

Dave Gudgel - "In His Hands" - Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10



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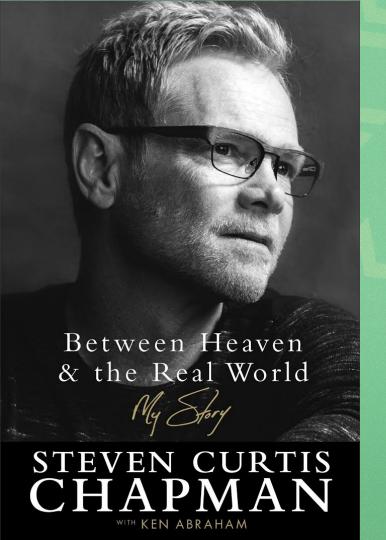


1. When life doesn't make sense, remember you're in God's hands

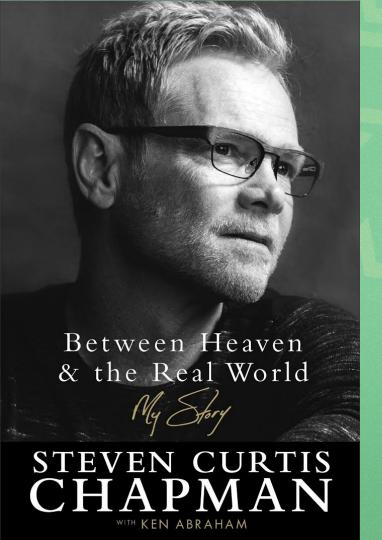


2. When death seems unfair, remember you're in God's hands

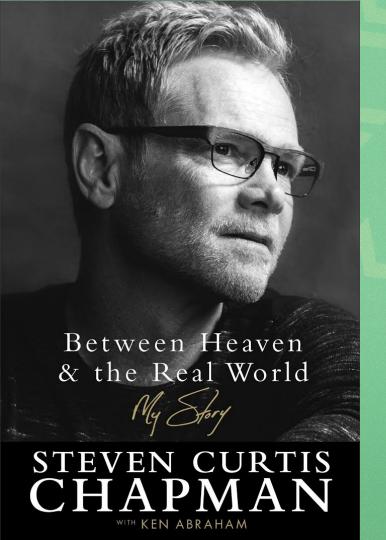




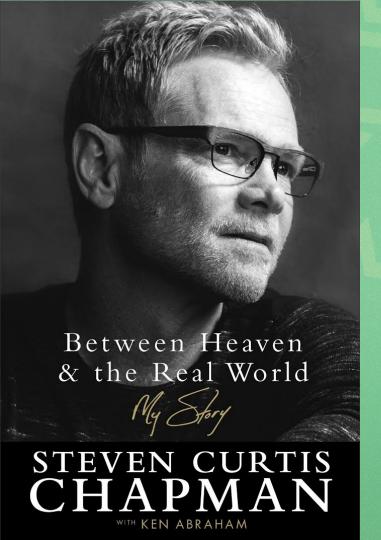
"After her death, we couldn't help but think, did we miss something? Were we wrong to adopt her? If we hadn't, would she still be with us? We were really trying to do good things, and then this happens. Shouldn't we have gotten a better deal?"



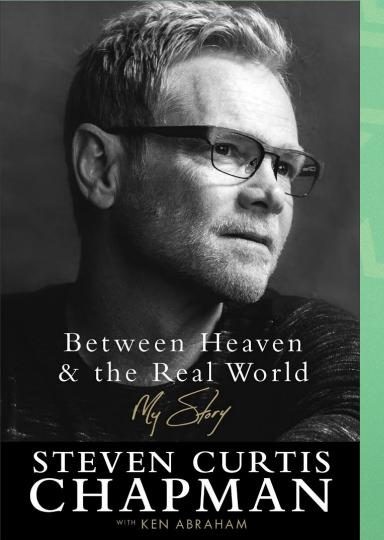
"But when I look closely at the world, I realize suffering is very much a part of the human experience...



We live in a culture that can be pretty insulated from the widespread suffering that others experience, and with that can come a sense of entitlement. We say, "Hey God, I've done all these things. Shouldn't I get a better deal?"



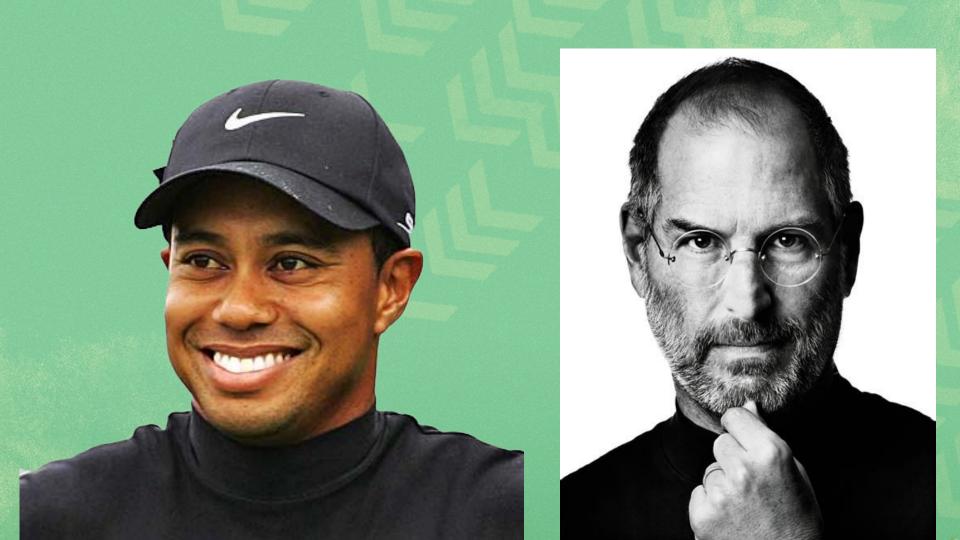
"There's another story being told, and if I didn't believe that I would be an extremely bitter and angry man."

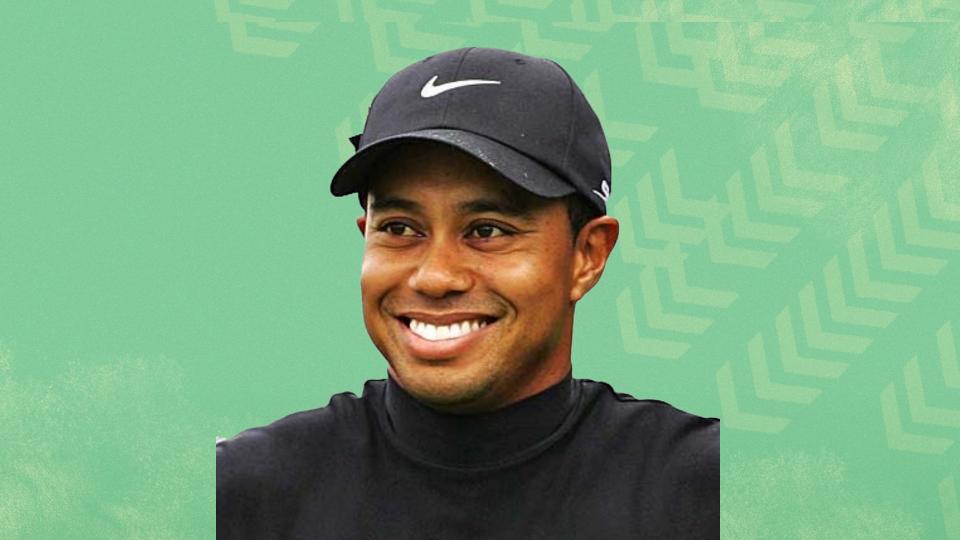


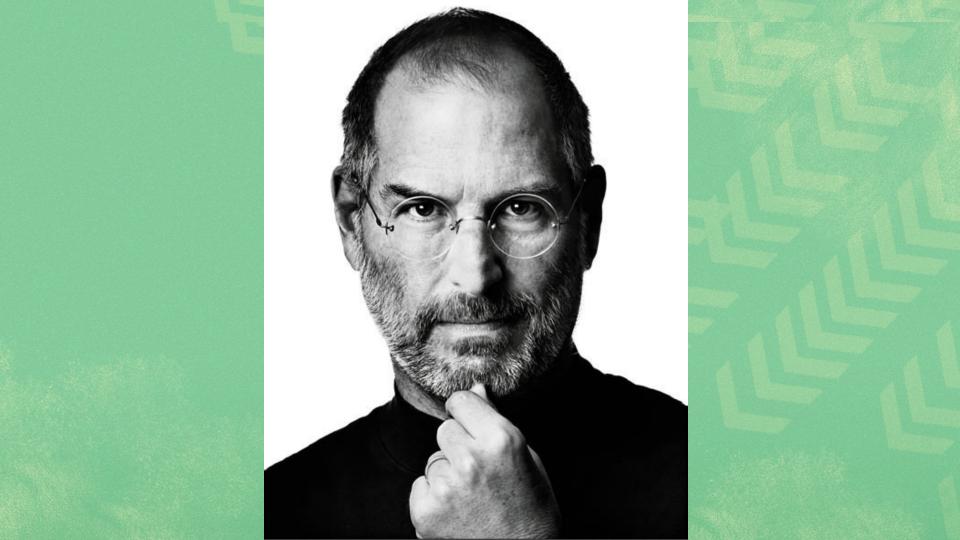
"When there was nothing else to hold onto, I heard myself say, 'God, I'm going to trust you and worship you, and that's not because there's an audience watching. I'm going to bless your name whether you give or take away."







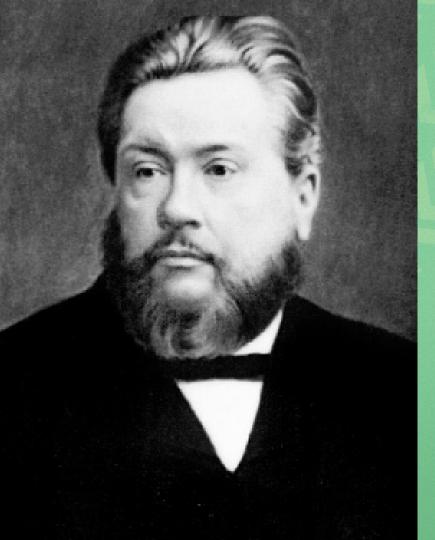




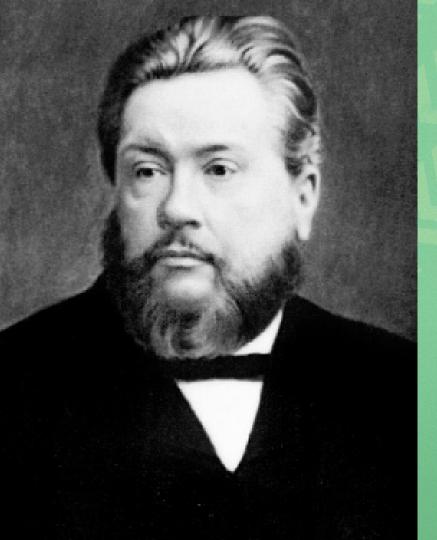


3. When things don't go as planned, remember you're in God's hands

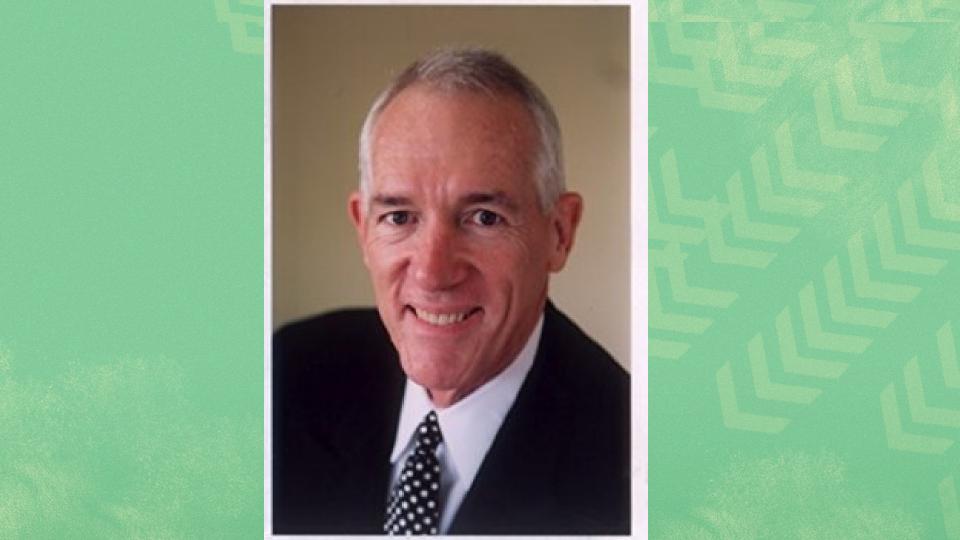




"If you do not wish to be full of regrets when you are obliged to lie still, work while you can. Do not stuff your sick bed with mournful reflections that you wasted time while you were in health and strength. THE CHASE



Crowd as much as you can into every day, and postpone no work till tomorrow. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all thy might."







"Some trust in horses, chariots, money, and all kinds of stuff including doctors and medications. But our trust shall be in the Lord."







"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised.



But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of -



throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." – C.S. Lewis





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