



Heaven Changes Everything: Living Every Day with Eternity in Mind

Todd Burpo, Sonja Burpo

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How does a visit to heaven change your life?

Todd and Sonja Burpo's almost-four-year-old son Colton made an unforgettable trip to heaven and back during the darkest, most stressed-out days of their lives. Times were tough, money was scarce, and the bills, frustrations, and fears were piled high.

How did Colton's visit to heaven change things for them individually and as a family? And what does any of this mean for you and your life?

Todd, and for the first time ever Sonja and Colton, from their perspectives, share what has happened since the release of their *New York Times* bestseller, *Heaven Is for Real*. Through their own experiences, and after hearing from thousands of the more than eight million readers who have shared how the story has affected them, they show you how believing heaven is for real will help you survive hardships here on earth, including the death of a loved one or the loss of a child through tragedy, miscarriage, or even abortion.

Todd, Sonja, and Colton answer questions such as:

- Is it really okay to struggle with and question God? *Really?*
- What hope is there for me if I've lost a child or a loved one to death? Will I ever see them again?
- What does heaven feel like?
- Can I know for sure that I'm going to heaven?
- Does God really hear me when I pray?

They also explain how their story can help you keep thoughts of eternity in mind in the midst of your own overly busy, stressed-out lives.

Heaven truly *is* for real, and believing it changes everything!

Heaven Changes Everything: Living Every Day with Eternity in Mind Details

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From Reader Review Heaven Changes Everything: Living Every Day with Eternity in Mind for online ebook

Ruth Ropper says

40 day devotional focusing on whether Heaven is real from one family's perspective of their experience when their little boy died in hospital and then came back. Makes me want to read the original book.

Jan says

I loved it. Loved Heaven is for Real as well.

Becky says

This book, “Heaven Changes Everything,” is based on an earlier book, “Heaven Is For Real” written by the husband and wife team, Todd and Sonja Burpo. That earlier book is the story of the couple’s son, Colton—a toddler at the time—who had “died” during a horrendous medical crisis. A few months after Colton’s miraculous recovery, he gradually revealed to his mother and his father, a pastor, the amazing details of his after-death experience.

“Heaven is For Real” is an amazing and thought provoking book written from a Christian and Biblical viewpoint. I, along with many others who read it, came away with lots of questions answered about Heaven.

This book, “Heaven Changes Everything,” contains 42 devotions covering a wide variety of topics. Each subject is addressed with a sprinkling of the opinions of Todd & Sonja Burpo, the influence of Colton’s hope of Heaven and his Heavenly experience, along with direction from the Holy Bible. The topics range from answered and unanswered prayers, living through a financial crisis, as well as, what God’s Throne Room is like. The subject of what happens to babies who have been miscarried, as well as, ones who have been aborted, are also included and treated in a sensitive manner.

This devotion book can stand on its own without reading the first book by the Burpos. However, I think anyone who reads this devotional would certainly enjoy “Heaven is for Real,” and it would add to the reader’s experience with the devotional book. I thought this was a good book, and appreciated its unique viewpoint. When reading this devotional the qualities of hope, optimism, and God’s love shine through. I highly recommend “Heaven Changes Everything,” and give it five stars.

The publisher has provided me with a complimentary copy of this book through Thomas Nelson Publishing for the purpose of review. All opinions expressed are my own, and I have not been compensated in any other manner. Despite my receiving the book free, it has not influenced my judgment, and I have given an honest opinion.

The Authors’ web sites: heavenisforreal.net and hifrministries.org.
My site: <http://fushiacat.wordpress.com/2012/1...>

Rachael says

Review Posted at Rachael Turns Pages

I enjoyed Heaven Changes Everything almost just as much as I enjoyed Heaven is for Real. I knew after I finished Heaven is for Real I wanted more of Colton's story. I found it in Heaven Changes Everything. I have to say I still don't believe in everything that was said in this novel or Heaven is for Real. As I mentioned in my review I do believe Colton had an amazing experience so that he could share his faith with the people on Earth.

The thing I liked about this novel is that it emphasized that people are not perfect, but God loves them anyways. You have to have a relationship with God to get to Heaven, but nobody is perfect except Jesus so when we sin we are forgiven. Jesus died so that we could be forgiven and go to Heaven. Even pastors and their families are not perfect.

Keeping Heaven in mind changes everything. Todd and Sonja talked about how they can't wait to go to heaven and see all the love ones that they missed. I'm excited to be reunited in eternity with my loved ones also. I think the Christian faith just makes end of life so much easier because we don't have to worry about our life here on earth being the end. We have heaven. I think it's going to be exciting to finally meet my savior and be in heaven. Of course I'm not ready now, but like Todd and Sonja I do look forward to heaven. I think this book gave me a better perspective of how to anticipate heaven without wishing life here on Earth away. Jesus is praying for us to join him up in heaven and honestly I want to meet him at the end of my life here on Earth.

Todd talked about his struggle with faith. After all he is a pastor and pastor's should never question God, but like normal people Todd is not perfect. I myself have questioned God. Why he makes bad things happen to good people I still can't explain? I have been mad at God for long periods of time because I don't understand. Let's take my dad losing his job for example. After 14 years of employment my dad was let go. This was a very hard time in our family. My dad was working on his 2nd masters at the time and had to drop out of school because we couldn't afford it. My dad losing his job was a blessing in disguise. He got a new job that wasn't as stressful and allows him to spend more time at home with us meanwhile he was able to finish his master, but at a better more interactive online setting. Almost the same thing happened to my mom 2 years later. She is now home more and not as stressed at work. Although I blamed God for both of their hardships I now see that he was trying to give our family more time together. I do believe everything happens for a reason and although there are still some things I will never be able to see the bright side on I do believe it is normal to be angry with God.

The last point I want to highlight is when Sonja talks about Child-Like Faith. I loved this in the last novel that Child-Like faith is such a pure form of faith. Their third child Colby has begun to pray to the Lord to help people and has become a comforter much like Colton. A point that stuck out to me last book is when Colton told the man in the hospital that "the first person he would meet in heaven is Jesus." Now Colby is displaying that same type of faith in Jesus. Sonja talks about her passion for children and her love for youth ministry. Colton keeps telling Todd that "Jesus really loves the children." Sonja wants church to be a welcoming place for children just as the Sunday School rooms are. I think this highlights on the point that we can learn something from the Child-Like Faith Colton and Colby share. We can learn that God doesn't want us to pray using flashy terms, but to pray like we mean it.

I have highlighted some points in the book that stuck out to me. Overall I believe this was a great book and gave me a lot of think about. I think this would be a great book for people to read. There are so many places in the books where I remember places in my faith I can improve on. It stregnthen my faith and my walk with God.

Christi Murray says

A great addition to the book Heaven is For Real.

Nicole Rivera says

Book Description:

Live every day with the hope of heaven!

A shattered leg, kidney stones, and a lump diagnosed as hyperplasia. Times were tough, money was scarce, and the bills and frustrations were piling up. It was into this kind of stressed out life that God sent Todd and Sonja Burpo the interruption of a life-threatening illness and emergency surgery for their almost four-year old son Colton. An interruption that included his unforgettable journey to heaven.

How did they cope? And how can they help us keep thoughts of eternity in mind in the midst of our own overly busy, stressed out lives?

In fifty unique inspirational readings based on excerpts from their story, Todd and Sonja share their family's responses and reactions to the Heaven Is for Real experience. They answer questions about what it's like to struggle with and question God, to doubt, even get angry with Him. And offer new insights into what God might be doing with those interruptions he allows into our lives. Each reading closes with a scripture to provide biblical reinforcement of the ideas shared and a take-away thought or action point to help readers incorporate the reading's inspiration into daily life.

Keep the hope of heaven alive in your life. Heaven truly is for real, and it changes everything!

My Review:

What I Liked:

I have read Heaven Is For Real twice already and this follow-up book sparked my interest. It takes Heaven Is For Real to a deeper level, a level where I can apply what I love about Heaven Is For Real to my own life. Additionally, I began to read this book not knowing I was about to have a "Heaven" experience of my own. This may not touch everyone's heart but it certainly has touched our family. Two days after Christmas my mom was walking our dog (the one we had shared so many memories with...dog/pet lovers, you know what I'm talking about) and suddenly he collapsed and died. To say we were devastated would be an understatement. I could barely breathe when my dad came in the house, sobbing uncontrollably, and told me. My husband ran outside to where my mom was. Snickers (our dog) was in fact dead. So dead that his tongue was hanging out and purple, there was no heartbeat, no breathing. Then something truly miraculous happened. He came back! My husband hurried in with the news. "He's breathing!" My dad and I rushed out

to be by his side. His breathing steadily increased and his color came back. He even raised his head and looked around. It was as if he had awoken. We managed to put him in his little bed and we all petted him and held his little paw and talked to him and got to say our goodbyes to him properly. Then he peacefully laid his head down and slipped off to heaven. Were we sad? Yes, we still are. We will miss our little puppy-man (that's what we called him). But, there was no mistaking the miracle we had been given--my husband is adamant on that having witnessed it for himself, he keeps saying, "There was just no way. He was dead. It was a miracle." God had sent him back to us, not for his sake, but so that we who loved him most could say good-bye. I have thanked God over and over for giving us that gift and for taking him peacefully and surrounded by love. We truly felt the presence of all of heaven with us that day.

Some may say, he's just a dog, but he was more than that to us, and I believe God knew that and granted us a little extra time. God gave us a precious gift, because he saw how grief stricken his children were.

Heaven Changes Everything, and Heaven Is For Real has given me an understanding and peace that I did not say good-bye to Snickers on that day nor have I said good-bye to loved ones who have past before. It has given me the hope and knowledge that I will see Snickers (Colton tells his father that there are animals in Heaven) and all those who have faith in Jesus in Heaven again one day. So, while I cry because I miss them, I am not devastated or destroyed. They have merely gone home a little earlier than me, and I'll see them when I get there.

What I Didn't Like As Much:

There wasn't more of the book! I want more. I want to hear all about heaven all the time. These books have changed my perspective on life and given me such hope and joy and peace, that I think about heaven all the time. I look forward to the day when I get to go home to Heaven. I am so excited!

My Overall Rating:

Rating System:

5. Required Reading For Life. Do Not Pass Go. Do Not Collect \$200. Will Re-Read.
4. Must Read if You Want to Totally Rock, But Not Punishable by Death if You Don't. Will More Than Likely Re-Read.
3. Good Read if You Are Interested In the Topic. May/May Not Re-Read.
2. Ok Read. Entertaining, but I Don't Plan On Reading it Again.
1. Eh. Not My Thing.

Drum roll please.....(the dots are the drum rolls, just picture it and go with me)..... I now pronounce that Heaven Changes Everything officially, unequivocally, forever-ly, receives a..... 5 on the Nikki Rivera Rating Scale.

Insert: Crowd going wild. Author crying, embracing his editor, agent, mom, dad, kids, dog, second grade teacher, etc.

Hope this helped in your decision to read/not read Heaven Changes Everything. :)

Jenny says

Many of the same things from 'Heaven is for Real' but with a bit of a back story/deeper meaning to events.

Kyle says

This is a devotional book which is based on their first book “Heaven is for Real”.

This book contains excerpts from “Heaven is for Real”. I really enjoyed “Heaven is for Real” and I enjoyed reading this one as well! If you have not read “Heaven is for Real” it is about a 4 year old who has life saving surgery and goes to heaven during his surgery. While he is there is meets family members he didn’t know he had!

Heaven Changes Everything contains 42 devotions which talks about their thoughts about Colton’s visit to Heaven and what he experienced. At the end of each chapter there is a question and a bible verse. This book get’s me more excited for Heaven . You do not have to read “Heaven is for Real” before you read this book but I would recommend that you do!

I received this book for free from Thomas Nelson and their program, BookSneeze and was not required to write a positive review.

Carey Henderson says

It’s hard to review a devotional objectively. It’s something very personal & what speaks to you is going to be different than what speaks to another reader. But here goes

I had read, “Heaven is for Real” a few years ago. I remember the exact moment I found it at the store. I had never heard of the book & was actually shopping for a Joyce Meyer book that was on my reading list. I picked up Heaven is for Real, read the description on the back; thought it sounded interesting & then shelved it. Throughout the rest of my shopping trip my mind kept going back to that book that eventually (mainly to silence the nags) I put it in my shopping cart & cashed out. I started it almost immediately & it was instrumental in changing (and confirming) my view on heaven. At the time I read it, my Grandma was battling stage-4 cancer & upon her death the chapters & words in that book were such a comfort to me. She was a strong woman of faith & I know the riches of heaven fell upon her & that we will be reunited again and that fills me with healing. I’ve since passed the book on to others & have recommended it to countless people.

It took me awhile to get through Heaven Changes Everything (over 6months) not because it was bad, but because of LIFE. I had read other devotionals in between, read other novels, but every time I picked up this specific book the messages were very tailored to what I was currently going through; questions on my mind, troubles that were heavy on my shoulders. So I feel like God was telling me to take this devotional very, very, slowly to let it sink in (on average, I’m a speedy reader). Usually I’d find myself crying over the words I was reading & sighing over how “spot on” it felt to read what I was feeling. And I’ll be honest, it led to some frustration because I didn’t want to change my thinking or behavior about some subjects the author suggested needed changed (hey, God made me stubborn so “technically” its His fault, right? Haha!)

Heaven Changes Everything is obviously set up a little differently since it is a devotional & not a narrative. For starters, its written by Todd & Sonja Burpo (Colton’s parents) who alternate chapters (which I liked)

each giving their own viewpoint & spin on the subject of the chapter. You definitely would be able to use this book for a Bible Study since it does pose group discussion questions & has countless passages of scripture to study, memorize & discuss. Like I do with all devotionals, I went after it with a “college” mentality. You wouldn’t want to borrow my copy because its highlighted, underlined in pen, things are starred & my personal thoughts are wrote in the margins. You’d finish my copy more confused than when you started! Flipping through the book even now, there’s so many good chapters that I don’t even know where to start! Todd & Sonja (obviously) center the book around their take on Colton’s (their middle-son) near-death experience; visit to heaven & then return to earth. They give their viewpoints on what happened “behind the scenes” & how their lives have changed post-publishing of his novel, “Heaven is for Real”. What I also like was they touched on a little bit of everything; their marriage, their struggles, parenting, balancing careers & of course, their personal views on God & faith.

Since I can’t go chapter by chapter (its not a big book, but it would take awhile & the weather’s to nice to be indoors all day typing on the computer *wink wink*) I’ve picked a couple chapters that really spoke to me:

Chapter 9: “A Mixture of Faith & Doubt” told from the viewpoint of Todd. It’s about how you can be a person of Faith & still Doubt. I know I can relate to that. I don’t know how many countless times I’ve prayed for something & then took matters into my own hands because God was moving to slow (you’d think by now I would have learned my lesson & realize I do more damage than good!). Todd writes, “So you’re struggling. God understands. He knows you can’t see what’s waiting for you around the corner-not to mention next week or next year. But God is good at working with strugglers. Pray, “help me believe”. Even though he’s a Pastor; a man people look up to for spiritual guidance, he still struggled with doubt when doctor’s reported his son would not survive.

Chapter 23: “Imagine Being Held by Jesus”. This chapter really got to be. In this chapter, Todd remembers the moment when he was in the hospital chapel; alone, spewing forth hateful & angry words to God, so fearful that he may lose his son-didn’t understand why & God seemed to be silent. Upon Colton’s “return to earth” he tells Todd that he saw him in the chapel, crying & angry. “yeah, Jesus was there too.”....”well, where was Jesus?”....Colton looked me right in the eye. ‘I was sitting in Jesus’ lap.’”....I was hiding out in the empty hospital room, raging at God for bringing my son so close to death-furious at the very One who at that moment, unknown to me, was holding my son in his arms. Quite the contrast, isn’t it?”. For me personally, I don’t know how many times I’ve gotten angry at God for his silence (what I view as silence) when he’s got something so much bigger intended for me. “But at the same time I try to remember that God has a plan for my life-a plan that ends in heaven-and whatever is happening to me right now is part of that plan.”

Countless other thoughts jump out at me throughout this devotional, “There are things God allows to happen because he knows the outcome is going to be greater than anything we could ever do on our own.”, “Children’s simple prayers fall as sweetly on God’s ears as they do on ours.”, “there is blessedness in brokenness. God uses broken people.” & “stand without wavering. Stand without apology. Stand confidently & say, ‘I know who Jesus is, and this is what he has done for me.’”

This is not a hard devotional at all & I recommend it for any beginner who is new in their walk with the Lord. It’ll get your feet wet as far as getting in the Word & reading the Bible, its full of personal opinion & testimonials rather than a lot of Bible-scripture-reading. However, even if you’re dedicated & like those in-depth devotionals this works as well, you can back up the author’s points & key-notes with Bible scriptures that reference it. Any way you look at it, the fact is; it’s just a good clean read & I highly recommend adding

it to any reading list.

The closing paragraph of the book just warms me: "I love thinking about being so glad, and so grateful, to see Jesus that I spontaneously fall down on my knees before him. And I know he'll be glad to see me. In fact, he's been praying that I would join him there. He's praying you'll join him there too. Please don't disappoint him. He's waiting for you in heaven. And that changes everything." What a great feeling to think that the Lord is praying to spend time with you! That's something to hold onto when you're feeling challenged, stressed, & overwhelmed. The Lord is praying that you'll talk to him & spend time with him.

How fantastic of a thought is that???

Imani says

I thought this book would include the details Colton had that weren't added in the first book because I've heard them do a talk and I remember being indignant like "Wait. You didn't include that in the book! How are you talking about this now?!"

It kind of made me hesitant (doubting Thomas here) but eventually I accepted it. They didn't owe us all the details anyway and at least they talked of it. However this book isn't what they didn't include in the first book, it's a devotional book. It is a comfort to the heart. It wasn't what I had anticipated but still great nonetheless.

Shelly Fabian says

This book was not what I thought it was going to be until the question and answer section at the end. I wanted to hear more about Colton, not about his father as a pastor/evangelist. Faith is a very personal topic. Book one, Heaven Is For Real was much better. I thought the description was almost a bait and switch.

Emma Johnson says

It wasn't as good as the original book, but I still enjoyed it. More focused on the parent's perspective instead of their son, but it was a good change to hear it from their point of view.

Sue says

Inspirational

Thank goodness they wrote this book. If it hasn't spoken to anyone else on this planet, know that it has spoken to me.

Patricia Navarro says

LO PRIMERO DECIR QUE NO ES UNA NOVELA, SINO QUE ESTA BASADA EN UNA, LA CUAL SE TITULA EL CIELO ES REAL, DE LOS MISMOS AUTORES, SI NO ME EQUIVOCO. ME HA GUSTADO, EL TEMA DEL CUAL SE HABLA EN EL LIBRO ES SOBRE COMO LOS PADRES DE COLTON: TOOD Y SONJA BURPO, PUDIERON AFRENTAR SU ENFERMEDAD, LA CUAL LE LLEVÓ A LOS BORDES DE LA MUERTE. TAMBIÉN SE TOCA EL TEMA DE DIOS Y DE QUE EL CIELO, COMO DICE EN LA NOVELA, ES REAL. PARA ENTENDER DE QUE TRATA EL LIBRO (O MEJOR DICHO LOS LIBROS; LA NOVELA Y LAS EXPERIENCIAS DE LOS PADRES) DEBES LEERLOS. YO NO HE LEÍDO LA NOVELA, PERO SI QUIERES LEER SOLO Y EXCLUSIVAMENTE EL SEGUNDO LIBRO, PODRÍAS, YA QUE EN LAS EXPERIENCIAS DE TOOD Y SONJA HAY MENCIONES SOBRE LA NOVELA, EL CIELO ES REAL. SE HA GANADO MIS 3 ESTRELLAS.

Laurel says

Was hoping for more stories from Colton's perspective as mentioned on the back. Was more preaching than info on his experience in heaven.
