

Living on the Edge of Eternity (Journey Forth, Greenville, SC, 2007) 112 pages.

If you knew that today was the last day of your life, what would you do? How would you live? This question is really the underlying thesis of this book. Missionary church planter and pastor Matthew Recker deals with this subject in a series of messages from 2 Kings 2:1-15. This passage of Scripture records Elijah's last day on earth, his travels, his interactions with the sons of the prophets and Elisha, and his glorious ascension to heaven in a chariot of fire. On the cover of the book is a subtitle which affirms: "Every Christian can live as Elijah did."

The Introduction paints a picture of the historical setting of the day in which these momentous events occurred. At the end of this section, Recker states: "...it is my prayer that his (Elijah's) testimony will help you make every day count for God, living each day on the edge of eternity. Elijah's heart beat with this passion, and so should ours. You will discover that you have more in common with Elijah than you would ever think" (xv).

The ten chapters of the book explore "Realizing Life's Brevity," "Experiencing God's Presence," "Remembering God's Power," "Warring Relentlessly," "Following God's Direction," "Discipling the Next Generation," "Training Leaders," "Living with Assurance," "Seeing Ultimate Reality," and "Dropping the Mantle." These are lessons about practical Christian living and ministry. The lessons are drawn from the text, elaborated on from the corpus of Scripture, and illustrated, often from Dr. Recker's own ministry experience in New York City.

Pastor Recker has done serious study, and these messages contain expository content, devotional warmth, and practical application.

This book will profit every believer who reads it. Teenagers will be challenged to live for eternity. Missionary wives will find practical and devotional encouragement. Missionary men will find all that and a challenge to train men for the ministry. Everyone will be challenged to follow Elijah's example of faithfulness, persistence, and obedience to God on that fateful day. Everyone who reads it will catch a renewed passion for the power of God.

Most of my book reviews deal with theological or issues-related subjects. This book is different. It is aimed straight at the heart, and it hits the mark. It is worth reading.

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