



LIFE IS Temporary

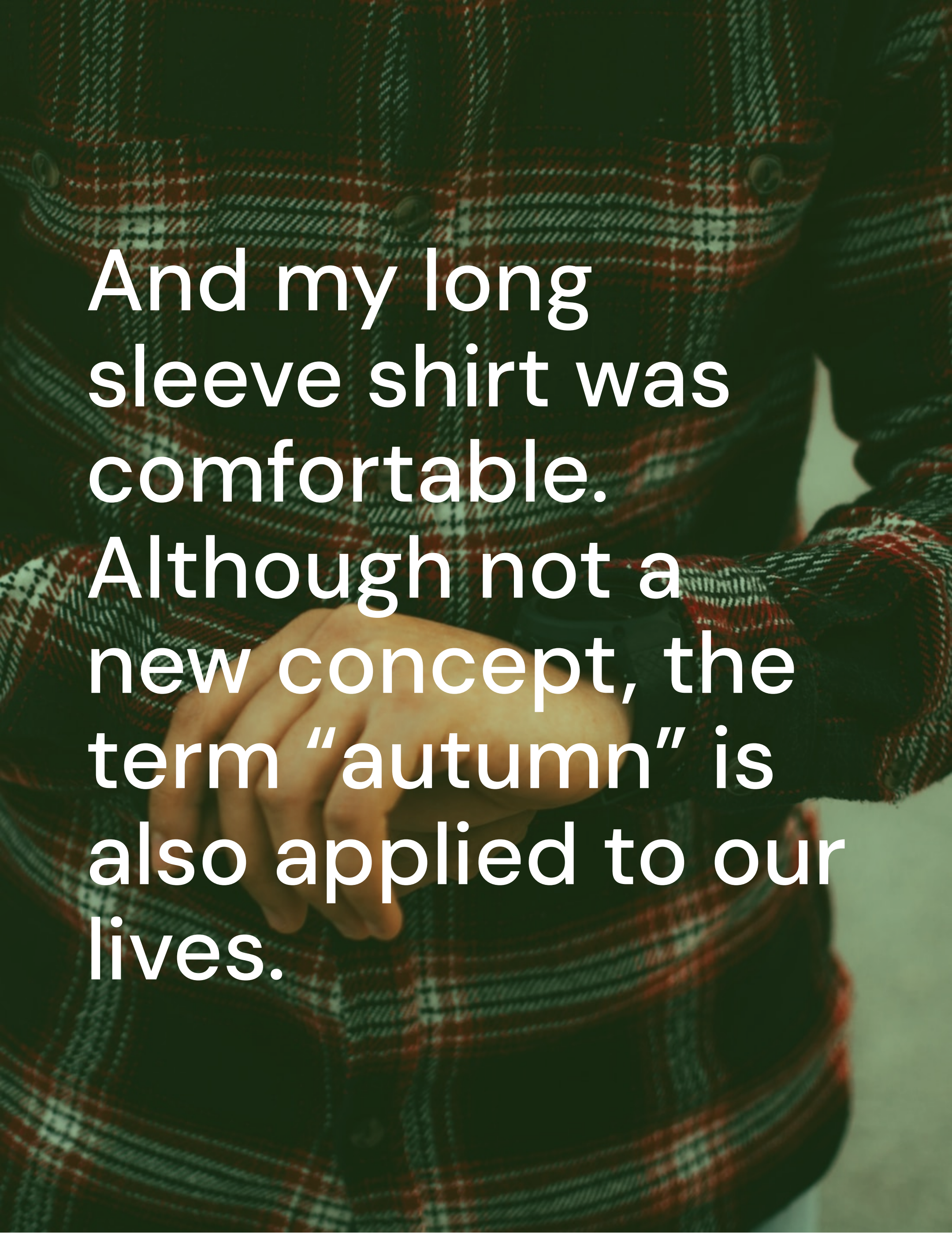
Devotional / By rsdickson



Each year in
September, we
enter into the
fall season in
the Northern
Hemisphere.

As I wrote these words, it appeared that the feel of autumn had arrived. The weather app on my phone showed me cooler temperatures

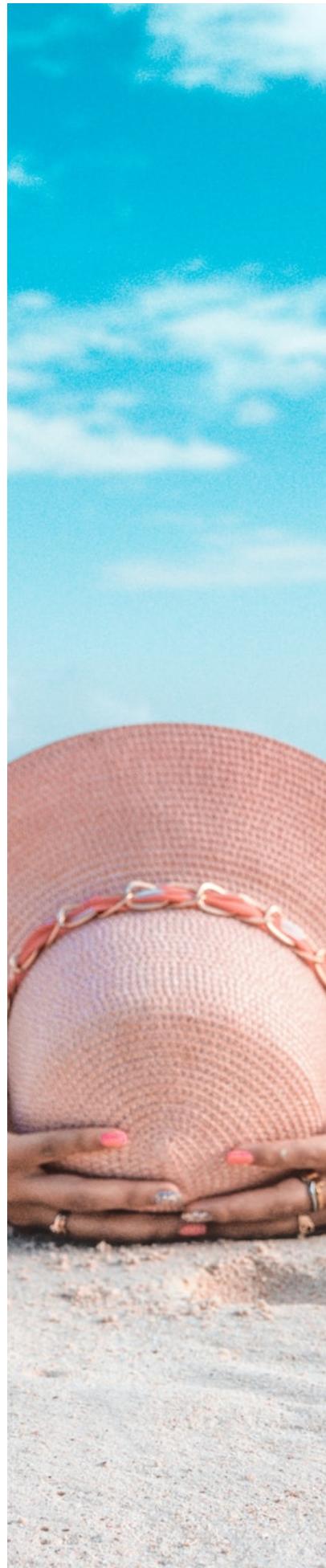
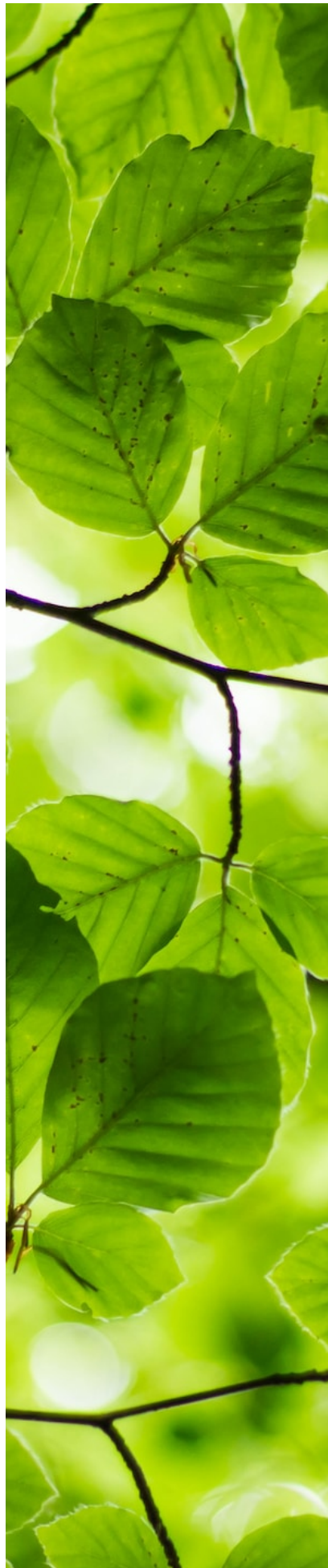
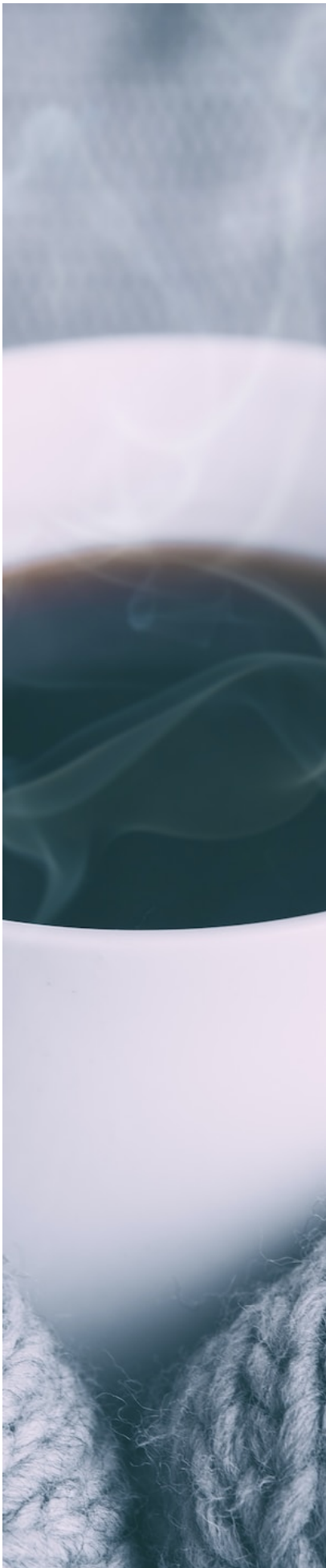


A close-up photograph of a person's torso and hands. They are wearing a long-sleeved shirt with a red, green, and white plaid pattern. Their hands are clasped together in front of them. The image has a dark, moody green tint. Overlaid on the image is white text.

And my long
sleeve shirt was
comfortable.
Although not a
new concept, the
term “autumn” is
also applied to our
lives.

Indeed, it
reminds us
that
Life is
Temporary.

We get this picture clearly as we rotate through the seasons of the year.





In spring, the world buzzes and blooms with new life.

Summertime brings more growth as the earth continues to warm.

Then, fall appears with harvest time and the ripe, full season of life.

Finally, winter raises its head and the life cycle completes as plant life dies back and goes dormant.

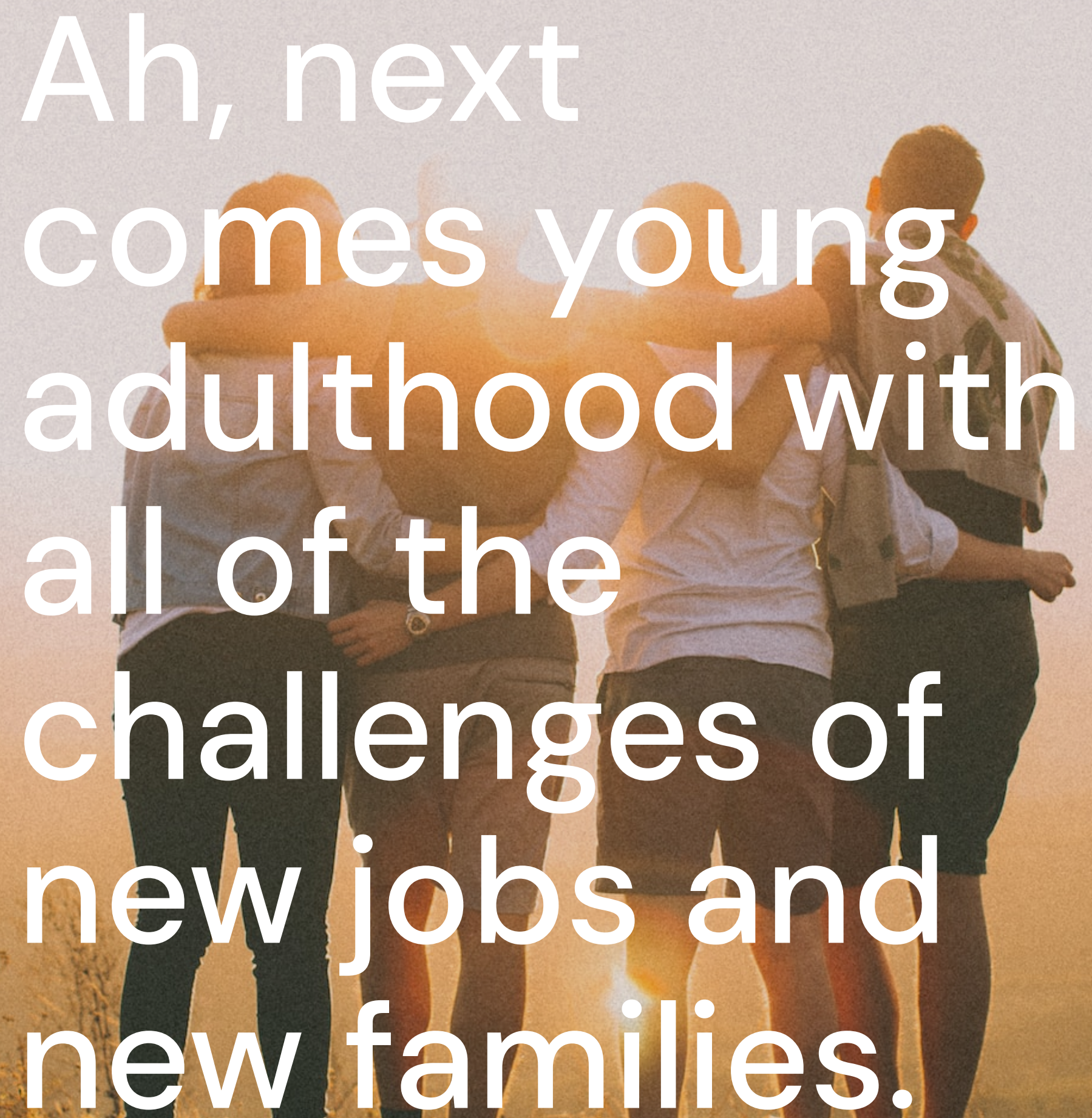
Our Life
Cycle
Shows That
Life Is
Temporary

People see and feel this same cycle on an expanded scale. In the first place, we celebrate the birth of a child. Hope for the future rests in this newborn.





Then the child rises
through the scrapes
and bruises of
childhood and into the
crazy teenage years.

A group of four young adults are seen from behind, hugging each other on a grassy hill. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun, creating a soft, hazy atmosphere. The individuals are dressed in casual attire like t-shirts and shorts. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Ah, next
comes young
adulthood with
all of the
challenges of
new jobs and
new families.

But, before long middle
age arrives with
grandchildren not far
behind.



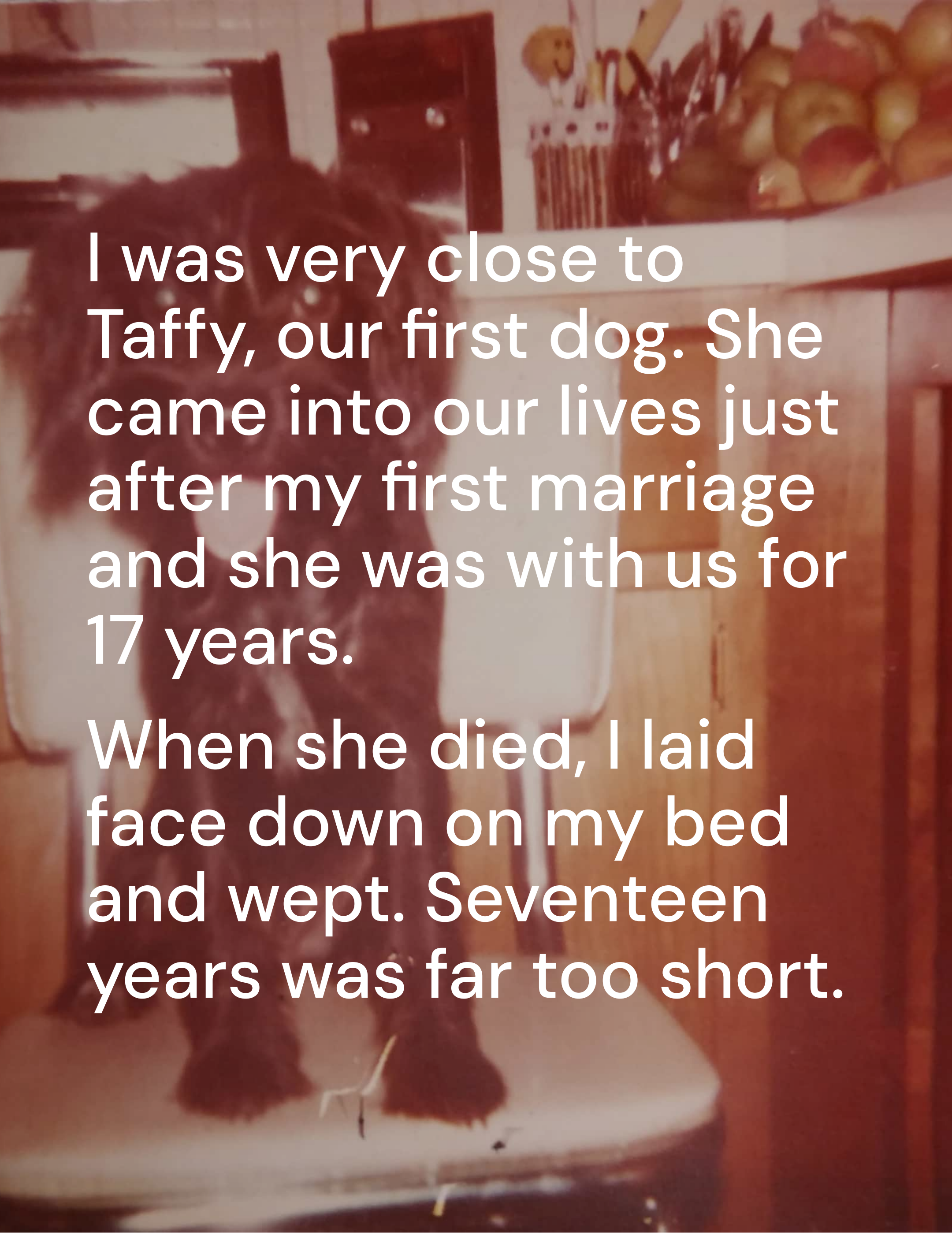


As we cycle through the autumn, life can begin to slow a bit.

Retirement and health issues can become part of our existence.

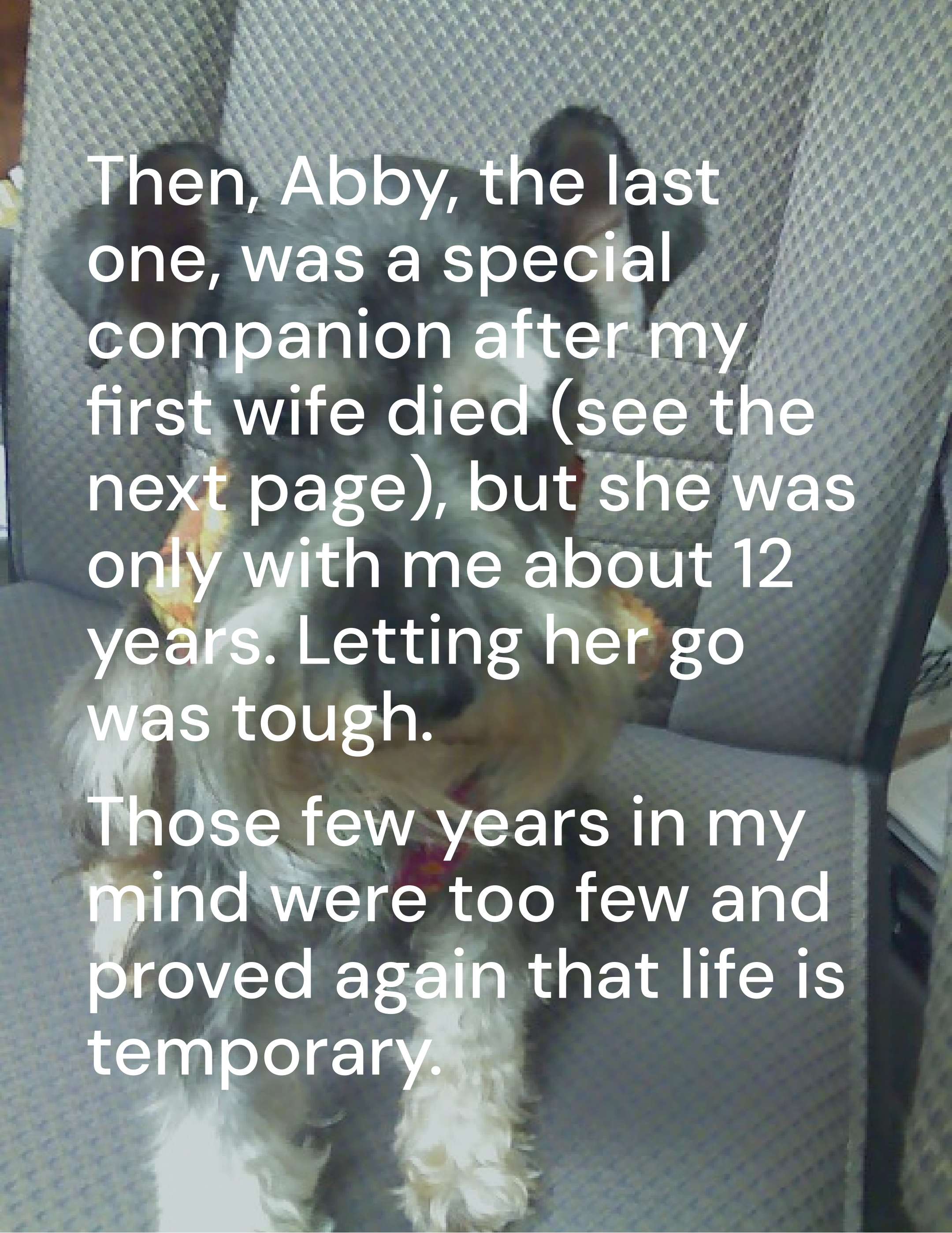


Finally, to all of
us comes
death –
the end of the
cycle.



I was very close to
Taffy, our first dog. She
came into our lives just
after my first marriage
and she was with us for
17 years.

When she died, I laid
face down on my bed
and wept. Seventeen
years was far too short.



Then, Abby, the last one, was a special companion after my first wife died (see the next page), but she was only with me about 12 years. Letting her go was tough.

Those few years in my mind were too few and proved again that life is temporary.

On another occasion I wept. At that time, on October 1, 2008, my first wife died in an automobile accident at only 46 years of age.

In other words, she was much too young, yet in our world teenagers, children, and newborn babies are not exempt from death.

**Life is
temporary.**

Yet some, like one of
my great uncles, live to
be over 100 years old.

At one time that
seemed to be
exceptional, but now it
occurs far more often.

Yet, what is only 100
years?



The Bible
Tells Us
That Life Is
Temporary

The Bible in Psalm 90 speaks of an average life span of 70 years, or due to strength perhaps 80.

Yet, that same scripture passage tells us that 1000 years are like yesterday in God's sight.

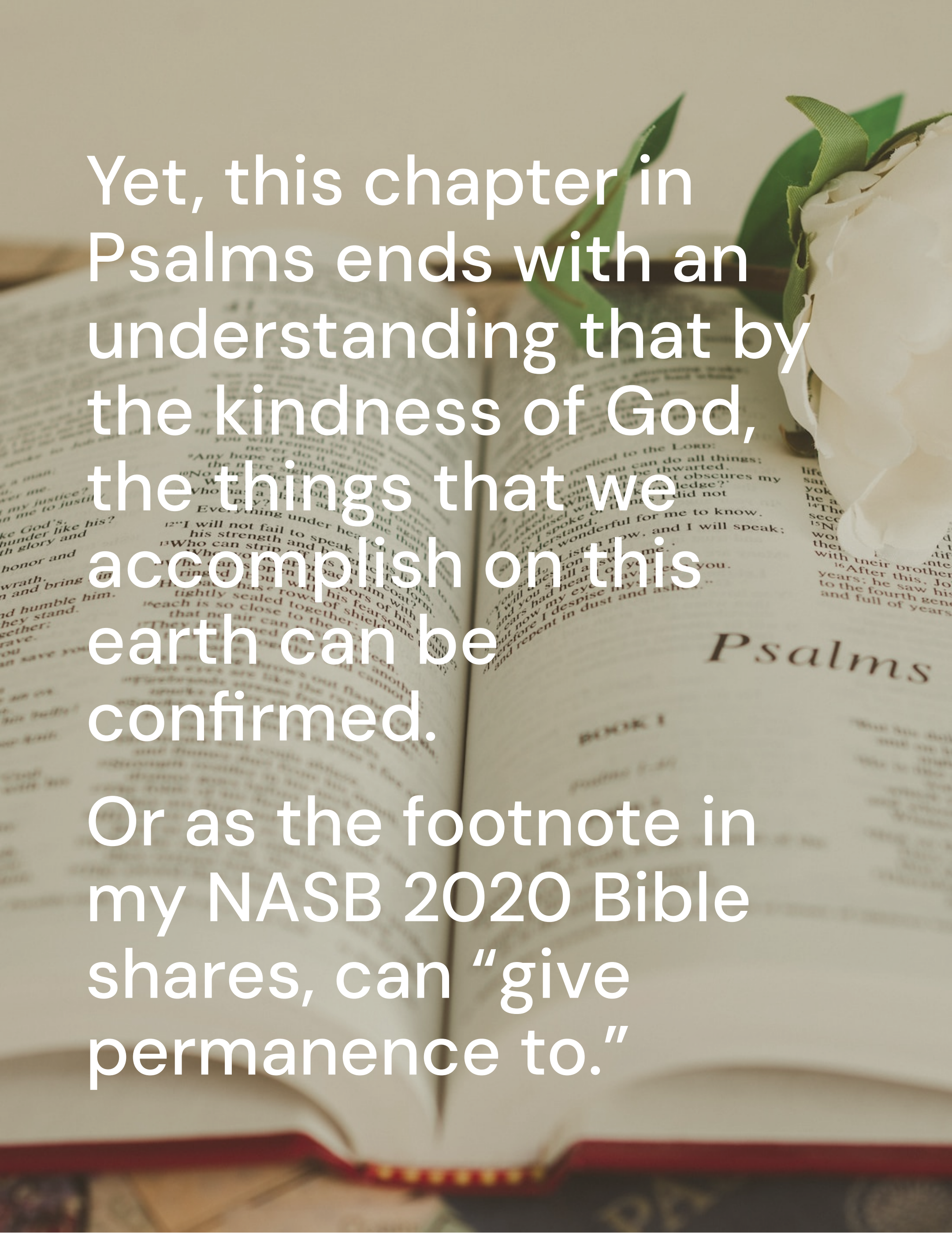
Our life span is compared to a single night's watch or like a flower that springs up new in the morning and wilts and withers by the evening.

God Himself is declared to be from everlasting to everlasting. In that context, life is extremely temporary.

We definitely try to pack a lot into our few short years and some are more successful than others. But, where does it leave us?

Somehow, on the whole, our life gets wrapped up in our jobs, our possessions, and our children as if it would never end.

Of course for some, they pack in much, for they feel that the grave IS the end.

An open Bible is shown with a white flower and green leaves resting on its pages. The text is overlaid on the left page, which contains verses from Psalm 124. The right page shows the title 'Psalms' and the beginning of Psalm 125.

Yet, this chapter in
Psalms ends with an
understanding that by
the kindness of God,
the things that we
accomplish on this
earth can be
confirmed.

Or as the footnote in
my NASB 2020 Bible
shares, can “give
permanence to.”

But, The
Bible
Reveals
That Life
Can Be
Eternal

No, Psalm 90 is not the last word on the brevity of life. Jesus says in John 20:28 of those who follow Him, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish." Earthly life IS temporary, but through Christ we can have life that is eternal.

The most memorized
verse in the Bible
speaks to this as well:

“

*For God so loved
the world, that He
gave His only Son,
so that everyone
who believes in
Him will not
perish, but have
eternal life.*

So, now there is an option. We can live as if life is temporary, or we can respond to the call of God, accept Jesus' invitation, and receive eternal life.

Don't settle for temporary; receive life eternal.

A Hymn That
Speaks God's
Love
throughout
this life and of
our hope for
Eternal Life:

*O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*





*O Light that foll'west all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray
That in Thy sunshine's glow its day
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me thro' pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow thro' the rai
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.*





*O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to hide from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms
red
Life that shall endless be.*

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"
by George Matheson

Thank you...

for reading these few thoughts. I hope you found them encouraging and inspirational.

May God bless you as you look beyond this temporary life to that eternal life which lies before us in Christ, our Savior.

If you would like to receive a similar devotional thought each week in your Inbox, [sign up for my weekly newsletter](#).

Blessings,

Richard

P.S. More resources are on the next page.

Resources

- + My video of the hymn, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go."
- + Read Psalm 90 at BibleGateway.com in your favorite Bible translations.
- + Finally, if you were encouraged by this devotional thought, you will find more articles on my website at rsdickson.net.