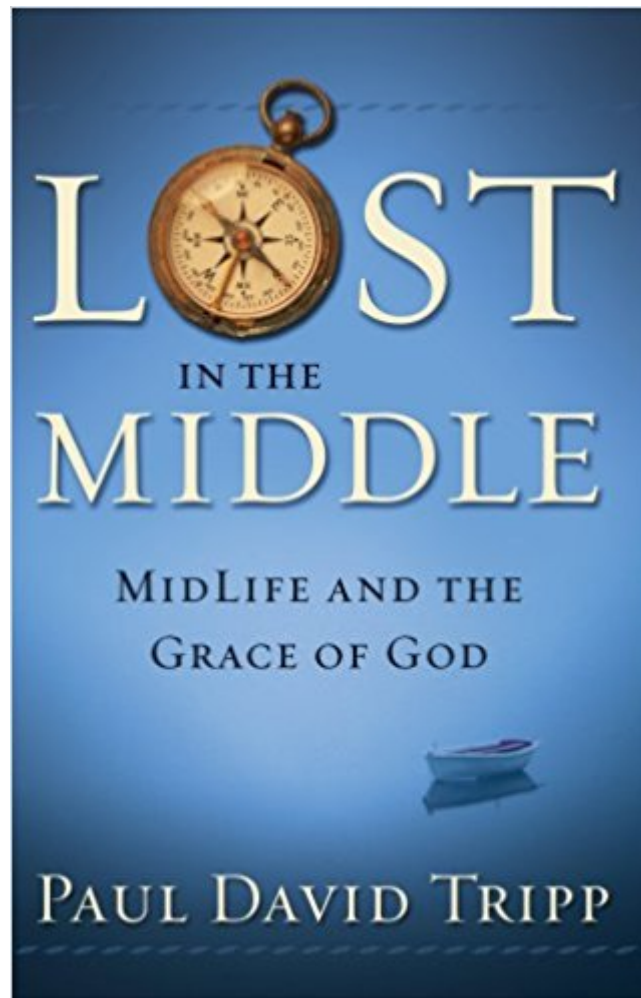




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Lost In The Middle: Midlife And The Grace Of God



Synopsis

The Bible never discusses midlife, just like it never discusses teenagers. Yet the Bible is able to address any of life's experiences because it was written by the One who made them all. Life on this side of glory is hard. This world is a broken place. You will face things in midlife that beat at the borders of your faith, but you do not have to be lost in the middle of your story. Although this book is directed at those who are facing the issues of midlife, it has a much broader net than that. Lost in the Middle can help all who are confronted with life in this broken world and have lost their way. The God who seems so distant to you in this moment is actually near and active. Lost in the Middle is written to give you eyes to see him, to see yourself more clearly, and to find the real hope that you need to carry on. You do not have to be paralyzed by regret, defeated by aging, and discouraged by the passing of your dreams. This time of life, which can seem like the end of many things, can actually welcome you to a brand new way of living. As is so often the case in your walk with the Lord, this moment of pain is also a moment of grace. Because of this, we all need to occasionally step back, slow down, and consider where we are going. Lost in the Middle will help you to do just that. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paul David Tripp is a gifted and sought-after speaker and the author of many popular books, including *What Did You Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage*; *The Age of Opportunity*; and *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*. President of Paul Tripp Ministries, he also serves as Professor of Pastoral Life and Care at Redeemer Seminary in Dallas, Texas, and as the Executive

Director of the Center for Pastoral Life and Care in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Luella, have four grown children.

This book is the God-send that an entire generation needs to read, and I say that with no exaggeration. Americans deal with the midlife dilemma in such a superficial way. We think that if we can laugh at ourselves, joke about our circumstances (and maybe undergo a little cosmetic surgery or buy a sports car), then we'll get through it okay. That's just about the only approach to the midlife crisis I've come across, anyway. But Paul Tripp isn't interested in palliatives. As always, he wants to get to the heart of things. Or, more accurately, he wants us to see that God gets to the heart of things, using the indignities of aging, the accumulated load of life's regrets, the rising fear of life's end, to wrest our attention away from this empty material world. It is quite simply life-changing to view midlife from this perspective. This book, with its emphasis on the grace of God, is so life-affirming, so filled with words of hope, that you'll never again look in the mirror with such despair. And it's only in midlife that we are ready to hear this message; in our youth the word mortality is hardly even an entry in our inner dictionary. Read this book, and then read it again. Don't go on to the next new, new thing on the Christian bookshelf. This is too important. Thank you, Dr. Tripp. May God continue to richly bless you.

Paul David Tripp has an insightful, but humble grasp of theology, and can take the theology and distill it into practical applications and attitudes. His thesis here and in his other works is that if we as believers (this book is for believers) focus our attentions on God and His ways, then the "crisis" of middle age is no crisis, in point of fact, it's a blessing because it will reveal elements of who we are that are ungodly, and once identified, they may be addressed.

Having passed the 50-year mark in 2013, I am well into what is called "middle age." For the first 20 years of my life, the focus was growth and education. In my twenties, I began settle down into marriage and family, and in my thirties all the way through to my forties there was never a dull moment raising three kids and serving at church. So, now what? In a Christian culture that stresses the need to "focus on the family," what happens when the family is gone? We can feel useless and lose the joy of our salvation as we mourn the loss of what we had in the past. *Lost in the Middle* by Paul David Tripp is an easy to read, practical book that helps us see this is a season of life in which we can be more spiritually productive than ever before. I especially liked the chapter titled, "Golden Calves." God calls women in Proverbs 31:25 to "laugh at the time to come." This book will help

those who feel lost to see the joy that awaits those who have a biblical perspective on any stage of life, but especially with respect to aging.

Lost in the Middle is the only book I have read so far that gets to the heart of us who have traveled the road long and seemingly come up short. It also hits home for those whose journey is still in process, but big cracks in the road have appeared and nearly swallowed them. Paul David Tripp gets at the heart of the human dilemma: focus on self rather than on the Creator. Somehow we get it backwards and think that all things need to work out for us, but it's not about us. When we think we are in control of our lives, we make ourselves like God, and, that, we aren't. Through the exercise of repentance, seeking forgiveness, and acknowledging the Sovereignty of God, we can rekindle the reason for living and finish well. I strongly recommend this book to us who are in the 4th quarter, AND to those who have blown it and need a leg up. Thank you Paul, for leading the way.

God has been, and continues, using Paul Tripp to teach and to counsel the church at large through his books. If you are living in the middle years of life this is a must read. If you are a middle aged man in a crisis of faith or going through confusion about the next half of your life.....buy it now and read it ASAP! The teaching is based strongly on the Bible, thus it is truth that really applies to all people of all ages. It will be of benefit for anyone to read, regardless of their age. My favorite thought in the book, and I summarize....The middle years best equate with the season of autumn. Autumn is the season of harvest. Whatever seeds you sowed in the spring and summer of your life will be seen in the "harvest-time" of your life. How truly profound is such a thought.

This is an excellent book on getting your bearings in mid-life. Tripp does a great job of empathizing with the diverse places that people find themselves in and helps them see the trials, testings, and triumphs as God's design to woo us close to himself. I had never heard of this book, though it was published in 2004, till I went to a marriage conference a few weeks ago. I really wish I had seen it back then; but perhaps it was better to read it on the 'latter' side of mid-life rather than the beginning.

When I read the title, I did not really get it, LOST IN THE MIDDLE: MIDLIFE AND THE GRACE OF GOD. Our church is reading and studying this book in the care groups. Before I read it, I said to my friends, "that's where I am," because I thought the title meant that this is addressing those who are caring for older parents, helping grown children, enjoying grandchildren. I am. I would soon

understand that I was to be addressed in a different way than I thought I would be. No, these are not the ones who are being addressed. Rather it is about those with broken dreams, disillusioned ideas and older and, possibly sick, bodies. Where do our dreams find their fulfillment? Where can we go to satisfy our deepest needs? This is what Paul Tripp addresses and more than adequately. Without a doubt, I recommend his book highly. Our church, Covenant Life Church, in Gaithersburg, MD, is hosting a seminar presented by Paul Tripp on September 10-11. My husband and I are looking forward to attending. At the least, buy the book. You will be helped by it.

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