

A Burning in my Bones Questions

Pre-amble Questions

1. Overall impressions of the book (rate 1-10)?
2. What were some of the things you most appreciated? Feel free to share a quote.
3. What was something you struggled or disagreed with? Feel free to share a quote.

Chapter 1

Do you see the value of geography in shaping our faith

Chapter 2

I believe the pastor sticking out in the midst of the butcher shop community speaks to the church in the world, agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Chapter 6

Eugenes view of scripture and theology are radically changed and draw him deeper into a life of exploration of the two. What elements drew him in and how can we create more of that in Christian culture today?

Chapter 8

At the end of chapter 8, Winn shares a piece of Eugene's journal where he reflects on Jan rescuing him from a world of books. Why is there such a temptation into knowledge apart from relationship? Have you witnessed this in the world around you? How did Jan pull Eugene away?

Chapter 9

Eugene comes to realize he might be a pastor when he understands the role differently. How would you define a pastor's role?

Eugene struggled with the concepts of focussing on church growth. Winn goes so far as to state that, "...many of these perceived needs were actually destructive, dehumanizing. Even antithetical to the gospel of Jesus." Do you agree with this idea expressed the chapter for the church today? What examples do you see to support your position?

Chapter 11

Eugene gets tired of running the "damn church" with all the busyness and many self created demands. How do churches get to that place? What kind of church do you think Jesus had in mind when he founded it? Why do we build up such different organizations than Jesus had in mind? What is the antidote?

Chapter 12

In Eugene's journal he wrote "Steve, yesterday, told me (about the view of ministry) and what he experienced here, where I am not trying to do very much, but am looking for what the Spirit is doing Well, I'm glad he sees that and wants it. I think he knows, at least a little anyway, of how difficult it is but more of the difficulty is inward, the struggle to be here, stay out of the way, and to pray without forcing anything or running out and contradicting by action what I enter into by prayer.". Is this the way churches are typically run? What about our personal lives. Why do you think this would have been unattractive to Steve?

Chapter 13

Eugene declares his desire to be a saint. How do we measure Christian maturity in broader Christian culture? How should we?

Chapter 14

Eugene scoffs, "Why is it so common that people think when they write about God and Bible and Spirit, they are somehow exempted from writing well?" What do you think he means by that and do you find it to be true? Why or why not?

Chapter 15

"Eugene knew his church was being absorbed by a fear-laden American story, not Scripture's story, Radical individualism undercut the Bible's foundational themes, and racism slashed at the heart of the Bible's basic teaching." Have we solved these issues today in North American Christian culture? Why or why not?

Chapter 16

Describing Eugene's dream for The Message, Collier writes "Translation is both a science and an art. It drew upon every part of Eugene scholar, poet, pastor, wordsmith. Grammar was not enough. The text had to breathe, to move from one way of being into a fresh one, and faithfully. It was relational. The goal was a fresh spiritual encounter, similar to what early listeners and readers would have experienced." Have you read any of the message? Do you think he succeeded? Have you previously considered the intricacies of bible translation?

Eugene's journal entry from the end of this chapter regarding Evangelical pastors seems to be a deep critique. Do you share his concerns? Why do you think pastors have given into such issues?

Chapter 17

Collier shares Eugene's frustrations with certain views of pastors and churches hold such as focus on growth, vision, size and busyness. We are told to test the fruit of things. What is the fruit of such focuses? What does Eugene hope pastors and churches will focus on.

What are your thoughts on Eugene's final years?