THE DAILY BREAD

The Magnificat of the Beloved



Living with Eternity in View

A FORMATION BOOK BY

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The Everyday Apostle

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Magnificat of the Beloved

Living with Eternity in View

How the Last Things Reorder Everything

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INTRODUCTION

Letting the End Change the Middle

It is one thing for a woman to know the truths of the Last Things, death and judgment, heaven and purgatory and hell, and another thing entirely to let those truths change how she actually lives. She may believe in eternity and still live as if this life were all there is, her priorities, her worries, her loves shaped by the horizon of the present rather than the horizon of eternity, so that the truths she professes make little difference to the way she spends her days. Yet the Last Things are meant to do more than inform her; they are meant to transform her, reordering her priorities, healing her anxieties, deepening her loves, and making her present moments matter, for a woman who truly lives with eternity in view lives differently, more wisely, more freely, more fully than one who does not.

This book is about living with eternity in view, the practical difference that the Last Things make to a woman's daily life. It will show how the end clarifies what matters; how eternity reorders her priorities; how it heals her anxiety; how it deepens her love for people who are eternal; how it makes the present moment more rather than less significant; how making peace with death frees her to live unafraid; and how the knowledge that time is finite gives urgency to her mission. The aim is wholly practical, to help a woman let the truths of eternity reshape the way she lives, so that her daily life is lived in the light of her eternal destiny.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. — Colossians 3:1-2

The Scripture tells a woman to set her mind on the things that are above, to live with her gaze fixed on eternity rather than only on the earth, and this is what it means to live with eternity in view. This book will help her do exactly that, letting the reality of her eternal destiny reorder her priorities, heal her fears, deepen her loves, redeem her present moments, free her from the fear of death, and send her out with urgency. A woman does not have to choose between taking eternity seriously and living this life fully, for it is precisely the woman who lives with eternity in view who lives this life most wisely, most freely, and most fully, her days transformed by the destiny toward which they move.

CHAPTER ONE

The Clarifying Power of the End

Living Backward from Your Death

The thought of her own death, far from being morbid, has a clarifying power, cutting through the confusion of competing demands to reveal what truly matters and giving a woman a vantage point from which to order her life. Understanding the clarifying power of the end shows a woman how to let the prospect of her death bring her present life into focus.

It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. — Ecclesiastes 7:2

How the End Clarifies

The prospect of death clarifies what matters, stripping away the trivial and revealing what is truly important, so that a woman thinks more honestly about her life. The thought of her own death has a unique power to clarify, for when a woman considers her life from the vantage point of its end, the trivial concerns that consume so much attention fall away and what truly matters comes into focus, the petty anxieties and vain pursuits exposed as small, the things of real and lasting worth revealed, so that the end clarifies the middle, death bringing life into sharp and honest focus. This means a woman lets the thought of her death clarify her life, using the vantage point of the end to see what truly matters and what does not, so that she thinks honestly about her days in the light of their close rather than losing herself in the trivial. The woman who understands how the end clarifies lets the thought of death bring her life into honest focus. How the end clarifies is by stripping away the trivial and revealing what truly matters, so that a woman thinks more honestly about her life.

Living Backward from Death

A woman can live backward from her death, letting the woman she wants to have been shape the woman she chooses to be today. A powerful practice is to live backward from one's death, to imagine the end of one's life and ask what will have mattered, what kind of woman one will wish to have been, and then to let that vision shape one's present choices, so that a woman lets the woman she hopes to have been at the end guide the woman she is becoming now, living forward in the light of a backward glance from her deathbed. This means a woman shapes her present by the vantage point of her end, asking what she will wish to have been and letting that answer guide her choices now, so that she lives deliberately toward the woman she wants to have become rather than drifting. The woman who lives backward from death lets the end she hopes for shape the choices she makes today. Living backward from death means letting the woman a woman

wants to have been shape the woman she chooses to be today, her present guided by her end.

Keeping the Long View

A woman orders her life well by keeping the long view, measuring her days against eternity rather than only against the moment, so that she is not ruled by the passing and immediate. To live wisely a woman must keep the long view, measuring her concerns and choices against the horizon of eternity rather than only against the immediate and passing, for what looms large in the moment often shrinks against eternity, and what seems small may be of lasting worth, so that keeping the long view frees her from being ruled by the passing and keeps her oriented toward what endures. This means a woman keeps the long view in her daily life, weighing her choices against eternity rather than only the moment, so that she is not captured by passing concerns but keeps her life ordered toward what lasts, the long view steadying her amid the immediate. The woman who keeps the long view measures her days against eternity, freed from the tyranny of the passing moment. Keeping the long view means measuring one's days against eternity rather than the moment, so that a woman is not ruled by the passing and immediate.

CHAPTER TWO

Reordering Your Priorities

Investing in What Lasts

Living with eternity in view reorders a woman's priorities, loosening her grip on what is passing and leading her to invest herself in what lasts, so that her time, energy, and love are spent on things of eternal worth. Understanding how eternity reorders priorities helps a woman align her daily investments with her everlasting destiny.

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:20-21

Holding the World Loosely

A woman who lives for eternity holds the things of this world loosely, valuing them rightly but not clinging to them as if they were ultimate. Living with eternity in view teaches a woman to hold the things of this world loosely, for knowing that her possessions, status, and comforts are passing and that she will leave them all at death, she values them rightly without clinging to them as if they were ultimate, enjoying good

things as gifts without being enslaved to them, so that she holds the world with an open hand rather than a grasping one, free from the tyranny of things that do not last. This means a woman holds the world loosely, valuing its goods without clinging to them, so that she is not enslaved to passing things but holds them freely, aware that she will leave them all behind and that they are not her treasure. The woman who holds the world loosely values its goods without clinging, free from the tyranny of what does not last. Holding the world loosely means valuing the things of this world rightly without clinging to them as ultimate, a woman free from enslavement to what is passing.

Investing in What Lasts

A woman reorders her priorities by investing in what lasts, giving her time and energy to the things of eternal worth rather than to what will perish. Eternity leads a woman to invest in what lasts, to give her best time, energy, and resources to the things of eternal worth, her relationship with God, the souls of the people around her, the growth of her own holiness, the works of love that endure, rather than pouring herself out on things that will perish with this life, so that she lays up treasure in heaven by investing in the eternal rather than the temporary. This means a woman invests her life in what lasts, directing her time and energy toward eternal goods rather than perishable ones, so that she stores up treasure in heaven and spends herself on the things that will endure beyond death. The woman who invests in what lasts gives her best to eternal goods, laying up treasure in heaven. Investing in what lasts means giving one's time and energy to the things of eternal worth rather than to what will perish, a woman storing up treasure in heaven.

Where Your Treasure Is

Because a woman's heart follows her treasure, she directs her heart toward eternity by placing her treasure there, investing in the things of God so that her heart is drawn heavenward. Christ taught that where a woman's treasure is, there her heart will be also, so that she can shape the direction of her heart by choosing where she invests herself, for if she lays up treasure in heaven, her heart will be drawn toward heaven, and if she invests only in earthly things, her heart will be bound to earth, so that placing her treasure in eternal things orients her very heart toward God. This means a woman directs her heart toward eternity by investing her treasure there, choosing to put her time, love, and resources into the things of God so that her heart follows them heavenward, her investments drawing her affections toward the eternal. The woman who understands where her treasure is places it in heaven, so that her heart is drawn toward God. Where your treasure is, there the heart will be also, so that a woman orients her heart toward eternity by investing her treasure in the things of God.

CHAPTER THREE

Healing Anxiety

The Peace of Those Who Know Their Destiny

Far from increasing a woman's fears, living with eternity in view heals her anxiety, for the woman who knows her eternal destiny and trusts God with her life is freed from the grip of worry over passing things. Understanding how eternity heals anxiety shows a woman how the Last Things, rightly held, bring not dread but peace.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God will guard your hearts. — Philippians 4:6-7

Eternity Puts Fears in Perspective

Living with eternity in view puts a woman's fears in perspective, shrinking the worries that loom large when measured against the vastness of her eternal destiny. The perspective of eternity heals anxiety by cutting worries down to their true size, for the troubles and fears that loom so large in the moment appear small when measured against eternity, and a woman who keeps her eternal destiny in view finds that many of her anxieties lose their power, dwarfed by the greatness of what awaits her, so that eternity puts her fears in their proper perspective and drains them of their crippling force. This means a woman lets eternity put her fears in perspective, measuring her worries against her eternal destiny so that they shrink to their true size, so that she is freed from the exaggerated power of anxieties that loom large only when eternity is forgotten. The woman who lets eternity put her fears in perspective finds her worries shrinking against the greatness of what awaits. Eternity puts fears in perspective, shrinking the worries that loom large when measured against the vastness of a woman's eternal destiny.

Trusting God with the Outcome

A woman is freed from anxiety by trusting God with the outcomes she cannot control, resting in His providence rather than carrying the weight of her future alone. Much anxiety comes from trying to control outcomes that are not in a woman's power, but living with eternity in view teaches her to trust God with the outcome, to do her part faithfully and then rest in His providence, confident that He holds her life and her eternal destiny in His hands, so that she lays down the impossible burden of controlling the future and entrusts it to the God who cares for her, her anxiety relieved by trust. This means a woman heals her anxiety by trusting God with what she cannot control, doing

her part and leaving the outcome to Him, so that she is freed from the crushing weight of trying to secure her own future and rests instead in God's providence. The woman who trusts God with the outcome is freed from anxiety, resting in His providence rather than her own control. Trusting God with the outcome frees a woman from anxiety, resting in His providence rather than carrying the weight of her future alone.

The Peace of a Settled Destiny

The woman who has made peace with her eternal destiny possesses a deep peace, freed from the fears that torment those who have no sure hope beyond this life. There is a profound peace available to the woman who has settled the question of her eternal destiny, who lives in friendship with God and trusts in His mercy, for she is freed from the deep anxieties that haunt those who have no hope beyond this life, no answer to death, no assurance of meaning, so that her settled destiny gives her a peace the world cannot give, a calm that rests on the sure hope of eternal life with God. This means a woman finds peace in a settled destiny, in having made her peace with God and entrusted her eternity to Him, so that she is freed from the existential fears that torment the hopeless and lives in the calm assurance of her eternal hope. The woman who has the peace of a settled destiny lives freed from the fears that haunt those without hope. The peace of a settled destiny belongs to the woman who has made peace with her eternal future, freed from the fears that torment those without sure hope beyond this life.

CHAPTER FOUR

Deepening Love

The People Around You Are Eternal

Living with eternity in view deepens a woman's love, for she comes to see that the people around her are not passing acquaintances but eternal souls, each destined for everlasting life, and this changes how she loves them. Understanding how eternity deepens love shows a woman how to love others in light of their eternal worth and destiny.

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. — John 15:13

Seeing the Eternal in Others

A woman loves others more deeply when she sees them as eternal souls, each one destined for everlasting life and of infinite worth, rather than as passing figures in her

day. Living with eternity in view changes how a woman sees other people, for she comes to recognize that every person she meets is an eternal soul, destined for everlasting life, of infinite worth and eternal consequence, not a passing figure but an immortal being, so that she sees the eternal in others and loves them accordingly, treating each person as the eternal soul he or she truly is rather than as a mere function or acquaintance. This means a woman sees the eternal in the people around her, recognizing each as an immortal soul of infinite worth, so that her love for them is deepened by the knowledge of their eternal destiny, every person a being made for eternity. The woman who sees the eternal in others loves them as the immortal souls they are, of infinite worth. Seeing the eternal in others means recognizing each person as an eternal soul of infinite worth, so that a woman loves them in light of their everlasting destiny.

Loving What Deserves Love

Eternity teaches a woman to give her deepest love to what deserves it, to people and to God, rather than squandering her heart on things that cannot return or keep her love. Living with eternity in view teaches a woman to direct her deepest love toward what truly deserves it, toward God and toward the eternal souls of other people, rather than squandering her heart on possessions, status, or passing pleasures that cannot love her back or endure, so that she orders her loves rightly, giving her heart to the persons who will last forever rather than to things that will perish, loving what is worthy of love. This means a woman loves what deserves her love, directing her heart toward God and toward people rather than toward perishable things, so that she does not waste her capacity for love on what cannot endure but gives it to the eternal persons who are worthy of it. The woman who loves what deserves love gives her heart to God and to eternal souls rather than to perishable things. Loving what deserves love means directing one's deepest love toward God and the eternal souls of others, a woman not squandering her heart on what cannot endure.

Love That Reaches Beyond Death

Because the souls a woman loves are eternal, her love for them reaches beyond death, continuing in prayer and hope of eternal reunion rather than ending at the grave. The love a woman gives to eternal souls is itself a love that reaches beyond death, for the bonds of genuine love in Christ are not severed by death but continue, the living praying for the dead and hoping for reunion in eternity, so that a woman's love for the people in her life is not a temporary attachment ended by the grave but a lasting bond that stretches into eternity, deepened by the knowledge that those she loves are made for everlasting life. This means a woman loves with a love that reaches beyond death, knowing that her bonds with those she loves in Christ endure past the grave in prayer

and the hope of reunion, so that her love is deepened and steadied by its eternal horizon rather than shadowed by the finality of death. The woman whose love reaches beyond death loves with a bond that endures past the grave, in prayer and hope of reunion. Love that reaches beyond death is love for eternal souls, continuing in prayer and the hope of eternal reunion rather than ending at the grave.

CHAPTER FIVE

Making the Present Matter

Eternity in the Ordinary Moment

Rather than making the present trivial by comparison, living with eternity in view makes each present moment matter more, for every ordinary moment is charged with eternal significance and offered to God. Understanding how eternity makes the present matter shows a woman how to live each moment, however small, with eternal weight.

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. — Ephesians 5:15-16

Every Moment Charged with Significance

Living with eternity in view charges every ordinary moment with significance, for each one is an opportunity to love God and others and to grow toward eternal life. Far from making the present seem trivial, the view of eternity charges every ordinary moment with significance, for each moment is an opportunity to love God, to serve others, to grow in holiness, to store up treasure in heaven, so that no moment is insignificant, each one weighty with eternal possibility, the smallest actions of daily life invested with lasting meaning when offered to God and lived toward eternity. This means a woman sees every moment as charged with significance, each one an opportunity of eternal worth, so that she lives her ordinary moments with the awareness that they matter, no part of her day too small to carry eternal weight. The woman who sees every moment charged with significance lives her ordinary days with eternal purpose. Every moment charged with significance is the fruit of living with eternity in view, each ordinary moment an opportunity to love God and others and grow toward eternal life.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment

A woman lives wisely by embracing the present moment as the place where she meets God and does His will, giving herself fully to what is before her now. The present moment

is the only time a woman actually has, the place where she meets God and does His will, so that living with eternity in view teaches her to give herself fully to the present, to find God in the duty, the person, the task before her now rather than living in the past or the future, embracing each moment as the place of encounter with God and the opportunity for faithfulness, the present moment made holy by being lived for Him. This means a woman embraces the present moment as the place where she meets God and fulfills His will, giving herself fully to what is before her rather than being distracted by past or future, so that she sanctifies the present by living it for God. The woman who embraces the present moment finds God in what is before her now, living each moment for Him. The sacrament of the present moment is a woman meeting God in what is before her now, giving herself fully to the present as the place of encounter and faithfulness.

Faithfulness in Small Things Now

Living with eternity in view leads a woman to be faithful in the small things of the present, knowing that her eternal destiny is shaped by the countless small choices she makes now. The eternal perspective leads a woman to faithfulness in small things, for she understands that her holiness and her eternal destiny are built not by grand gestures but by the countless small acts of faithfulness in the present, each small duty done well, each small temptation resisted, each small kindness offered, so that she gives herself to faithfulness in the small things of now, knowing that these ordinary faithfulnesses are the very stuff of a life lived toward eternity. This means a woman practices faithfulness in small things now, attending to the ordinary duties and choices of the present as the material of her holiness, so that she builds her eternal destiny through daily small faithfulness rather than waiting for great moments. The woman who is faithful in small things now builds her eternity through the ordinary faithfulnesses of the present. Faithfulness in small things now is how a woman lives toward eternity, her everlasting destiny shaped by the countless small choices she makes in the present.

CHAPTER SIX

Living Unafraid

The Freedom of One Who Has Made Peace with Death

The woman who has made peace with her own death is set free from the fear that holds so many captive, and this freedom from the fear of death makes her bold, able to live and love and act without the paralysis of fear. Understanding how making peace with death

frees a woman to live unafraid reveals one of the greatest gifts of living with eternity in view.

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. — 2 Timothy 1:7

Making Peace with Death

A woman is freed from fear by making peace with her own death, accepting its certainty and entrusting her eternity to God so that death loses its terror. The fear of death lies behind much human anxiety, but a woman can make peace with her own death, accepting its certainty, entrusting her eternal destiny to God's mercy, and placing her hope in Christ's victory over death, so that death loses its terror for her, no longer a dreaded enemy but a passage she has made peace with, and this peace with death frees her from the fear that holds so many captive. This means a woman makes peace with her own death, facing it honestly and entrusting herself to God so that it no longer terrifies her, so that she is freed from the fear of death that lies behind so much anxiety, at peace with the passage that awaits her. The woman who has made peace with death is freed from its terror, entrusting her eternity to God. Making peace with death means accepting its certainty and entrusting one's eternity to God, so that death loses its terror and a woman is freed from its fear.

The Boldness of the Fearless Woman

Freed from the fear of death, a woman becomes bold, able to take risks for God and others that fear would otherwise prevent. The woman who no longer fears death is set free for a remarkable boldness, for most human timidity traces back, in the end, to the fear of loss and ultimately of death, and a woman freed from that fear can act courageously, speak the truth, take risks for God and for others, and give herself without holding back, so that her freedom from the fear of death makes her bold, undaunted by threats that would paralyze others, one of the most powerful witnesses the Church has. This means a woman freed from the fear of death lives with boldness, able to act, speak, and give herself courageously because she no longer fears the loss that others dread, so that her fearlessness makes her a bold and effective witness. The woman who possesses the boldness of fearlessness acts courageously for God and others, undaunted by what others fear. The boldness of the fearless woman comes from freedom from the fear of death, making her able to take risks for God and others that fear would otherwise prevent.

A Spirit of Power, Not Fear

A woman lives unafraid not by her own courage alone but by the Spirit God has given her, a Spirit of power, love, and self-control rather than fear. The freedom to live unafraid is finally a gift of God, for the Spirit He has given a woman is not a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-control, so that her fearlessness rests not on her own natural courage, which would fail, but on the Spirit who empowers her, strengthens her, and fills her with a love that casts out fear, enabling her to live boldly and faithfully by His power rather than her own. This means a woman lives unafraid by relying on the Spirit of power God has given her, drawing her courage from Him rather than from her own strength, so that her fearlessness is sustained by grace, the Spirit casting out her fear and filling her with power and love. The woman who lives by a spirit of power, not fear, draws her fearlessness from the Spirit God has given her. A spirit of power, not fear, is God's gift to a woman, so that she lives unafraid by the Spirit who fills her with power, love, and self-control rather than by her own courage.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Urgency of the Mission

Time Is Finite, and People Are Eternal

Living with eternity in view gives a woman a holy urgency, for she knows that her time is finite and that the people around her are eternal souls, and this knowledge sends her out to love and to witness while there is still time. Understanding the urgency that eternity gives the mission shows a woman why the Last Things do not end in private peace but send her outward.

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. — John 9:4

Time Is Finite

The knowledge that her time is finite gives a woman urgency, for she has only a limited span in which to love, to serve, and to witness before her day is done. Living with eternity in view impresses on a woman the finitude of her time, for she knows that her life is short, that her days are numbered, and that the time she has to love, to serve, to grow, and to witness is limited, running out, so that she cannot presume on endless tomorrows but must act while it is day, the knowledge of finite time giving urgency to her living, every day a gift not to be wasted. This means a woman lives with the urgency that comes from knowing her time is finite, not presuming on unlimited tomorrows but using the time she has, so that she acts while she can rather than squandering her limited days. The

woman who knows her time is finite lives with urgency, using her limited days rather than presuming on endless tomorrows. Time is finite, and the knowledge of it gives a woman urgency, only a limited span in which to love, serve, and witness before her day is done.

People Are Eternal

The people around a woman are eternal souls bound for everlasting life, and this truth gives urgency to her love and witness, for their eternal destiny is at stake. Even more than the finitude of her own time, the eternal destiny of the people around her gives a woman urgency, for every person she meets is an immortal soul bound for an eternal destiny, and their everlasting good is at stake, so that she cannot be indifferent to them but is moved to love them, to witness to them, to help them toward heaven while there is time, the eternal weight of every soul giving urgency to her care for others. This means a woman is moved to urgency by the eternal destiny of the people around her, knowing their everlasting good is at stake, so that she loves and witnesses with urgency rather than indifference, caring for the eternal souls entrusted to her while there is still time. The woman who knows that people are eternal loves and witnesses with urgency, their everlasting destiny at stake. People are eternal, and their everlasting destiny gives urgency to a woman's love and witness, for the eternal good of every soul is at stake.

Sent While It Is Day

Living with eternity in view finally sends a woman out, for the woman who has made peace with death and sees the eternal stakes is sent to work the works of God while it is still day. The whole of living with eternity in view issues finally in mission, for a woman who has faced her death, settled her destiny, and come to see the eternal stakes of every life is sent out to work while it is day, to give away what she has received, to love and serve and witness with the urgency of one who knows that night is coming, so that the Last Things do not end in private peace but send her outward in mission, an unafraid woman sent to labor for souls while there is time. This means a woman is sent while it is day, her formation in the Last Things issuing not in private comfort but in mission, so that she goes out to work the works of God with urgency, giving away what she has received while the time to do so remains. The woman who is sent while it is day goes out to labor for God and souls with the urgency of one who knows the night is coming. Sent while it is day, a woman formed by eternity is sent out to work the works of God, to love, serve, and witness with urgency while there is still time.

CONCLUSION

You Know What You Believe. Now Go.

The woman who believed in eternity without letting it change her life now knows how to live with eternity in view. We have seen that the end clarifies the middle, so that she lives backward from her death and keeps the long view; that eternity reorders her priorities, holding the world loosely and investing in what lasts; that it heals her anxiety, putting her fears in perspective and giving the peace of a settled destiny; that it deepens her love, seeing the eternal in others and loving what reaches beyond death; that it makes the present matter, each moment charged with significance; that it frees her to live unafraid, having made peace with death; and that it sends her out with urgency, for time is finite and people are eternal.

This is the last of the ten stations of Magnificat of the Beloved, and it gives the whole program its weight. For everything a woman has learned, about God and the Son and the Spirit, about the Church and grace and virtue, about the sacraments and Mary, gains its urgency when seen against the backdrop of eternity. A woman who has made peace with her own death is unafraid, and an unafraid woman is one of the most powerful witnesses the Church has.

So live with eternity in view. Let the thought of your end clarify your days, and order your life toward what lasts. Hold the world loosely, and lay up your treasure in heaven. Let your anxieties be healed by the peace of a settled destiny, and let your love deepen toward the eternal souls around you. Make the present moment matter, and be faithful in small things now. Make your peace with death, and live unafraid, bold by the Spirit of power God has given you. And go out with urgency, while it is day, to love and serve and witness, for your time is finite and the people around you are eternal. You know what you believe. You know why it matters. Now go, unafraid, and give it away.

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