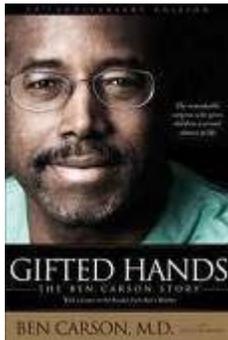


Visit Cec at [www.cecilmurphey.com](http://www.cecilmurphey.com).



Zondervan just released the 20th anniversary edition of *Gifted Hands*, the best-selling book Cec wrote with Dr. Ben Carson.

## The Meaning of Forgiveness

They called the third time and again in the middle of night. "If you don't come over here and help me restrain myself, I'll kill her!" he yelled.

I dressed hurriedly and went to their house.

On the two previous occasions, it took about an hour of calming them down before they held each other and he apologized. He admitted he had overreacted and started the fight. She kissed him and it was over.

The third time, she reacted differently. "Stop telling me you're sorry! If I forgive you, you need to promise that you'll never do it again."

He promised he wouldn't. They hugged each other and I left.

That wasn't the end of their problems, but it was the last time I visited. The fourth time, I asked them to come to my office the next morning. They didn't show up and they stopped calling.

As I replayed that memory, I realized the wife wanted assurance that he had changed and wouldn't repeat his behavior.

And isn't that the way many of us respond when someone asks us to forgive? We don't say it as strongly as she did, but we want to believe that it won't happen again.

A few times I've heard people say, "I'll forgive you, but if you ever. . . ." Is that truly forgiving? It sounds like conditional forgiving. But if I truly forgive you, that's an act of faith on my part. I believe you're sincere and that you won't repeat your behavior.

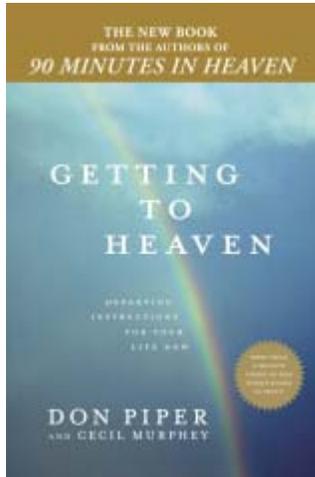
Most of us can grant absolution. Once. It may be difficult to forgive the same transgression a second time. But a third time? A tenth?

Maybe that's why forgiveness becomes so difficult. "I forgave her once. . ."

And yet Jesus told Peter to forgive "seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:22). Jesus' words make me realize that I don't truly forgive if I expect the same wrongdoing again.

I want to be able to forgive as if it's the only time.

Maybe that's why true forgiving isn't easy.

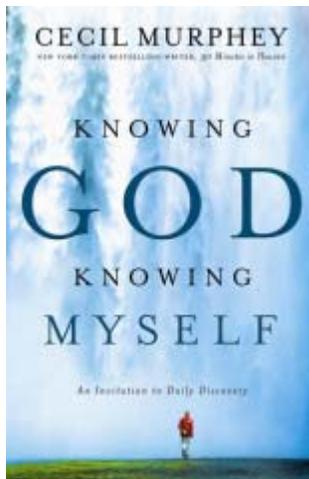


It's finally available! *Getting to Heaven* is Don Piper's and Cec's fourth book together.

## Personal News

- Zondervan released the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of [Gifted Hands](#), the book I wrote for Ben Carson. (It's been in print 21 years in hardcover, soft cover, and mass paper.)
- Don Piper and I did a booksigning in the Atlanta area for [Getting to Heaven: Departing Instructions for Your Life Now](#). The book officially went on sale March 1.
- I've recently contracted for two new books and that's always exciting.
- This month I have several interviews scheduled and one local speaking engagement. I won't go on the road until next month.

## The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk



We're getting great feedback on *Knowing God, Knowing Myself*. It's Cec's most transparent book yet.

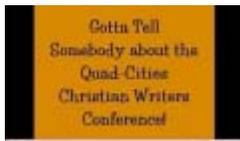
Cec has made it to South Africa—The Readers Society of South Africa, that is. They've asked to use Cec's articles on writing and have linked to his writers' blog as resources on their website. The Readers Society of South Africa is a non-profit organization that works toward fostering a culture of reading and writing.

If you've read Cec's book [Knowing God, Knowing Myself](#), you might have realized that it would be a great book to use for one-on-one, iron-sharpens-iron type discussions or even in a group study. Cec has written a list of four questions that can be asked after reading each chapter. [To download the list and a note from Cec, click here.](#)

If you've enjoyed any of Cec's books, would you tell others? You can do that by writing a review and posting it on [Amazon.com](#), [BarnesandNoble.com](#), [CBD.com](#), or other places. You could tweet, blog, or tell your friends on Facebook. The more books Cec sells, the more he's able to help other writers and ministries through his Cecil Murphey Scholarship Fund. All the royalties for his books go into a non-profit organization to help others.



Click on the picture to hear Cec talk about his new book *Knowing God, Knowing Myself*.



Cec and Twila co-founded the Quad-Cities Christian Writers Conference eight years ago. Click on the picture to hear more about the QCCWC.

## Links of Interest

[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

[Cec's blog for male survivors of sexual abuse](#)

## Survivor Helps

[The Cec and Me radio show](#)

[The Quad-Cities Christian Writers Conference \(sponsored by Cec, directed by Twila--April 8-9\)](#)