateful that her writing kept me digging into God's Word!

Phenomenal. A great in depth yet easy to read walk through Ephesians.

It makes you feel alive!!

Taking the book of Ephesians in her book, "Alive in Him: How Being Embraced by the Love of Christ Changes Everything", Gloria lays the foundation of Christian doctrine (Ephesians 1-3) and continues with right living (Ephesians 4-6). She quotes, "In light of what we know about God and His plan, walking in this way is fitting worship." Alive in Him captivated me from the very beginning to the very end. When I came to the last paragraph, I was craving for more. More of God. More of His Word. More growth. I have read Ephesians various times, sat through an excellent module in Bible school, and read through John Phillips commentary, yet Gloria brought to my attention how being embraced by the love of Christ changes everything. She says, "Love compels us to study the Word of God deeply and handle it rightly so we don't sacrifice its true meaning on the altar of our culture or personal preferences." While reading Alive in Him, I have grown deeper in my knowledge and understanding of Who God is, what unity truly means as a body of believers, and how "spirit-filled living and wise walking" "bring Him maximum glory". Gloria has an amazing way of writing that encouraged me to grow and dig deeper into God's Word. I have 6 full pages of notes and quotes from Alive in Him, and even though I rarely read a book twice, this is one book that I already cannot wait to read again as I once again study out one of my favorite books of the Bible, Ephesians. I received a complimentary review copy by the publisher, and I was not required to do a review on the book, Alive in Him. This review is my honest opinion.

Furman writes that *Alive in Him* is more like a travel guide, "something you read to whet your appetite for the real thing." It accomplishes that as well as laying out the themes in Ephesians. Paul's letter contains long sentences and antiquated terms. Due to these challenges, people often skip studying the first few chapters and jump right to chapters 4 and 5 with the easier to digest descriptions of marriage and the armor of God. Furman makes a case that the whole book is important and breaks down the text by subject instead of by chapter. She writes that while the earlier chapters speak about the spiritual weapons we have in Christ, chapter six is the "challenge to action," therefore explaining why it concludes Paul's letter. As in her previous books, *Missional Motherhood* and *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands are Full*, Furman writes with authority and relatability. She uses every day examples to explain some of the concepts in Ephesians. For instance, comparing spiritual cleanliness to a clean house or presenting a mental image of zombies when we read, "You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked." She is even able to simplify the hard concepts in Ephesians, like submission. She writes that a wife's submission is voluntary and that it is "no servile condescension of her personhood, but it is worship as unto the Lord Jesus." Of course, you are not asked to accept her interpretations of the text without question, but to read it alongside your Bible. That was my approach to the book and it turned out to be an enriching experience. If you are looking to dive deeper into the book of Ephesians, this is a great resource for personal or group study. I was given an advanced copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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