



LESSON FOUR:

A Second Helping of Grace

SCRIPTURE:

1 Timothy 4

FOCUS VERSE:

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus
(2 Timothy 4:1 ESV).*

DISCUSSION STARTERS:

1. If you could offer one piece of advice to your family members, what would it be?
2. What epitaph should we find on your tombstone?

A person's last words are significant. Throughout history, last words provide a window that peers into the heart, measuring and evaluating the life. Poignant, funny, or just plain weird, our last words can reveal something of who we are as we make our final transition. Consider some of these last words of famous individuals.

Parapsychologist and seer Nostradamus' last known prediction was "Tomorrow at sunrise, I shall no longer be here." He was correct.

English author and journalist George Orwell's (author of *1984* and *Animal Farm*) last written words were, "At 50, everyone has the face he deserves." Orwell died at 46.

Famed drummer Buddy Rich died after a surgery in 1987. As he was being prepped for the surgery, a nurse asked him, "Is there anything you can't take?" Rich uttered what would be his last words when he replied, "Yeah, country music."

Everyone Lives in the Presence of God

The 21st Psalm is a psalm of David. It begins announcing "The king rejoices in your strength, Lord." The passage continues by saying, "Surely You have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence" (Psalm 21:6 NIV). David was aware that he lived his life in the presence of the Lord – and it made him glad with joy.

How to Practice the Presence of God

Brother Lawrence was a Christian from the seventeenth century. He had what he calls a "spiritual awakening" and soon became a Carmelite monk in Paris. This work is an English rendering of the original French work. The book quickly became a devotional classic among both Catholics and Protestants.

I began to live as if there were none but God and I in the world.

What would change for you if there were only you and God in the world? What difference would His presence make?