



# Do You Believe?

Paul David Tripp



**Study Questions**

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## Introduction: The Dangerous Dichotomy

1. Consider the author's statement that "the gap between the doctrine we say we believe and the way in which we actually live is a workroom for the enemy." As you begin the book, pray that the Lord would show you areas of this disconnect in your own life. If you are aware of these areas, pray a prayer of repentance, and trust God to work in your heart.
2. Why do Christians struggle to connect doctrine with real life?
3. How does Isaiah 55:10–13 explain that the purpose of doctrine is not information but transformation?
4. Explain the connections between doctrine and Scripture using the words from 2 Timothy 3:16–17: teaching, reproof, correction, and training.
5. How do you see the claim "Truth not lived is truth not believed" in the biblical stories of Jonah and Peter?
6. Consider the questions listed on page 27. Which of these convict you? Which ones encourage you? Which one concerns you most when you think about the church today?

## Chapter 1: The Doctrine of Scripture

1. How does creation point us to God? Why is creation alone not enough for us to understand him?
2. Why is it important for the doctrine of Scripture to be the "first doctrine"?
3. The author names a multitude of life issues that Christians would not know how to approach without Scripture. What area of life makes you most grateful to have the light of Scripture shine upon?
4. This chapter often talks about fools. Where is "the hope for fools"?
5. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the doctrine of Scripture?

## Chapter 2: Scripture in Everyday Life

1. How is Scripture used in our justification and sanctification?
2. Which of God's actions through Scripture (saves, points, teaches, rescues, protects, encourages, motivates, guides, warns, confronts, and convicts) are you most thankful for? Which influence have you been hesitant to allow in your life?
3. How does Scripture help us in our battle against self-glory?
4. In light of the admission that "faith is not natural for us," how are you encouraged by the power of Scripture?
5. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of Scripture? How does it impact your worship of God?

## Chapter 3: The Doctrine of God

1. We are in danger of making God "sadly too small." In what ways do Christians limit the immensity of God?

2. After reading this section, how do you define glory? Read Isaiah 40 to help you.
3. Explain the tension between God's glory and the sinful human view of glory.
4. How is God's glory shown in 1 Chronicles 29:10–13?
5. How does the doctrine of God connect to the doctrine from chapter 1, the doctrine of Scripture?

#### **Chapter 4: God in Everyday Life**

1. Why are the first four words of the Bible (“In the beginning, God”) so important to understanding the doctrine of God in daily living?
2. How are you living in the world but not of the world? Where are you convicted to be less “of” the world and where do you need to be more “in” it for the glory of God?
3. What is your response to the assertion that Christians sometimes fall into the category of “practical atheism”? Where do you see this in your life?
4. How can we use creation to explain the doctrine of God to an unbeliever?
5. Using Hebrews 11:6, explain the comment that “faith is never just a matter of what you do with your mind.”
6. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of God? How does it impact your worship of him? (Consider the list under “Tune Your Heart Daily” on p. 90.)

#### **Chapter 5: The Doctrine of the Holiness of God**

1. In regard to faith, “imagination is not the ability to conjure up what is unreal, but the capacity to perceive what is real but unseen.” What two gifts has God given believers to help them use their imagination to understand his holiness?
2. Why is it important to be like the prophet Isaiah and believe not just that God is holy, but that he is “holy, holy, holy” (Isa. 6:3)?
3. Holiness is described as being both separate and pure. How does that help us understand it better?
4. How is God's holiness central to the gospel?
5. Why is it important to consider both our sin and God's perfection in regard to his holiness?

#### **Chapter 6: God's Holiness in Everyday Life**

1. “The holiness of God must be at the center of what you have concluded to be true.” How does this impact daily life?
2. God's holiness causes fear and rest, weeping and rejoicing. How do you hold the tension of these truths?
3. Consider that while sin harms horizontally (you and others around you), the true offense is vertically against a holy God. What areas of your life need to be put in front of the light of holiness? Confess, and rest in forgiveness.
4. How does 1 Peter 1:13–19 help you grasp holy living to honor and emulate God?

5. How does Isaiah 55:10–11, 13 show that holiness is the purpose of all biblical and theological study?
6. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of God’s holiness? How does it impact your worship of him?

### **Chapter 7: The Doctrine of God’s Sovereignty**

1. Explain how the question of “Why?” hovers around what we think of God’s sovereignty.
2. How do the two aspects of God’s sovereignty (his decrees and his providence) help explain this doctrine?
3. Consider how God’s sovereignty is seen in the Old Testament in Exodus 7–12, Daniel 4–5, and the book of Jonah.
4. Consider how God’s sovereignty is seen in the New Testament in Matthew 10:29–30 and Acts 13:13–52; 16:16–33.
5. How does this doctrine point to Jesus?

### **Chapter 8: God’s Sovereignty in Everyday Life**

1. Consider the exercise of the circle of responsibility and the circle of concern. How does it help you understand and trust God’s sovereignty?
2. How does the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 18 encourage humility and surrender to God?
3. How can Christians find rest in trusting God in his sovereignty while being unsure of the future?
4. How do well-meaning Christians often misunderstand Romans 8:28–29? Following this study on the sovereignty of God, how do you understand it better?
5. How do you reconcile worshiping a sovereign God who also wants us to pray to him?
6. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of God’s sovereignty? How does it impact your worship of him?

### **Chapter 9: The Doctrine of God’s Omnipotence**

1. Take time to read Genesis 1, noticing all the work God did through his power. Then note your surroundings, and be encouraged by his power in creation you see daily.
2. In light of Job 38, what is encouraging about God’s omnipotence?
3. Consider the depth of the question “Can you?” that Job is confronted with by God. How can repeating this question to ourselves help with right thinking?
4. Along with creation, Christ’s resurrection also shows God’s omnipotence. How do the details of the bodily resurrection of Christ cause awe in a new way?
5. God’s resurrection power is unique and unparalleled. What does that mean for the Christian’s resurrection?

### **Chapter 10: God’s Omnipotence in Everyday Life**

1. All Christians are tempted to doubt God’s power. How is this convicting and encouraging to you?
2. How are you encouraged by knowing that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work for you today?

3. Where do you see scientific naturalism around you, and how does the doctrine of God's omnipotence help you combat it?
4. How does God's omnipotence highlight the gospel? Consider 2 Corinthians 12:7–10.
5. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of God's omnipotence? How does it impact your worship of him?

### **Chapter 11: The Doctrine of Creation**

1. C. S. Lewis described how humans can create only with what has already been created. Consider and explain, as best you can, how God created "with nothing more than his will and his word."
2. What is the danger of losing our awe when we consider the doctrine of creation?
3. Explain why creation is at the epicenter of what you as a Christian believe.
4. Why does it matter that God made everything with purpose?
5. As stewards of God's creation, how ought Christians to treat their own bodies, their neighbors, and the environment?

### **Chapter 12: Creation in Everyday Life**

1. In light of the doctrine of creation, how does knowing that everything belongs to God and nothing belongs to you affect the way you live?
2. In what areas of life do you need to surrender to the understanding that everything belongs to God and not to you (marriage, money, body, work, church, children, etc.)?
3. Using the example found in John 6:26, explain the danger of enjoying the creation in place of the Creator. As the author asks, "Will your life be ruled by God's glory or by creation's glory?"
4. Where do you need to ask the question: "What is God's purpose for \_\_\_\_?"
5. How can we connect this doctrine with our need for community with God and with others?
6. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of creation? How does it impact your worship of God?

### **Chapter 13: The Doctrine of the Image of God in Man**

1. What is the impact for humans that, unlike the rest of creation, they are made in God's image?
2. In light of 1 Corinthians 13, why does it matter that God is relational and that he made humans to be relational?
3. What does it mean to be made in the image of God as it relates to representing him on earth?
4. How do people who don't follow God show that they are made in his image? How does this open an opportunity for us to share about God?
5. Besides the creation story, where else in Scripture do you find this doctrine?

### **Chapter 14: The Image of God in Man in Everyday Life**

1. In what area of your life do you tend to look for your identity? When you are introduced to new people, what do you tell them about yourself that highlights what you consider your identity?

2. How do justice, kindness (mercy), and humility, as found in Micah 6:8, “summarize the entire redemptive narrative”?
3. How do the words in this chapter and the Charles Spurgeon quote on page 253 encourage and convict you regarding the roles of women in the church?
4. In regard to respect for others in this current age, how do we wrestle with the statement that “we are never forced to make a choice between theology and love”? Which of the Scripture passages on pages 258–60 convicts you?
5. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of the image of God in man? How does it impact your worship of him?

### **Chapter 15: The Doctrine of Sin**

1. With no understanding of the doctrine of sin, how does the culture explain hardship?
2. Read Genesis 3:1–7 and explain how autonomy and self-sufficiency were at the root of the first sin.
3. How are sin and idolatry connected?
4. How do the terms transgression, iniquity, and sin help you better understand the doctrine of sin?
5. Pray Psalm 51:1–3, admitting your sin and need for the Savior, and praise him for his sacrifice and forgiveness.

### **Chapter 16: Sin in Everyday Life**

1. How does treating sin as a behavior issue instead of a heart issue not solve the problem? Why are we tempted to treat the behavior instead of the heart?
2. What are the implications and hope of receiving a “renewable heart” instead of a “perfected heart”?
3. How does our sin complicate our relationships with other people?
4. Consider the Scripture passages that use war imagery to describe our battle with sin (Rom. 7 and 8; Eph. 6). How does this language help us soberly understand the battle?
5. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of sin? How does it impact your worship of God?

### **Chapter 17: The Doctrine of Justification**

1. Why is it important to understand how seriously God takes sin? Where do we find evidence of this in Scripture?
2. How are all the parts of God’s “triad of glorious miracles of grace” (the incarnation, the life and death, and the resurrection of Jesus) necessary to the doctrine of justification?
3. How does this doctrine set Christianity apart from all other religions?
4. Explain how justification is about both justice and adoption.
5. Why does the phrase “in Christ” make all the difference?

### **Chapter 18: Justification in Everyday Life**

1. Explain how justification impacts not only your initial conversion but the rest of your life as well (consider 2 Pet. 1:3–9).

2. How does the doctrine of justification encourage humility and gratitude?
3. Where in your life does justification encourage freedom (instead of fear), proper identity, and values?
4. How are you encouraged that your justification is a sure defense against the attacks of this world?
5. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of justification? How does it impact your worship of God?

### **Chapter 19: The Doctrine of Sanctification**

1. What does it mean, in practice, that “sanctification is the process by which God actually makes us what he has declared us to be in Christ, righteous”?
2. How do Philippians 1:6 and 2:12–13 explain God’s role and the Christian’s role in sanctification?
3. How does God work in the tensions of work and rest, death and life, and law and grace in the Christian?
4. What is the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification?
5. In what ways is waiting a gift from God?

### **Chapter 20: Sanctification in Daily Life**

1. Considering the Galatians 5 passage (p. 362), why should Christians not be passive in their sanctification? How do these verses encourage active participation?
2. How is the church a blessing to believers in their sanctification?
3. What is the purpose of relationships in our sanctification, and how does that differ from the world’s purpose?
4. Why is difficulty a better tool than ease in our sanctification?
5. How do your daily habits change when you understand that a devotional life is a tool instead of a duty?
6. What is the difference between progressive Christianity and progressive sanctification?
7. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of sanctification? How does it impact your worship of God?

### **Chapter 21: The Doctrines of the Perseverance and Glorification of the Saints**

1. How does an imagination (as described in the book) help in understanding perseverance (“keeping power”) and glorification (“final blessing”)?
2. How is God’s love the foundation for the perseverance of his chosen people (see Rom. 8:28–39)?
3. How do the passages from John 5:24, 6:37–40, and 10:27–30 encourage assurance but also warn against laziness, doubt, and fear? How does this doctrine balance understanding that God does the preserving, but that it also matters how Christians live?
4. How are we encouraged as Christians living in the tension “between what God has declared us to be (righteous) and what we actually are (not quite righteous, actually)”?
5. What is the hope of future glorification while the Christian now lives with sin both inside and in the world?

## Chapter 22: Perseverance and Glorification of the Saints in Everyday Life

1. How do the doctrines of perseverance and glorification motivate believers as we live our lives?  
Consider Psalm 73.
2. In what areas of life are you convicted of being more of a “Christian consumer” than a committed believer? What habits and disciplines need to grow in your life (biblical literacy, prayer, etc.)?
3. According to 1 Peter 5:10–11, where is true hope in perseverance and glorification found?
4. How do these two doctrines help right our understanding of fear, sacrifice, and perspective?
5. Why are you grateful for the doctrines of perseverance and glorification of the saints? How do they impact your worship of God?

## Chapter 23: The Doctrine of Eternity

1. Explain the following statement: “Without the doctrine of eternity, there would be no such thing as the gospel of Jesus Christ, let alone any such thing as gospel hope.”
2. Read 2 Peter 3:11–13. In what ways does the doctrine of eternity help the righteous make sense of the present?
3. In light of Matthew 25:31–46, how do you understand that both the righteous and the unrighteous “live a Godward life”?
4. Why is it important for us to consider the reality of hell?
5. Why does God give these glimpses of eternity, both to the righteous and the unrighteous?

## Chapter 24: Eternity in Everyday Life

1. How can you live “with eternity in view” in practical ways?
2. Which of the impacts of eternity amnesia (pp. 445–48) do you find to be the biggest struggle?  
Confess your struggles to the Lord, trusting his working hand.
3. Consider the eight ways this doctrine can clarify our values. How can these be implemented in your life?
4. How does Hebrews 11 help with contentment and delayed gratification?
5. Why are you grateful for the doctrine of eternity? How does it impact your worship of God?