Review: "Spurgeon and the Psalms: The Book of Psalms with Devotions from Charles Spurgeon" published by Thomas Nelson



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# <u>"Spurgeon and the Psalms"</u> Leathersoft Edition

Few devotionals truly captivate my attention. I find that many of them are full of overly simplistic stories and cutesy platitudes. Certainly, for a new believer or a young person, these types of devotional books may be suitable, but for the serious and mature believer, I often recommend simply turning to the Scriptures themselves because everything else falls short.

That is why **this devotional resource is WONDERFUL**! <u>"Spurgeon</u> <u>and the Psalms"</u> will get you straight into the Scriptures and focusing on the LORD. That's the point of having a devotional time, isn't it!?

It is essentially a "Psalter": the <u>Book of Psalms</u> published in a lightweight edition. Each <u>Psalm</u> is appropriately prefaced with words written by Charles Spurgeon, a well-known and beloved Christian pastor who lived in England and preached during the 1800's. His timeless commentary and exhortation will bless you.

# Book Review and description

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Like any high quality Bible, <u>"Spurgeon and the Psalms"</u> has gold page-edge gilding.

Interestingly, near the back of the book, you will find a note on the selection of type/font.I found it to be such a nice touch that the explanation was included, as I had noticed the unique font used in this Psalter.

This definitely seems like a book that the publishers want you to treasure. I'm quite certain of that because there is a guarantee printed on the back of the book jacket: Thomas Nelson guarantees their Leathersoft <u>"Spurgeon and the Psalms"</u> for *life*!

The book contains all 150 <u>Psalms</u> with unobtrusive devotional commentary preceding each <u>Psalm</u>. There are also blank "notes" pages at the back.

The selections from Spurgeon's own writings help connect the Psalms to the Gospel narrative. If you are unfamiliar with Spurgeon, you will find his writing to be eloquent, detailed, yet exceptionally applicable. There is no doubt he sought the LORD because his writing reflects that type of close relationship with the Father.

### My recommendation:

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Rating: 5 out of 5.

If you are looking for a Psalter, this is your book. As Spurgeon laments in the Preface, God's people don't know the <u>Psalms</u> the way they used to – and he was saying that well over 100 years ago! I encourage you to take the opportunity to truly meditate on and learn the <u>Psalms</u>, and this book will truly help you to do that.

If you are looking for high-quality devotional material for yourself or as a gift, you will very likely enjoy the newly published

I wholeheartedly recommend the newly published <u>"Spurgeon and</u> <u>the Psalms</u>" book to everyone! It is appropriate for believers at all stages in life, and quite honestly, is the type of book every follower of our Messiah should own.

This would make a wonderful gift for anyone you love and care about.

Pastora Jennifer Mieliulis Fuentes, M.Div., Duke University

## Book details

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PURCHASE LINKS: Amazon | FaithGateway Store

I am always a fan of books that primarily use the Scriptures! Check out my review of the <u>Word for Word Bible Comic's Gospel</u> <u>of Mark!</u> There are so many wonderful resources that directly refer us back to God's Word, and I love to recommend them so you can grow closer to the LORD each and every day!

<u>I have treasured Your word in my heart, so I might not sin</u> <u>against You. Psalm 119:11, TLV</u> Do you read the <u>Psalms</u> as a daily devotional? Let us know! Leave a comment below!

# How you can be blessed in your daily routine

Updated 5/25/22 B"H

Do you want to be blessed in your daily routine? Here are some practical ways you can receive God's blessing in your life:

# 1. Approach God directly through prayer

Some world religions teach that God is far-off, distant, and unconcerned with the daily activities of human beings.

Some people believe that they *cannot* personally talk with Him: that they need an intermediary or someone "holier-than-thou" to speak to the Almighty on their behalf.

Countless times have people asked me to pray for them, but it becomes clear they have no intention of doing so themselves.

Prayer on the behalf of another is never wasted, but it would be more effective if the requester would join in with true faith of their own.

You can pray any time! Start your day off right, by approaching the throne of the LORD with a humble prayer of

thanksgiving and praise.

Why not listen to this song, <u>"Awake, O Israel, put off thy</u> <u>slumber</u>" and start giving Him praise right now!?

# 2. Reject American Christianity's dangerous flirtation with yoga and kundalini in your exercise routine

If you have a morning exercise routine, keep at it! Incorporate praise and worship music when you're on your elliptical or treadmill. Thank the LORD for the ability to move the body that He gave you. If you've ever had to recover from an injury or medical intervention, you know not to take exercise for granted.

Pray today for strength. That He would strengthen your every limb and muscle and tendon, that His strength would be made perfect in your weaknesses.

Do NOT follow the New Age movement's suggestions to "look inward," attempting to empty the mind in order to find enlightenment, self-actualization, or nirvana.

More and more Americans turn toward Eastern religion, incorporating yoga and kundalini worship practices into their lives and joining the pop culture fascination with anything decidedly **non**Christian.

My advice to aspiring yogis: yes, stay healthy, eat some yogurt, but skip the yoga.

Let me explain why:

My friends (natives of northern India) who happen to be evangelical missionaries to that same region attest that yoga **is** indeed rooted in Hindu religion and they are saddened (appalled, really, but they are shy to show it) by the Western embrace of these dark influences. They risk their lives preaching the Good News of Messiah and rejoicing when bondages are broken as people reject idolatry and come back stateside only to be bombarded by American Christians who get all defensive about their exercise routines.

[Missionaries in India] risk their lives preaching the Good News of Messiah and rejoicing when bondages are broken as people reject idolatry and come back stateside only to be bombarded by American Christians who get all defensive about their exercise routines.

The Scriptures used by thousands of believers around the world instruct plainly what ought be done.

Rabbi She'll (Paul, the Apostle) wrote to the Romans that believers should "renew their mind," (Romans 12:2) and assured the Corinthian believers that by the power of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) and faith in His Name, they now had the "mind of Messiah" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Followers of Jesus (Yeshua) are to set their minds on things above (Colossians 3:2). We must choose to live differently. Rather than empty our minds, we must fill our mind with the Truth of God's Word.

There are plenty of ways to demonstrate our faith without compromise. After all, there are plenty of stretching exercises that we as believers can do that are not rooted in yoga's practices. Let us honor our LORD and not invite Hindu spirits into our lives.

#### 3. Meditate on the Psalms

"Meditation" isn't anti-Biblical.

The Bible exhorts us to meditate! Meditate as a child of God,

on the things of God. Do not meditate as the world does.

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things." Philippians 4:8, emphasis added

I always recommend that people meditate on the Word of God as a whole but also specifically on the <u>Psalms</u>. This is timely because I very recently reviewed an excellent devotional resource on the <u>Psalms</u> that uses some of the famous minister Charles Spurgeon's writings called <u>"Spurgeon and the Psalms."</u> You can read that review <u>here</u>.

It is a sad reality that so many people do not realize that their Maker, their Creator, will hear them (and answer them!) if they would call upon His Name. Too many think that spiritual meditation is reserved for Buddhists and Hindus. Too many people appear to feel ashamed by the knowledge that they are sinners that they are afraid to speak to the God of Heaven. **Many choose not to overcome this barrier**, embarrassed that their peers or family will judge them for choosing to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (*Yeshua* haMashiach).

Many echo David's wonderings that we find in Psalm 24:

<u>"Who may stand in His Holy Place? (Psalm 24:3b)</u>

How can I receive a blessing from the Almighty One?

How can I know He will touch my life?

How can I know He will heal a loved one?

<u>"Who may go up on the mountain of ADONAI?" (Psalm 24:3a)</u>

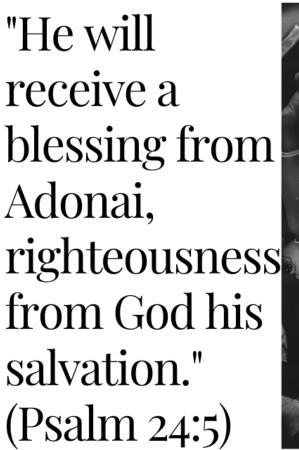
It is easier than you may think.

David was inspired to give the answer:

"One with clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted his soul in vain, nor sworn deceitfully." (Psalm 24:4)

The next verse assures us of this:

<u>"He will receive a blessing from ADONAI, righteousness from</u> <u>God his salvation." (Psalm 24:5)</u>





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If you sincerely come before Him, bearing no agenda, lifting your soul not to the idols of this world but to the Prince of Peace, **He will bless you**.

May it be said of you, like of Nathanael in <u>John 1:47, "in him</u> <u>there is no deceit."</u>

But if you have failed and your hands are unclean due to dishonest dealings and impurities in your heart, let this be a message of hope for your life.

You **can** be clothed in righteousness if you choose to be wrapped in the garments of His salvation (Isaiah 61:10), the greatest blessing available to anyone on this earth. May nothing impede you from the blessing that is yours if you will receive it.

Here is a song by worship leader <u>Robin Mark</u> that may truly encourage you today called <u>"Garments of Praise."</u> I love the lyrics:

"Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness; Let the oil of gladness flow down from your throne! Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness; Your joy is my strength alone, my strength alone!

Make these broken weary bones rise to dance again, Wet this dry and thirsty land with a river! LORD our eyes are fixed on you and we are waiting, For your garland of grace as we praise your Name!

Hallelujah, sing hallelujah! We give all honor and praise to your Name! Hallelujah, sing hallelujah! We trade our sorrows for garments of praise!"

If you begin your day focusing on the LORD and His goodness, the rest of your day will be full of blessing, too. And when there are hard times, you will be spiritually prepared to endure the battle and win. Receive the blessing that He has for you — it is yours, just for the asking. He is willing to give you unmerited favor: what we call, "grace." And His grace is more than sufficient for you, today.

Also, remember this: we may have our daily routines, but with

God, life becomes much more than routine! It becomes full of meaning and joy!

4. Make the decision RIGHT NOW to follow the Savior of mankind and you will certainly receive the blessing and favor of God Most High.

And when you do, let me be the first to say, welcome to the family!!

If you have questions about Messiah Yeshua (Jesus the Christ), please send a message or leave a comment. We would be overjoyed to help you in your spiritual walk. Shalom!

I'll leave you today with another song that will minister to your heart based on <u>Psalm 24</u>, <u>"Who will Ascend to the Mountain</u> of the LORD?"

## Psalm 19:8-10

The **Torah** of ADONAI is perfect, restoring the soul.

The **testimony** of ADONAI is trustworthy, making the simple wise.

The **precepts** of ADONAI are right, giving joy to the heart. The **mitzvot** of ADONAI are pure, giving light to the eyes. The **fear** of ADONAI is clean, enduring forever.

The **judgments** of ADONAI are true and altogether righteous.