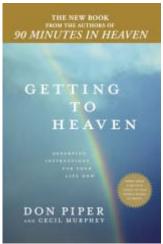
THE MAN BEHIND THE WORDS



Cec Murphey www.cecilmurphey.com



Getting to Heaven: Departing Instructions for Your Life Now is Don Piper's and Cec's fourth book together. It released March 1.

Mirrors of Life

David mentioned *Ordinary People*. I had seen the film in 1980, later read the book, and watched it twice on TV in recent years.

"One scene always touches me," I said. It comes at the end where the son, Conrad, and the father talk after Conrad's mother walked out. The father yells at Conrad and then apologizes. Conrad tells him not to apologize but to yell at him the way he yelled at Buck, who died in an accident.

Two of the father's sentences punch me in the gut every time I hear or read them. "You were always so hard on yourself...You were the good kid." The father admitted that he should have paid more attention to Conrad.

As I quoted those words to my friend, tears filled my eyes.

David smiled and said, "That's a picture of you, isn't it?"

His words shocked me, but he was right. I was (and still am) self-demanding. I was also the good kid—the dependable one who didn't get into trouble like his two brothers did.

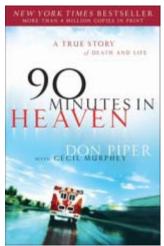
As we spoke I realized that simple message had been a mirror to me since 1980. I finally saw myself and realized why I had resisted looking into that mirror. I had been the good kid, but I had been unable to accept that part of myself.

Yes, I thought, most of us face mirrors. We may not recognize our reflections or, like me, we're not ready to validate them.

Sometimes I see my reflection in the way others respond to me with rebuke or embrace. Once in a while I "see" myself when I pray or when I read the Bible. Sometimes the image forces me to beg forgiveness. But occasionally I smile and say, "That's exactly who I am."

Here's what I learned: I recognize myself in those mirrors only when I'm ready.

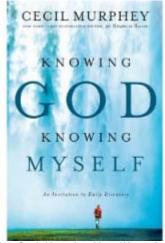
That day with David, I was ready.



90 Minutes in Heaven has enjoyed great success. It's back in the top 10 on the New York Times' bestseller list.



When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers will be available July 1. It offers beautiful artwork and Cec's comforting, gentle words.



Knowing God, Knowing Myself is an invitation to daily discovery. It's good for personal or group study and makes a nice, thought-provoking gift for grads and dads.

Personal News

- May 21 I'll drive to Anderson, SC to speak to a local writers group.
- I'm delighted that Exodus International invited me to speak twice for their conference at Ridgecrest (near Asheville, NC) in June. I'll speak on the topic of male sexual abuse.
- I'll do three keynotes at a writers conference at Elizabethtown, KY (near Louisville), June 24-25. I'll speak three times the next day at the Brandenburg United Methodist Church, Brandenburg, KY.

<u>The Twila Zone—Words from My</u> <u>Assistant, Twila Belk</u>

<u>90 Minutes in Heaven</u> has been consistently on the *New York Times'* bestseller list since fall of 2006, and in recent weeks it's back in the top 10. It's amazing how God is using this book. Congratulations to Cec and Don Piper.

Do you have a family member or friend who suffers from Alzheimer's or dementia? Cec's book *When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers* (Harvest House Publishers, July 1 release) might be helpful. With a caring spirit, Cec provides comfort and advice for those who journey alongside a loved one whose memory is fading. This gift book offers a gentle voice of support and is a hopeful reminder of the moments of peace that they and their loved one can still experience together.

Graduation season and Father's Day are fast approaching. Consider giving *Knowing God, Knowing Myself* as a gift to your favorite grads and dads. Here's what one reader told us this week about the book: "It's such a blessing to have so much wisdom condensed into short, punchy chapters. It's like a master class in living."

If any of Cec's books have blessed you, think about letting others know by word of mouth, through your blog, Facebook, Twitter, or in book reviews. All proceeds from Cec's books go into a nonprofit fund to help other writers and ministries. By helping him sell more books, Cec can help more people.



Listen to the *Cec and Me* show live on Tuesday nights, 7 CT/8 ET. The show is also available by podcast and downloadable through iTunes.

Links of Interest

Cec's website

Cec's blog for writers

Cec's blog for male survivors of sexual abuse

The Cec and Me radio show