

***Surprised by Hope***  
**Preface Study Questions**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

- I. Wright initially poses two questions. How would you answer these similar question?
  - A. What are you waiting for in life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - B. What are you doing about it in the meantime?
  
- II. What is the ultimate hope in the Christian gospel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- III. What hope do you see in our present world? Do you see hope in the present world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- IV. What hope do you expect beyond this life? What do you think happens after we die?
  - A. What happens to our bodies? Will we have bodies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - B. What happens to our soul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - C. What happens to our interests, our activities, our focus, etc.? Does our 'essence' or that which makes you the person you are change? If so, how?



V. Do you think Jesus provides hope today in our current lives? How or why not?

VI. In the preface, Wright writes of his limited experience with death even as a pastor/theologian and as a person in his 50s. What has been your experience with death? Have you felt close to death previously? Have you lost family or friends or others under difficult circumstances?

VII. Our scriptures describe Jesus as King. Do you think our faith should speak in to our politics? Why or why not? How or how not?

I invite you in the coming week to contemplate these questions further. You might keep these questions handy as you read future chapters to compare that which Wright describes and how your perspective might change.

This study guide is written to guide study and discussions of *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N. T. Wright. The full set of study guides is available at <https://livingintograce.com/2022/02/21/study-guide-questions-for-surprised-by-hope-rethinking-heaven-the-resurrection-and-the-mission-of-the-church-by-n-t-wright/>. While based on the book, this guide was not prepared in cooperation with the author, N. T. Wright, nor the publishers (SPCK and HarperOne).



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