

Seeing the Unseen by Randy Alcorn, Eternal Perspective Ministries, (Sandy, OR), 2013. (54 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols.)

1. Enjoying God.

There are but two lessons for Christians to learn: the one is, to enjoy God in everything; the other is, to enjoy everything in God. -- Charles Simeon [page 4]

2. Humility in Knowing God.

They that know God will be humble; they that know themselves cannot be proud. -- John Flavelle [page 6]

3. Happiness Is Found in God.

If you hope for happiness in the world, hope for it from God, and not from the world. -- David Brainerd [page 8]

4. God Took Our Place in Salvation.

The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. -- John Stott [page 9]

5. Fear of People or the Lord.

We are more concerned about looking stupid (fear of people) than we are about acting sinfully (fear of the Lord). -- Edward T. Welch [page 12]

6. God's Sovereignty in Our Lives.

The sovereignty of God is the one impregnable rock to which the suffering human heart must cling. The circumstances surrounding our lives are no accident: they may be the work of evil, but that evil is held firmly within the mighty hand of our sovereign God. -- Margaret Clarkson [page 14]

7. Man's Sovereignty.

Most Christians salute the sovereignty of God but believe in the sovereignty of man. -- R. C. Sproul [page 14]

8. God's Generosity.

I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back -- but God has a bigger shovel. -- R. G. LeTourneau [page 16]

9. God Loves Us.

God does something to us as well and for us through the cross. He persuades us that he loves us. -- Sinclair Ferguson [page 24]

10. Going to Heaven.

When Christ calls me Home I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school. -- Adoniram Judson, *on his deathbed* [page 26]

11. The Forgiveness of One.

It takes two to reconcile, so it is not always possible to be reconciled. But it takes only one to forgive. So if people do you wrong, forgive them, whether or not they ask for forgiveness. You cannot cancel their sin. Only God can do that, and He will only do it if they repent. But what you can do is set aside your own anger, bitterness, and resentment towards them. -- Phillip Graham Ryken [page 28]

12. Our Tongue and Its Offense.

God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth, and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we offend not with our tongue. -- Thomas Watson [page 30]

13. The Universe Has a Creator.

As a house implies a builder there, and a garment a weaver, and a door a carpenter, so does the existence of the Universe imply a creator. -- Marquis de Vauvenargues [page 32]

14. The Creator.

The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator. -- Louis Pasteur [page 32]

15. It Takes Time to Know God.

We rise from the Bible ... with the knowledge of the character of God. There is a real analogy here to our relationship with an earthly friend. How do we come to know one another? Not all at once, but by years of observation of another's actions ... So it is, somewhat, with the knowledge of God that we obtain from the Bible ... by what we see we learned to know Him. -- J. Gresham Machen [page 36]

16. Serving Our God.

Let us pray to the Lord that we may do his will on Earth as it is done in Heaven, that is, joyfully, without the slightest weariness. When our hearts are right, it is a glad thing to serve God though it be only to unloose the laces of our Master's shoes. -- Charles Spurgeon [page 38]

17. The Believer's Life of Repentance.

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said 'Repent,' He intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance. -- Martin Luther. [page 40]

18. Repentance.

The first spiritual step on the Calvary road of radical obedience to Jesus is repentance. Repentance includes remorse for inward corruption and sin. Repentance is not only remorse. It is a change of mind and heart about sin and righteousness and about Christ. It is a turning from the broken cisterns of the world to the fountain of life. John Piper [page 40]

19. Christ's Redemptive Work Brings Us Optimism.

The only proper foundation for optimism is the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Any other foundation is sand, not rock. It will not bear the weight of our eternity.

If we build our lives on the solid foundation of Jesus' redemptive work, we should all be optimists. Even our most painful experiences in life are temporary setbacks. No Christian should be pessimistic. We should be realists -- focused on the reality that we serve a sovereign and gracious God. [page 43]

20. Our Hope.

What is our hope? Only this -- his relentless grace, boundless love, patient forgiveness and unending faithfulness. -- Paul Tripp [page 44]

21. No Fear in Death with Christ.

Live in Christ, die in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death. -- John Knox [page 46]

22. Our Amazement at God's Grace.

The ultimate test of our spirituality is the measure of our amazement at the grace of God. -- D. Martin Lloyd Jones [page 48]

23. Finding the Cross's Pardon.

The Spirit's work is not to make us holy, in order that we may be pardoned; but to show us the cross, where the pardon is to be found by the unholy; so that having found the pardon there, we may begin the life of holiness to which we are called. Horatius Bonar [page 52]

24. Making Me Holy.

Lord, make me holy as it is possible for a saved sinner to be. Robert Murray M'Cheyne [page 52]

25. Our Humor Controlled and Cultivated.

Our sense of humor is a gift from God which should be controlled as well as cultivated.
-- J. Oswald Sanders [page 54]

26. Inclining toward Righteousness.

When we read Scripture and good books, participate in godly discussion, or care for the needy, we are inclining ourselves towards righteousness. "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality ... (Matthew 5:19). [page 56]

27. Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love.

Cast your arms around the cross of Christ, and give up your heart to God, and then, come what may, I am persuaded that "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor death, nor any creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." -- Charles Spurgeon [page 60]

28. Sharing Gratitude.

Gratitude is not just for private consumption, but for public conversation. Nancy Leigh Demoss [page 62]

29. Live as Christ Lived.

Christ's followers cannot expect better treatment in the world than their Master had. Let them not promise themselves more honor or pleasure in the world than Christ had. Let each live a life of labor and self-denial as his Master, and make himself a servant of all; let him stoop, and let him toil, and do all the good he can, and then he will be a complete disciple. -- Matthew Henry [page 64]

30. Strong in the Lord's Service.

Where Jesus does not shine the soul is sick. Bask in His beams and you will be vigorous in the service of the Lord. -- Charles Spurgeon [page 64]

31. Believing in God.

The Christian is a person who makes it easy for others to believe in God. -- Robert Murray M'Cheyne [page 68]

32. The Souls of Others.

We know but little of true Christianity, if we do not feel a deep concern about the souls of unconverted people. -- J. C. Ryle [page 68]

33. Interested in the Judgement of God.

The beginning of true nobility comes when a man ceases to be interested in the judgment of men and becomes interested in the judgment of God. -- J. Gresham Machen [page 70]

34. Focusing in the Glory of God.

Since man was made for the glory of God, he can never be what he was intended to be until his life is properly focused on the glory of God ... So God's glory does not detract from man's life. Instead, His glory is the sun around which the whole life must result revolve if there is to be light and life of God in our experience. -- Sinclair Ferguson [page 72]

35. God's Word and Sin.

Either sin will keep you from the Word, or the Word will keep you from sin. -- John Bunyan [page 74]

36. A Believer's Good Works.

Truly, if faith is there, the believer cannot hold back ... he breaks out into good works. -
- Martin Luther [page 78]

37. Serving God on Earth or Heaven.

If we had a choice of a sphere in which we could serve God with the widest range, we should choose not Heaven but Earth. There are no slums and over-crowded rooms in Heaven to which we can go with help, but there are plenty of them here. -- Charles Spurgeon [page 78]

38. Demanding from God.

He who demands a reason from God is not in a fit state to receive it. -- Charles Spurgeon [page 88]

39. Losing Character.

When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost. -- Billy Graham [page 90]

40. Character.

Character may be manifested in the greatest moments, but it is made in the small ones. -- Phillips Brooks [page 90]

41. Inhabitants of Heaven.

I know that Christ is all in all; and that it is the presence of God that makes heaven to be heaven. But yet it is much sweetens the thoughts of that place to me that there are there such a multitude of my most dear and precious friends in Christ. -- Richard Baxter [page 94]

42. Caring for the Poor and Needy.

Caring for the poor is a sobering responsibility for which we will all be held accountable. Helping the poor and homeless is not a peripheral issue. God links our efforts for the poor directly to our relationship with Him. May He one day say of us what he said of King Josiah: He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 22:16). [page 95]

43. Giving to Others.

The less I spend on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become. -- Hudson Taylor [page 96]

44. Doing Good.

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can. -- John Wesley [page 96]

45. Our New Bodies, Hearts, and Minds.

No other religion, no other philosophy promises new bodies, hearts, and minds. Only in the gospel of Christ do hurting people find such incredible hope. Joni Erickson Tada [page 100]

46. A Christian’s Time Wasting.

Wasting time is unbecoming of a saint who is bought by the precious blood of Jesus. His time and all he has is to be used for the Lord. -- George Müller [page 104]

47. Spending Time with God.

It is impossible for a believer, no matter what his experience, to keep right with God if he will not take the trouble to spend time with God. Spend plenty of time with him; let other things go, but don't neglect him. -- J. Oswald Sanders [page 104]

48. Helping Each Other to BE Good.

The greatest kindness we can offer each other is the truth. Our job is not just to help each other feel good but to help each other be good. We often think their only options are to: 1) speak the truth hurtfully; or 2) remain silent in the name of grace. Both are

lies. Jesus came full of grace AND truth (John 1:14). We should not choose between them, but do both. [page 107]

49. Telling the Truth about Yourself.

A man who loves you the most is the man who tells you the most truth about yourself. Robert Murray M'Cheyne [page 108]

50. Standing Up for the Truth.

It is easier to find a score of men wise enough to discover the truth than to find one intrepid enough, in the face of opposition, to stand up for it. -- A. A. Hodge [page 112]

51. How Does One Use What He/She Owns?

The world asks, "What does a man own?" Christ asks, "How does he use it?" -- Andrew Murray [page 116]

52. We Are God's Stewards.

All that we have is a loan from God. We are God's stewards. We are God's debtors. Let this thought sink deeply into our hearts. -- J. C. Ryle [page 116]

53. Being Content in the Lord.

Sinclair Ferguson writes, "Christian contentment is the direct fruit of having no higher ambition than to belong to the Lord and to be totally at His disposal in the place He appoints, at the time he chooses, with the provision He is pleased to make. [page 117]

54. Contentment.

Contentment is one of the flowers of heaven, and, if we would have it, it must be cultivated. -- Charles Spurgeon [page 118]