

**“Stop Praying”**  
**CRAZY LOVE<sup>1</sup> – Chapter 1**  
**PSALM 19:1-4**

**WHY ARE WE READING CRAZY LOVE?**

1. To **shake** each attendee of Las Brisas to **slow down** and again be amazed at our awesome God.
2. To be **united** as a church family and be entirely on the **same page** in life at the same time (Eph. 4:1-6).
3. To learn to **celebrate** being a **child** of **God** who can enjoy intimacy with his awesome Heavenly Father (1 John 3:1-3).

**KEY THOUGHT:** This book should help us love God with more **passion** and stop focusing on our **weaknesses** (Psalm 27:8-9).

**I. OUR GOD IS MORE DIVERSE AND CREATIVE THAN WE GIVE HIM CREDIT (PSALM 19:1-4).**

- A. Our God **continually** reveals Himself to us, creating even more **desire** in us to worship Him.
- B. It is God who instructs us to **worship** and **revere** Him (Deut. 7:21; 10:17, 21; Job 37:22).
  1. Too often we suffer from “**spiritual amnesia**”, and few Christians seem to be immune.
  2. It should be **easy** to **love** God with all my heart, mind, and soul (Deut. 6:4-8).
- C. It is confusing to Christians when **loving** God does not come more **naturally** (Acts 7:32; 10:2, 22; 13:50; 17:17; Rev. 19:5; 14:7; 1 Pet. 2:17).

**KEY THOUGHT:** When there are so many things to **distract** us from God in this world, we must **intentionally** and consistently find ways to remind ourselves of Him (Ps. 27:11-14).

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<sup>1</sup> Crazy Love, by Francis Chan; Publisher: David C. Cook, © 2008

## II. WE DO NOT GET TO DECIDE WHO GOD IS (EXODUS 3:14).

- A. Our God is perfectly **holy** (Isaiah 6:2-3).
- B. Our God is **eternal** (Psalm 102:12, 27).
- C. Our God is **all-knowing** (Hebrews 4:13).
- D. Our God is **all-powerful** (Colossians 1:16; Daniel 4:35).

**KEY THOUGHT:** God is not required to **explain** to us why some things in our lives are **messy**.

## III. THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

- A. The Apostle John late in life is blessed to reveal a description of **heaven** to us (Rev. 4:1-11).
- B. The vision of Isaiah provides the **response** we should have **before** God (Isaiah 6:1-8).

**KEY THOUGHT:** May my view of our awesome, tremendous God and His great worth cause me to be **strengthened** because I know He **loves** me!

### **MY RESPONSE THIS WEEK**

1. Look at the online **videos** mentioned in the book:  
    *“The Awe Factor of God”* at <http://www.crazylovebook.com>  
    *“Just Stop and Think”* at <http://www.crazylovebook.com>
2. Review my **sermon notes** and meditate on the tremendous character and majesty of God.
3. Study as many of the **devotions** as my time allows.
4. Read **Chapter 2** of *Crazy Love*.

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**March 14, 2010**

**SUNDAY:** ***Slow down and look carefully at your amazing God (Ps. 27:8-9)!*** We are embarking on an odyssey as a church family to intentionally slow down and look earnestly at our awesome God. This is a great opportunity for us as a church family to be completely on the exact same page (Eph. 4:1-6). Along the way, we will learn to celebrate being a child of God who can really enjoy intimacy with his Heavenly Father (1 John 3:1-3). Hopefully, as you learn to gaze more upon your God, it will keep you from stressing over your spiritual weaknesses. Those weaknesses will help you prioritize your spiritual growth rather than paralyze your service for God. Pray that this would be a remarkable ten weeks for you and for our church! ***May the Lord bless you the more you simplify your life and slow down!***

**MONDAY:** ***Your God is worthy of your worship and awe (Ps. 19:1-4)!*** The grandeur of just our universe is staggering! The more you learn about the vastness of His creation, the more He reveals about Himself (Ps. 19:1-4). The more facts that you know about God's creation will generate a growing desire in you to worship Him. It is God Himself who instructs us to worship and revere Him (Deut. 7:21; 10:17, 21). Though we learn more and more about our great God, we often suffer from "spiritual amnesia". The goal is to become more overwhelmed with God's majesty and underwhelmed with your own priorities. Pray for personal insight that will make it easier for you to start loving the Lord with all your heart, mind, and soul (Deut. 6:4-8). ***May this week be a great foundation for moving forward in your personal spiritual life!***

**TUESDAY:** ***Why is it so hard for me to love God passionately (1 Pet. 2:17; Deut. 6:4-8)!*** It is confusing to Christians when loving their God does not come more naturally (Acts 7:32; 10:2, 22; 13:50; 17:17). Christians should be so overwhelmed with gratitude that we not only have unbridled love for our Lord, but we should love other Christians unconditionally. Hopefully, the more we gaze intently upon the character and majesty of our Lord God, the more we see our petty agendas as having less power over our lives. The unconditional love of God becomes not only our model, but creeps more regularly into our words and actions (John 13:34-35). Seek the Holy Spirit's help in listing where God has demonstrated unconditional love in your life. Where could you have shown that kind of love yesterday? Where will you show it today? ***May practicing unconditional love stoke the fires of spiritual intimacy with the Lord in your life!***

**WEDNESDAY:** ***Maintaining a constant focus on God demands that you exercise discipline to slow down your life and keep it simple (Ps. 27:11-14)!*** There are so many things in our lives to distract us from God. We must intentionally and consistently find ways to remind ourselves of Him (Ps. 27:11-14). Our love should grow and deepen which would cause us to take His advice and counsel more in our lives. We celebrate His provision in our lives and welcome the trials He allows that will strengthen us. When we fail "tests" in life, we learn to recognize the fact that He is not going to change the "answer" on the test. We will simply get the test again until we pass. Slowing down our lives means that we remove the items that are less valuable. We can identify those things that are less valuable with greater ease after spending time focusing our gaze intently upon Him and His work. Pray for insight as to which areas of your life need to

be slowed down. Make a list in a spiritual journal of what the Lord is talking to you about. *May the adventure of seeing what God will do next in your life keep you sharp and on your toes!*

**THURSDAY: *God is God* (Ex. 3:14)!** It requires an honest admission to say that Christians often try to tell God who He is. We do not get to decide who God is (Ex. 3:14). Scripture carefully reveals all that God cares to tell us about Himself. Our God is perfectly holy (Isa. 6:2-3). Our God is eternal (Ps. 102:12, 27). Our God is All-Knowing (Heb. 4:13). Our God is All-Powerful (Col. 1:16; Dan. 4:35). There is way more that God says about Himself in the Bible. Sometimes we think we spot inconsistencies in God's character. For instance, we wonder why we have to go through such tough trials when it looks like many non-Christians are on "Easy Street". There is no inconsistency. The truth is we simply do not know everything about God's character, only what He has chosen to reveal. God is not required to explain to us why there are things in our lives that are messy. God is God! Commit to the Lord that you will seek the Holy Spirit's help to trust Him at His word. *May the joy of being a child of such an incredible, awesome God give you all the peace you will ever need!*

**FRIDAY: *John's worship of a Majestic God in heaven is breath-taking* (Rev. 4:1-11)!** The description of the Lord Jesus is mind-boggling! When the demons had encountered Jesus on earth, they possibly knew Him as the majestic figure described by John. No wonder someone who opposed Jesus was so fearful! Likewise, we should respond with great respect. We should be cheerful toward our beloved Lord and joint heir in the kingdom. The word picture of the worship of the Father on His throne is beyond our mind's eye. It does convey that we do not even possess the mental capacity to comprehend who God really is and what it will be like to be with Him for eternity. Why then are we all "sweating the small stuff" on earth? Our goal should be to focus our attention on the Almighty God so His brilliance will help us put our other priorities in their proper place. Pray through Revelation 4:1-11, one verse at a time. Praise the Lord and His majesty as you meditate on each verse. *May this picture of heaven be burned deeply into your mind and heart!*

**SATURDAY: *Isaiah shows us that our response to a magnificent God should be "I will serve You"* (Isa. 6:1-8)!** Isaiah was properly impressed and humbled by the majesty of the Lord filling the temple. The holiness of the Lord was testified to by the seraphim and the cherubim. It was the response that welled up in the chest of Isaiah that we are most interested in. When the generic question was launched to cast the loyal servants the Lord sought, Isaiah immediately sang out, "Here am I, send me!" Isaiah did not try to find a place to hide or try to look invisible, hoping the Lord would not notice him. Being in the presence of his majestic God compelled him to step forward to offer all that he had – himself. That is the response that our God is looking for. Somehow we try to convince God that later would be better, and less now would be adequate. We try to stay emotionally unattached so that we will not be jacked up and excited to be in the presence of the Almighty Creator of the universe, thus we have an intellectual relationship with God. LET GOD FILL YOUR TEMPLE! Let, "Here am I, send me!" spring from your lips! Pray for the Lord to kill that old self-centered marginal Christian character that used to rule your life. Agree to allow the King of kings and Lord of lords to rule your life! *May this become the most exciting time in your Christian life!*