

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 held their money and see its potential uses for God's kingdom rather than personal gain. 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 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 Chapters 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.

2. In your opinion, what were the most "amazing" testimony and the most "surprising" testimony from chapter 9? Why?

3. Read Psalm 40:8 and Psalm 73:25. Is David's prayer your prayer? How can you begin to pray like this?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 11:1. What does Paul encourage believers to do?

Why does Paul want others to follow his example? (look back at 10:31-33 also)

For Your Heart

5. Pick one person from the different testimonies shared in chapter 9 and place yourself in that person's shoes and circumstance. Make a list of all of the things you imagine went through that person's mind, or of things he/she might have read or heard from others on why he/she should not do what God was calling him/her to do?

Make a list of what you imagine went through that person's mind, or things this person may have read or heard from others to confirm what he/she was called by God to do.

6. Pastor said that the real question is not "Who really lives that way?" Instead we should ask ourselves "Do I want to live that way?" Do you? What steps can you take to start living an obsessed life?

For Your Life

7. Without laughing say the following sentence out loud: "**The world would be a better place if everyone in it was just like me.**"
What about you will make the world a better place?

What about your life needs to change so you can become a world changer?

8. Discipleship is incarnational; it is to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through you in order to help others to likewise follow Jesus. If you discipled one person each year to follow Jesus teaching them to do the same the number of disciples you have influenced doubles each year. Who will you begin to invest your life into so they might follow your example as you follow the example of Christ?

Obey God's command to encourage each other in the faith. Contact someone in your small group or from the church this week and encourage them in their faith. Ask how you can pray for them and let them know you will be looking for them at church next Sunday.

9. What is something you can do that is "risky" for God this week?
10. As a Christian, who are three people you look up to and why? Who is looking up to you?