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LIFE INTERRUPTED

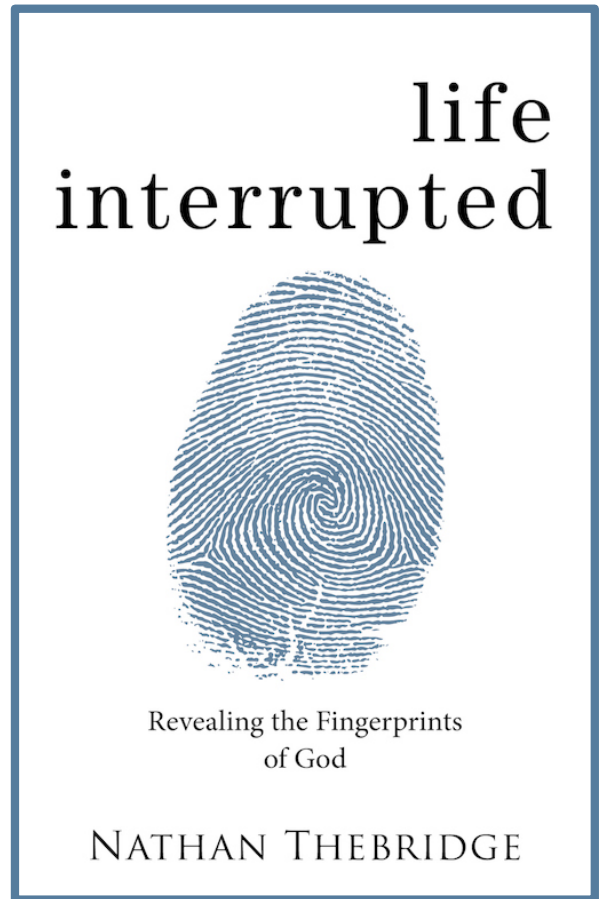
REVEALING THE FINGERPRINTS OF GOD

NATHAN THEBRIDGE

Sometimes it seems God is everywhere but where you need him to be. When life

seems so ordinary, so mundane, it is easy to get lost in the darkness and feel utterly alone. Built within our humanity is the need for relationship, the desire to belong, and real relationship with God is not as far away as you may think. God is actively searching for your attention. He seeks to encounter you—to interrupt your life with his presence, his power, his provision. *Life Interrupted* looks at those in the Bible and in everyday life today whose mundane lives were forever changed by encounters with the divine.

Simon of Cyrene’s story is told in merely two verses in Scripture, yet this innocuous bystander was thrust into an event that changed the world—he carried the cross to Calvary when Jesus could bear it no longer. We, too, have the potential to see our lives touched by the fingerprints of God. He invites us to be still and know, to make way for the unimaginable, the unbelievable, or the impossible—he invites us to make way for a miracle!



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About the Author

Nathan Thebridge

Nathan Thebridge grew up in the Southwestern suburbs of Sydney, Australia. Attending church with his family was a significant part of his youth. In his early teens, Nathan was given the option of going to church Sunday mornings

or staying home. He chose church. A decision, he will tell you, that marked the beginning of his spiritual journey.

Today, church is where you find Nathan on Sundays. He is a pastor, passionate about building community within the local church, and writes a weekly blog, *Chasing Light*, to inspire a generation to look for God's fingerprints in their everyday, ordinary lives.

He and his wife, Norma, live in Sydney, Australia, with their two children, Rachael and Aaron, and their dog, Oliver.

Connect with the Author

chasinglightuc.com

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What Others Are Saying About **Life Interrupted**

“Nathan Thebridge’s book, *Life Interrupted*, is a gem for anyone looking to make sense of life through the good and bad times. We are all excited when our lives are interrupted with unexpected joys and unplanned excitement. What most of us experience, though, is that the interruptions of life are often hard, unexplained, and feel unfair. Nathan gives the reader some ways ahead that help us make sense of the interruptions and make the most of life. For Nathan, the foundational element is faith and trust in Jesus. If your life has been interrupted, for good or ill, this book will help you face the future with courage and give you hope.”

—Karl Faase, CEO, Olive Tree Media

“*Life Interrupted* is a timely but overdue reminder that our lives are lived daily by divine providence and our choices. Nathan has tapped into brilliant thought. Interruptions are the tapestry of God working in and through all things to make us Christ-like and effective in our exempling of Him in all things.”

—John McMartin, Senior Pastor, Inspire Church, Australia; President of ACC, NSW

“I really enjoyed reading Nathan’s book *Life Interrupted*, a down-to-earth look at the Christian life. I like the way he writes and I particularly loved the story in the chapter ‘Watching on The Sidelines’ where Nathan describes how he came to the aid of a woman being accosted by her husband/boyfriend. It’s stories like these that are so real and deal with the tragic side of the very real world in which we live.”

—Dr. Col Stringer, Col Stringer Ministries

“*Life Interrupted* is a great read. It stirred me and reminded me that a life of worship will sustain our lives, even when they are interrupted by unexpected tough times, sickness, or grief. I love one of Nathan’s quotes: ‘Never let anything so fill your heart with grief that you forget the joy of the Lord.’ This book is full of insightful gems and stories of God’s never-ending love and mercy, even during times of trial.”

—Stuart McClelland, President, Full Gospel Churches of Australia

“God interrupts our lives, changes the game, and alters our assignments. *Life Interrupted* is a message of hope, and challenges us to recognize that God is in our mess and that He interrupts because He has more for us. I highly recommend this book.”

—Kristin Snyder, Author of *When Storms Come: Will You Be Ready?*

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“Nathan will help you take a step back and grasp the mosaic of your life from the perspective of your Creator. You will begin to appreciate your life and value every day for the opportunities it provides.”

—**Benjamin Evans, Director of Feed the Hungry, Australia & New Zealand**

“Nathan Thebridge bristles with energy, humor, and imagination. That’s just who he is. And it comes through on every page. Open your heart to the divine fingerprints on these pages and you’ll never allow His interruptions to pass you by again.”

—**Stefan Radelich, President of Feed the Hungry**

“Two things struck me as I read Nathan’s book. One: he used modern language to express timeless truth. Raw, eloquent, quirky, contagious—drawing me into the Biblical narrative like never before.

“Two: he made me aware that God might interrupt my planned-out life today and every day, and that’s the whole point. The risks and rewards of following Jesus are...his interruptions. And why settle for anything less?”

—**Debbie Johnson, Author of *A Pocket Full of Seeds***

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Nathan Thebridge, author of

Life Interrupted

Revealing the Fingerprints of God

Q: Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

A: I'm a sunburnt Aussie kid who grew up in the suburbs of south-western Sydney. I come from a middle-class family and enjoyed a well-balanced upbringing. I'm grateful to say that my most vivid memories growing up outside of family is church on Sundays. Not far from our home still stands today a church on a hill, a beautiful place of hardwood floors and chipped walls that echo the life songs of some precious saints. Strong memories live there, hiding within the timber work and stained pews that line the sanctuary—under that weathered steeple lies a lifetime of memories. Today, church is still a significant part of who I am.

Q: You've been involved in ministry and leadership for some time. How does this add to who you are?

A: One of the greatest things a Christian can do is find a local church and pour their heart and soul into it. I believe they'll never be the same again. God built within our humanity the need for relationship, the desire to belong. That's most adequately fed when we do life with a community of faith that builds and strengthens our journey. So, my connection to a community of faith or church is central to my personal narrative.

Q: This is your first book. How did it come about?

A: I started to develop a real joy for writing with the *Chasing Light* blog. I had preached a message on navigating pain and used the story of Simon of Cyrene as my context—to be completely truthful it wasn't one of my best messages. Nonetheless I started to blog on it while at the kitchen table. I remember my wife Norma was in the kitchen; we were talking, catching up, and I was caught in a moment. My writing extended beyond a normal blog and at some point I felt I had

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a reasonable outline for a book. I keep my blogs pretty short and so I knew I had something. The rest, as they say, is history.

Q: Tell us about your blog, *Chasing Light*.

A: *Chasing Light* started out as an opportunity to connect to the younger generation in our home church. I started what essentially evolved into a weekly devotional or blog that was designed to find God in our everyday ordinary lives. It's so easy to get lost in our busy, caught in our schedule that we forget to connect with heaven and so *Chasing Light* became that medium to promote a regular connection with our team.

Q: Simon of Cyrene's story is largely unknown. How did you manage to write a book based on him?

A: Since my youth I had always been fascinated with this narrative. Just a couple of verses that build a context for arguably one of the most amazing encounters and stories of human history. Of course, *Life Interrupted* starts with this unknown innocuous guest of Jerusalem, but there's always more to the story. We, like so many Bible characters, see God do amazing things beyond any reason or planning in our lives. Often it's a mystery to us until time passes and God's secrets are revealed. Simon's story is no different; what's amazing is more than two thousand years on we read his story as we stand in awe and we wonder, *what can God do with me?*

Q: *Life Interrupted* explores pain and the challenges we face along the way. What does this pain say about God?

A: That's a good question! I like to look for what I call "the fingerprints of God"—as we journey through pain and the challenges that life can bring, I think we often miss the signs along the way that show God in the middle of our mess. Scripture declares in Psalms 34:18 that "God is close to the brokenhearted." We can often miss this in the midst of tragedy. We know from Romans 8:28 that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." So God is not only interested in our pain; He desires to heal it and work "good" in it.

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Q: What would you say to someone who is in the midst of a storm and struggling to navigate their way through?

A: We are called to “bear one another’s burdens”—the message gives way to a significant thought: you are not alone! In my reach for God I want to be available for His people. I’m here today because of the grace and favor extended to me through friends and family. So I would say to someone who is the midst of a trial: don’t stand alone. I would remind them of the tremendous love and affection that our Heavenly Father has for them, and that He is not detached from your hurt and cares about your heart.

Q: So, you’ve launched your first book; any plans for a second?

A: I would love the opportunity to continue to write and explore future books. I think we’ve stored enough blogs to consider a weekly devotional for *Chasing Light*. I would love to pursue other opportunities as they arise.

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