

***Crazy Love* – Study Guide**

Chapter 9: Who Really Lives That Way?

Men and Women Saved by Grace and Who Live by Grace

Chapter 9 contains stories of men and women who lived extraordinary lives. Some of these individuals were uniquely gifted, while others were quite ordinary, but the one common thread with all of them was the gift of God's grace. When the souls of these men and women encountered God's saving grace they began to live life anew. No longer were they held captive to their sinful desires and trivial pursuits, but they experienced the freedom to live and do as God had created them. They were able to see others in need and were now willing to do something about it. They hold their money and see its potential uses for God's kingdom. They heard the commands of God and had a desire to obey. And they saw a glimpse of heaven and showed others the way.

My hope is that while reading these stories that you will *not* think that they were special people who were different than you, but you will see that in many ways they were very similar to you. They were sinners who needed a Savior and through the grace of God their souls were saved. The results were men and women who lived with focus to obey the One who saved them and were willing to step out in faith to do great things through God's grace each day. The same God they worshiped and trusted in is the same God who will work through you.

Last Chapter's Key Thought: Examine my obsession with Christ.

Key Thought for This Chapter: Examine my obedience to Christ.

For Your Mind

1. Write down the main point of the chapter.
 - a.
2. In your opinion, what were the most "amazing" testimony and the most "surprising" testimony from chapter 9? Why?

3. In 2 Corinthians the apostle Paul makes a defense against false apostles in the church who are denying Paul's genuine apostleship. Paul defends his life and ministry for Christ because what is at stake are souls that can be deceived to believe the false doctrine from these false apostles. In chapter 11 Paul moves to a poignant description of his life of suffering for the sake of the gospel. Verses 16 through 21 are a stinging condemnation on the Corinthian church through the use of sarcasm.

Verses 22 through 33 describe Paul's "boasting" obedience to Christ, even at the cost of suffering and risk of death.

- a. Read through verses 22-33 and write one to three things from his list that may fit under the type of suffering Paul faced to obey God's call for him to preach the Good News to the Gentiles.
 - i. Physical suffering:
 - ii. Relational suffering:
 - iii. Mental suffering:
- b. Read verse 30. Why does Paul want to boast in his weakness?
- c. Why did Paul write what he did in verse 31?
- d. What can a believer learn about Paul's obedience to Christ from his life?

For Your Heart

4. Pick one person from the different testimonies shared in chapter 9. Place yourself in that person's shoes and circumstance.
 - a. Make a list of all of the things that went through that person's mind, or things the this person may have read or heard from others on why he/she should not do what he/she felt God was calling them to do.
 - b. Make a list of what went through that person's mind, or things this person may have read or heard from others that confirmed what he/she was called to do.
5. Take a few moments and watch the chapter 9 web video at www.crazylovebook.com.
 - a. After watching the video, write down a few thoughts or feelings that arose from this man's sharing.
6. What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind? What do you want to be known for?

For Your Life

7. Obey God's command to encourage each other in the faith. Contact someone in your small group this week and encourage them in their faith.
8. Do something "risky" for God this week.
9. As a Christian, who are three people you look up to and why?

Challenge for the Week

We can learn much from godly men and women who have journeyed on the path of faith before us. I have included links and recommendations of different biographies to listen to or read. Take some time to listen and learn from one of these Christians on how they viewed and lived for God.

Audio Biographies Through Desiring God

- This is the ministry of John Piper. Each year Dr. Piper holds a pastor's conference and he focuses a message on an influential Christian from the past. The messages are geared towards pastors, but I believe you can still gain much from listening to their lives.
- This link will let you see the list of biographies:
<http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Biographies/>
- Here's a partial list:
 - o Jonathan Edwards
 - o John Bunyan – On suffering in life
 - o Adoniram Judson – Missionary to Burma
 - o George Mueller – A man who lived for others
 - o Charles Spurgeon – "The Prince of Preachers"
 - o John G. Paton – Missionary to New Hebrides
 - o George Whitefield – You'll have to look it up under the 2009 Pastor's Conference. An amazing man created by an amazing God!
 - o Martin Luther – The man who sparked the Reformation.
 - o John Newton – Author of "Amazing Love" and describes how his life was dramatically changed.
 - o David Brainerd – An American missionary to the Native Americans.
 - o William Cowper – A man who found peace with God amidst severe depression.
 - o John Owen – A man who let his theology influence his outlook on life.

[Audio Book \(visit ChristianAudio.com\)](http://www.ChristianAudio.com)

- "A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards" by George Marsden
 - o "Jonathan Edwards is one of the most extraordinary figures in American history. Arguably the most brilliant theologian ever born on American soil, Edwards (1703–1758) was also a pastor, a renowned preacher, a missionary to the Native Americans, a biographer, a college president, a philosopher, a loving husband, and the father of eleven children."
 - o This is an excellent book to read or listen to!

Books – (Thanks to Dave Lee for this List)

- George Marsden, *A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards*
- Courtney Anderson, *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*
- Sharon L. James, *My Heart in His Hands: Ann Judson of Burma* (Thanks to Lorraine Kajikawa for this recommendation.)
- Iain Murray, *The Forgotten Spurgeon*
- Augustine, *Confessions*
- Jonathan Edwards, *The Life of David Brainerd*
- Arnold Dallimore, *George Whitefield*, 2 vols.
- John Piper, *Amazing Grace in the Life of William Wilberforce* (free PDF download from Desiring God, found [here](#))
- John Piper, *Contending For Our All* (Athanasius, John Owen, J. Gresham Machen)
- John Piper, *The Hidden Smile of God* (John Bunyan, William Cowper, David Brainerd)
- John Piper, *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy* (Augustine, Luther, Calvin)
- John Piper, *The Roots of Endurance* (John Newton, Charles Simeon, William Wilberforce)
- Noel Piper, *Faithful Women and Their Extraordinary God* (Thanks to Jen Kira for this recommendation.)