

# Death by Living: Life Is Meant to Be Spent

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## A poetic portrait of faith, futility, and the joy of this mortal life.

In this astoundingly unique book, bestselling author N.D. Wilson reminds each of us that to truly live we must recognize that we are dying. Every second we create more of our past—more decisions, more breathing, more love and more loathing, all of it slides by into the gone as we race to grab at more moments, at more memories made and already fading.

We are all authors, creators of our own pasts, of the books that will be our lives. We stare at the future or obsess about the present, but only the past has been set in stone, and we are the ones setting it. When we race across the wet concrete of time without purpose, without goals, without laughter and love and sacrifice, then we fail in our mortal moment. We race toward our inevitable ends without artistry and without beauty.

All of us must pause and breathe. See the past, see your life as the fruit of providence and thousands of personal narratives. What led to you? You did not choose where to set your feet in time. You choose where to set them next.

Then, we must see the future, not just to stare into the fog of distant years but to see the crystal choices as they race toward us in this sharp foreground we call the present. We stand in the now. God says create. Live. Choose. Shape the past. Etch your life in stone, and what you make will be forever.

N. D. Wilson is a best-selling novelist, professional daydreamer, and occasional screenwriter. He enjoys hilltops, callouses, and the smell of rain on hot asphalt. He and his wife have five children, and he is currently a Fellow of Literature at New Saint Andrews College, where he teaches freshmen how to play with words.

### Other Books

*The Life of Death*, Growing up, living in, and working in a small-town funeral home may not be for everyone, but it certainly means life is never dull. Ralph was born the month his father and mother moved to Flushing, Michigan, to work in his uncle's funeral home. Dinners and sleep interrupted by calls from families were a common occurrence, but so were the heart-warming moments helping grieving families. *The Life of Death* is a collection of stories about Ralph's memories of the funeral home, both growing up and then working there as a licensed funeral director for more than 45 years. His tales range from the ironic, such as a widow learns of a secret windfall only after selling the item at a garage sale, to the inspired, when a hard-hearted minister gets an earful about preaching to those who need it and reaches out to the family. Ralph includes humorous stories: a power outage that causes a minister to be late to the funeral of a man who was never on time, a family concerned about the smell of smoke that later requests an area to smoke cigarettes, and a funeral service that is over almost before it begins. And the book would not be complete without a few paranormal experiences. Step through the doors of the funeral home via Ralph's memory for an unforgettable glimpse into small-town life, the business of funerals, and the very human responses to the mysteries of death.

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Please leave me alone now so I can spend Christmas with my husband. ... Because he confided his concerns, I was glad to spend THE LIFE OF DEATH | 47."