



Eternal Perspectives at Easter

A 7-Day Devotional on 7 Attributes of God's Kingdom

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ETERNAL PERSPECTIVES AT EASTER

A 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL ON 7 ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S
KINGDOM

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INTRODUCTION

Many themes and images vie for your attention during the Easter season. This e-book is to help you or your family intentionally focus on the things of God. The readings and activities guide you each day of Holy Week to focus on one aspect of God's Kingdom:

GREATNESS

GOODNESS

GRACE

GRATITUDE

GROWING

GOING

GLORY

All Scripture verses come from the book of Romans.^{[1](#)} Read and discuss the verses and thoughts for the day; then apply the training exercises individually or with others. The exercises are also kid-friendly, for families wishing to participate together.

We hope this booklet serves as a guide for you to practice God's presence at the beginning of each day, or serves as a way to end each day reflecting on the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord. May God bless your week.

Michael Stewart

Omnibus Media Ministries

1 All Scripture references come from the *New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update*, LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

Chapter 1

GREATNESS

FOCUS

God is transcendent (unique, unmatched, superior, not limited by our categories). He is omnipresent (not restricted to any location) and omniscient (knowing all things).

READ

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

—Romans 1:20–21

DISCUSS

To not recognize the GREATNESS of God is foolish. Sure, there are mysterious and invisible attributes of God, but Scripture also teaches that there are some things about God that can be clearly seen. Although it can be hard to grasp concepts like transcendence, omnipresence, or omniscience, those things which are clear to us—the things that we know through our senses—give us hints of who God is. Whether in the intricate details of the smallest flower or the vast space of the

stars above, creation calls to us to consider the GREATNESS of the One whose mind devised wonderful things.

TRAIN

Cultivate awareness of God's GREATNESS by observing your surroundings while taking a walk in nature. Find a place to walk today—the more secluded the better. Don't rush (this isn't exercise).

Take time to stop and notice the small things along the way: sights, shapes, sounds, smells. If you are walking with others, pause to talk about what you see and how you feel as you observe God's creation.

Chapter 2

GOODNESS

FOCUS

God is the supreme object of desire and the ultimate source of all good things.

READ

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. . . .

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. . . .

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 5:5; 8:28, 35–39

DISCUSS

God is great, God is good. . . . From an early age we learn that everyday occurrences such as eating a meal are examples of God’s love and GOODNESS.

Although love and GOODNESS are familiar concepts, we might struggle to adequately describe what they are. Something is good because it is desired for its own sake or produces that which is good, and God is both our ultimate object of desire and the source of all good.

Love is related to GOODNESS since love is willing the good of another. God's love is supreme in that He wants us to be united to Himself, the Ultimate Good. His GOODNESS is not restricted, but rather He pours out His Spirit within our hearts. Not only has He united us to Himself, but He promises us that nothing can separate us from Him now or for eternity. Even more, everything we encounter in life, God promises to use for good.

TRAIN

When you have eternal perspective, you begin to see every person you meet through the lens of God's GOODNESS. For each person you meet, assume God is working in that person for good. Ask yourself, "Is there some way I can share the love or presence of Christ with this person?"

Chapter 3

GRACE

FOCUS

God gives mercy. Because Christ graciously sacrificed Himself in our place, we avoid the penalty we should have to pay. Beyond this, God gives us unmerited favor. We receive good that we don't deserve—this is the GRACE of God.

READ

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

—Romans 5:6–8

DISCUSS

Think of someone who has offended or wronged you. How has that damaged the relationship? However severe you perceive that damage to be, it doesn't compare to the gap between our sin and God's holiness.

Imagine that to mend the relationship with someone who wronged you, that you take the guilt—all the punishment, blame, and consequences—while the other party is freed from that responsibility. Now imagine that not only is that person

free from penalty, but he or she is also then given the sort of benefits only deserving of someone truly innocent. Despite all faults and shortcomings, this person now enjoys the benefits of someone truly good. This is a picture of what God has done for us.

It would be hard for us to make this sort of sacrifice even for someone we love or who we believe is deserving of good things in life. How much harder would it be to do for those we dislike or whom we view as deserving of harsh consequences! Yet Christ, the Holy One, died for you, the helpless sinner. This is GRACE.

TRAIN

All of us have difficult people in our lives—a coworker, boss, bully, neighbor, or even one of our family members. God puts these people in our lives for a purpose. Ask God for the GRACE to see every person as a gift from God. Identify a difficult person in your life and pray for that person. Ask for God's GRACE in your life so that you won't be that difficult person to someone else!

Chapter 4

GRATITUDE

FOCUS

You can grow in GRATITUDE, making it a habit of your heart. Cultivate a thankful awareness of God's GRACE toward yourself and others, knowing that we fully deserve His wrath (punishment, penalty, negative consequences).

READ

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

—Romans 5:9–11

DISCUSS

Think back to Romans 1:20–21 and the many people in the world who are aware of God but do not honor Him or give Him thanks. This should never be the case for the believer. Just as every aspect of our lives is marked by GRACE, so should every aspect be marked by GRATITUDE.

Scripture calls for us to give thanks to God in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

As you have already read this week, we truly have a reason for GRATITUDE: for those things which we might not be immediately grateful, God will use even those things for His (and your) good (Romans 8:28).

You were once God's enemy, but you have been reconciled through faith in Christ. Be grateful.

TRAIN

Cultivate a sense of GRATITUDE for the GOODNESS of life and the tender mercies of God that we tend to overlook, by doing the following:

1. List five **things** for which you are grateful.
2. List three **people** for whom you are grateful.
3. List two **events** in your life for which you are grateful.
4. Thank God today for the 10 things you listed.

Extra: Write a card to one person you are grateful for, telling him or her how much you appreciate the impact in your life. Parents, write a letter to your child(ren), sharing the things about your child(ren) for which you are grateful. Give the letter this year on a birthday or a special occasion.

Chapter 5

GROWING

FOCUS

God empowers us through His Spirit to become in practice who He's made us in position. We are new creations made alive through Jesus.

READ

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. . . .

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

—Romans 6:4–7; 12:1–2

DISCUSS

Those desiring baptism seek to publicly identify as a disciple of Christ in an outward display of inward GRACE. This moment under the water is a reminder of the reality of death—but also of the temporary nature of death for the believer. The end of our physical life is a momentary stop, soon to be overcome by our resurrection to new life.

Our new life in Christ is not characterized by death, neither in the future nor even in the present. Our chief identity is now Christ's life, and we are empowered to grow in conformity to His image. Because of this we are acceptable to God and now can both know and do His will. Do not stunt your growth.

TRAIN

As followers of Jesus, it is the Word and not the world that must shape our understanding of who we are. Write down 10 things God's Word says about who you are in Christ (your identity). Let this list encourage you to grow in the power, love, GRACE, and knowledge of the One who brings about and sustains your life, your new life, and the life to come.

Chapter 6

GOING

FOCUS

As we are GROWING in GRATITUDE and in the GREATNESS, GOODNESS, and GRACE of God, we are to be GOING. Live out the words of Christ's command to share with others what God has done for us, in us, and through us. Be about the business of making more disciples—others who will follow and apply the teachings of Jesus.

READ

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!" However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

—Romans 10:11–17

DISCUSS

Disciples desire to be like their master. The “G’s” up to this point demonstrate another “G”—the **GENEROSITY** of God. As disciples, we, too, should be generous and share with others our life in God.

God’s promise that those who believe in Christ will not be disappointed is not restricted to any particular people group. The Lord of all, desires all to share in His riches. Those who believe through hearing His Word have the responsibility and opportunity to share this faith so that others may have a relationship with the God who wants to share His **GOODNESS**. Get **GOING**.

TRAIN

We enjoy tangible expressions of love and affection such as a note, a book, some flowers, or other thoughtful gifts. Make or give something special to a family member or friend. Do one act of kindness for a stranger or a neighbor without letting that person know it comes from you.

Extra. Write a card to encourage a missionary’s efforts to make disciples throughout the world.

Chapter 7

GLORY

FOCUS

We are destined for GLORY—the culmination of our GROWING and GOING, the final realization of our hope.

READ

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the GLORY of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

—Romans 8:18–23

DISCUSS

Our hope is about more than just receiving something. Our hope is about meeting Someone. Part of that hope is that we will not only see Christ, but that we will also become like Him. When that happens, we will reflect His GLORY and fulfill what we were created for. We will finally reflect the image of God.

The 7 G's end in GLORY, and so do the lives of all believers. Your story didn't begin that way (Romans 3:23), but because of God's GREATNESS, GOODNESS, and GRACE, He has delivered us and given us the opportunity to grow in faith and share in His GLORY. Just as the book of Romans ends with a message of the eternal GLORY of God, so, too, do our lives end with the eternal GLORY of God. This is the great hope of Easter: our final GLORY, our resurrection body, in which we both reflect and experience the GLORY of God.

TRAIN

This exercise involves a four-part sequence to help you engage personally with a short text of Scripture.

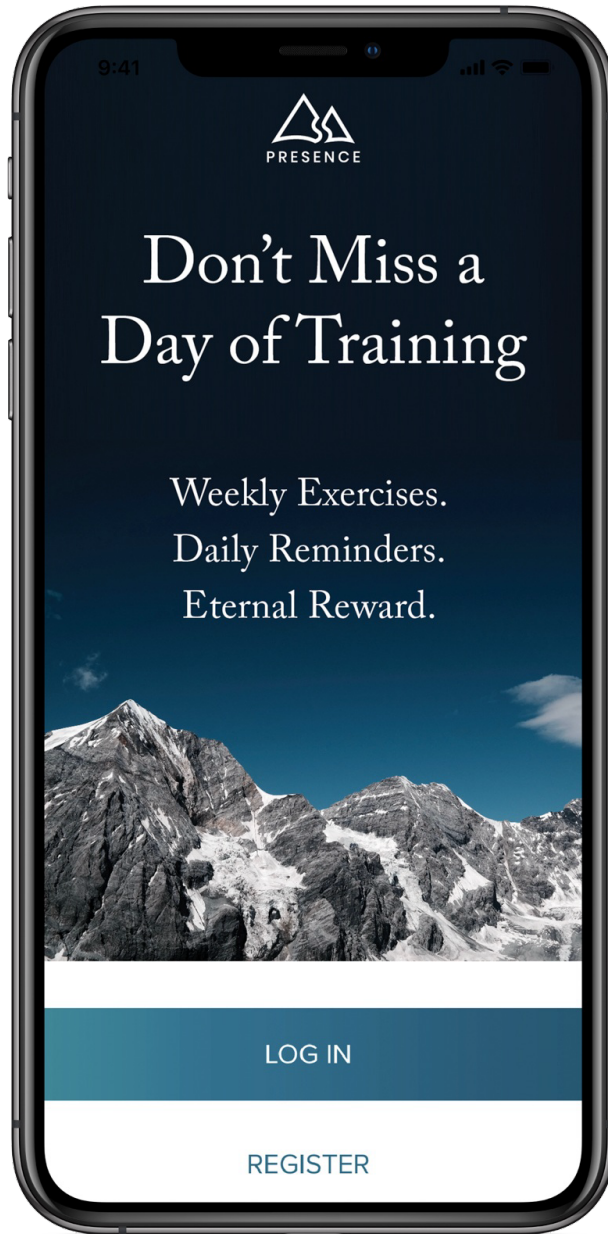
1. *Read.* Slowly read John 1:1–4 three times.
2. *Reflect.* Pick a phrase/theme/word in the passage to chew on.
3. *Respond.* Offer the internalized passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer.
4. *Rest.* What word or image encapsulates the spirit of the passage for you? Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence and yieldedness.

Chapter 8

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

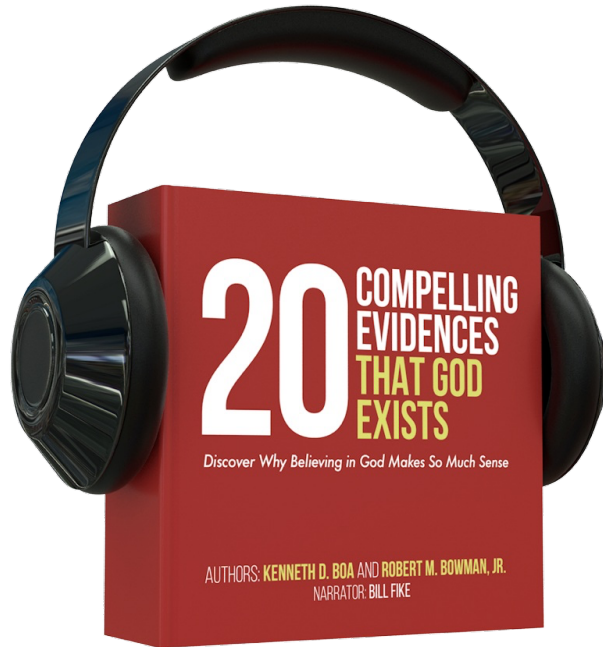
APP-BASED TRAINING EXERCISES

If you enjoyed the training exercises in this e-book, you may enjoy our app, *Presence: Walk with God*, in which you receive 104 exercises across 8 different categories. Each week you choose which exercises to keep for your own personal tool chest. For more information and access to a two-week trial, [download on the App Store](#), or visit presence.app.



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CARD SET

The 7 concepts presented here are summarized in a Spiritual Renewal Card Set. In that set, you'll find not only the "Kingdom of God in 7 G's," but 11 other cards such as "Morning Affirmations" or "Four Transforming Words," which you can integrate into your daily routine and take with you wherever you go. You can purchase the cards [here](#).



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

MICHAEL STEWART is the co-founder and vice president of [Omnibus Media Ministries](#). He holds a BA in philosophy from Mississippi State University and an MA in biblical studies from Southern Evangelical Seminary. He began collaborating with KEN BOA on media projects after the two met at In Question—an apologetics forum hosted by Michael in Charlotte, NC. Through speaking, writing, and other creative projects, Michael seeks to aid others in an increased awareness of the goodness and greatness of God, the richness of life, and the beauty and power of the Scriptures.



Authors Kenneth Boa (left) and Michael Stewart (right)

KENNETH BOA is engaged in a ministry of relational evangelism and discipleship, teaching, writing, and speaking. He holds a BS from Case Institute of Technology, a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary, a PhD from New York University, and a DPhil from the University of Oxford. He's the president of [Reflections Ministries](#) and Trinity House Publishers. He's authored 60+ books and has received 3 Gold Medallion Book Awards from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.