

WITHOUT LIMITS

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF LIVING THE “IMPOSSIBLE”

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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CHAPTER 1
“WONDERBOY”

1. During the Great Depression, seven-year-old Richard was kept in an ICU (intensive care unit) for two weeks due to a burst appendix. Afterward he was moved to a hospital ward for two months. As he lay there watching other kids come and go while he stayed in the hospital, what questions did he start asking himself?
2. If young Richard asked you each of those questions, how would you answer him?
3. What condition was Richard born with? How long did the doctor say the newborn would survive? What does this reveal about the extent of Richard’s birth condition?
4. Briefly research online: What are the long-term effects of rickets for an infant?
5. Why do you think someone with chiropractic knowledge was able to make a difference for three-month-old Richard?
6. What inspired seven-year-old Richard to be someone who prayed?
7. Why do you think Richard, as youth in the hospital for a ruptured appendix, had no residual symptoms of rickets?
8. What do your answers to the above questions reveal to you about the nature of God?
9. Describe a particularly dangerous condition or illness God has saved you from.
10. What does your response to question 8 reveal to you about the nature of God?
11. In what ways was Richard’s survival of these two near-death experiences miraculous?
12. Why do you think God kept young Richard alive?
13. Read Psalm 31:15a. Why do you think David wrote that line? Do you feel the same way? Explain.

CHAPTER 2

THE THIRD TIME I SHOULD HAVE DIED

1. While away at college, Richard crashed his car during a friendly drag race, going 98 miles per hour. What was the condition of the car after the crash? What was Richard's condition?
2. How did Richard exit the car? To what extent do you think God intervened to keep Richard and his buddy Ray safe?
3. After this, Richard's third close encounter with death, what were Richard's thoughts about God?
4. What do your answers to the above questions reveal to you about the nature of God?
5. Describe a car accident, or near-accident, God saved you from.
6. What does your response to question 5 reveal to you about the nature of God?
7. When Richard was college aged, he realized God must have a purpose for his life, though he didn't yet know what that purpose would be. Describe an event in your own life that led you to recognize a purpose God has for your life. (Often a purpose that God has for your life is a situation you feel particularly strongly about.)
8. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4. How do you see God working through you to fulfil this, His primary purpose?
9. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18-19. Why should we be excited, and not daunted, about God's purposes for our lives?

CHAPTER 3
THE FOURTH TIME

1. While married to his second wife, Dorothy, and being a stepfather to her son, named Joe, Richard read and reread a couple of books that influenced his overall mind-set. Afterward, when he considered a health or situational issue that arose, what did Richard see as God's role in the problem?
2. Describe a difficult health or situational issue that God clearly had a hand in getting you through. Were you aware of God's intercession immediately, or sometime after? What do you now see was God's role in the problem? Why do you think the Lord intervened?
3. What does your response to question 2 reveal to you about the nature of God?
4. Richard took his sixteen-year-old son, Bill, hiking in the Grand Teton mountains. How did God miraculously save Richard's life for the fourth time?
5. As the book's author, Richard wrote, "For some reason, it seemed God wanted me to live without limits. . . ." If God had obviously saved you from death multiple times, and you were confident that He has a purpose for your life, would you feel empowered to live your life without fear of failure, and without limits? Explain.
6. Do you think you should—and can—feel empowered by God, no matter your circumstance? Why or why not?
7. The same year Richard survived his hike in the Grand Tetons, he and his family went skiing in the Austrian Alps. Richard skied off a cliff and fell twenty feet, not once but each time he took the run for two days. On the third day, Richard finally made the turn without falling off the cliff. Read Proverbs 28:1, and then Luke 4:12. How can we recognize when being "bold as a lion" crosses the line over to "putting God to the test"?
8. If you, like Richard, have complete confidence that God is personally with you, and that God is clearing the way ahead of you so that you can fulfil your purpose, will you also be able to think, "*Okay. What do you want me to do, Lord?*" and then do it boldly? Explain.

CHAPTER 4
IMPOSSIBLE

1. What impossible miracle did Richard experience while his wife, Dorothy, was in a coma?
2. Have you or someone you know had an experience like that? Describe.
3. What do your answers to the above questions reveal to you about the nature of God?
4. After God brought Richard's wife, Dorothy, into heaven, Richard's co-worker kindly reminded him that Dorothy's passing was part of God's plan for Richard. Richard's thought about that was, "My mind might know it, but right now my heart wasn't up to hearing it." Richard had every reason to trust God. However, the deep pain he was experiencing took precedence over trusting God. Have you experienced a pain so significant that it took your mind off everything else? Describe.
5. What might happen to a person's faith if God allowed him or her to remain in a state of pain?
6. How might that person return to a state of prioritizing faith, despite living in constant pain?
7. How might that person in constant pain live boldly, and have faith without limits?
8. After Dorothy's funeral, Richard's unlimited faith in God returned to the center of his life. What had that impossible light revealed to Richard?
9. Read Romans 8:28. According to that verse, what does God do with every bad thing He allows into our lives?
10. Have you personally witnessed God turning bad things into good in your life? If so, describe.
11. When bad things happen, do you keep trusting God? Why or why not?
12. If you have difficulty trusting God, did the distrust result from severe and/or prolonged pain? Why do you think some people can keep trusting God while others struggle to?
13. Read Philippians 4:13. Where does our ability to trust God come from? If we allow ourselves to be distant from God, then where will our ability to trust Him come from?

CHAPTER 5

WITHOUT LIMITS

1. About nine months following his wife Dorothy's death, Richard married a woman named Diane. When sixty-three-year-old Richard and Diane's son Matthew (age thirteen) vacationed in Ixtapa, Mexico, God directly intervened to bring about yet another impossible event in Richard's (and Matthew's) life. In what ways was this event miraculous?
2. As the book's author, Richard wrote, "When your trust has no limits, [God's] blessings have no limits. He just does things for you, and through you." In this chapter, what did God do *for* Richard and Matthew? What did God do *through* Richard and Matthew?
3. How did faith (trust in God) make a difference throughout this event?
4. Had Richard been someone who doubted God, how might this situation have turned out differently?
5. How could greater trust in God produce greater strength in your own life?
6. What, in Richard's experience, cripples our faith and cripples us? In other words, where do limits come from?
7. What does strong trust in God allow us to do?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 4:20. In what ways have you doubted God's power in your life? In what ways can you now embrace it?

CHAPTER 6
DIRECTION—YOURS AND MINE

1. According to the beginning of this chapter, why does God want us to pray? List these benefits of praying. Add to the list if more reasons for praying come to mind.
2. In what ways might you enhance your prayer life so that you can have a fuller relationship with God . . . and can hear Him when He replies? (Research online if needed.)
3. What miraculous shape did Richard see in this chapter? How and what did God communicate to Richard through this figure?
4. What did Richard say this shape led him to?
5. What did the experience lead Richard to do?
6. Why does Richard share his unique God-stories with people? How does this and similar behaviors fulfil God's primary purpose for our lives (1 Timothy 2:3-4)?
7. In what way or ways do you feel God is leading you to fulfil that purpose in your life as you look at the weeks and months ahead?
8. How might a positive attitude affect you and those you encounter as you fulfil God's purpose for your life?
9. In what direction has God been nudging you? Whose lives does he want you to touch with knowledge of His kingdom and His saving grace?
10. Read James 1:5-7, and then Matthew 7:7-11. What is the result of distrusting God? What is the result of trusting Him?

CHAPTER 7

YOUR LIFE PURPOSE

1. In this chapter Richard writes, “Bad things happen to us all. Should you or I then feel sorry for ourselves and get stuck in a prolonged misery? ‘Ohhhh poor me. Look at me.’ Or should we take each of those events as a lesson from the Lord and make a difference with it?” In what ways are you stuck in a prolonged misery? List them. Next, for each item on your list, consider what lesson(s) God wants you to gain from the event, and also how you can make a difference with what you’ve learned. Write your answers.
2. Richard points out, “God’s main goal for our lives is that we are to show love to each other.” With this knowledge, and based on your answers to question 1, plan how to make a difference with what you’ve learned, in the strength and power that God pours out on you.
3. According to this chapter, how can we help other people experience the “impossible”? Add that knowledge to the plans you began making in question 2.
4. In what ways can you “clean up your act” so that people can better experience God’s love for them through your words and actions?
5. When can God fully use us and help us find our life purpose?
6. Where did demons come from?
7. How can we learn to recognize demon attacks?
8. How can we protect ourselves from their attacks? Also, why do you think God wants us to learn how to?
9. Read 1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 6:16, 2 Timothy 1:7, and Ephesians 6:10. Write a bold, empowered prayer in response to those passages. Speak your prayer to God whenever needed.

God bless you as you walk beside Him, make a life-changing difference for others, and live without limits.

—Richard Kirchner