

Ten Books Related to Spiritual Renewal

Suggested by the Steering Committee for the Season of Spiritual Renewal

1. Church: Why Bother? by Philip Yancey

Why are there so many more professing Christians than churchgoing Christians? Is it because something is wrong with the Church? In his candid, thought-provoking manner, award-winning author Philip Yancey reveals the reasons behind his own journey back from skepticism to wholehearted participation in the Church.

2. Christ on Trial by Rowan Williams

The trial, conviction and death of an innocent man 2,000 years ago has particular resonance today. Atrocities from around the world shake us nearly every day, and we all experience trials in our own lives too. In this book, the former Archbishop of Canterbury looks in-depth at the trial of Jesus, using it to teach readers how to face the challenges of life in today's trying times.

3. Following Jesus by Henry Nouwen

Following Jesus reveals the deep turmoil and sometimes turbulent inner life of a man who has become an icon of compassion and vulnerability for Christians and non-Christians alike. He writes eloquently about calling and purpose, fear and hope, and he explains why, with so many choices available to the twenty-first-century seeker, including atheism and secularism, the greatest reward for those looking for fulfillment is to choose belief in God.



4. Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life by Richard Peace

In Holy Conversation Richard Peace teaches us how to engage in easy and comfortable conversation about the good news of Jesus--the pressure is off. Using small, easy steps, he explains the gospel in plain language and encourages us in practical ways to share our faith with friends, neighbors and colleagues. Written as a guide for small groups, Holy Conversation is designed to be completed in twelve weekly sessions (other options are provided). Not only do group members read about holy conversation, but they also actually engage one another in spiritual conversation. This is the ideal resource for helping laypeople to become competent and confident Christian conversationalists.

5. Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God by Dallas Willard

In this updated and expanded edition of Willard's beloved book, originally published as In Search of Guidance, you'll gain rich spiritual insight into how we can hear God's voice clearly and develop an intimate partnership with him in the work of his kingdom. Including new material from Dallas Willard's teaching at the Renovaré Institute and reformatted to be even easier to read, this classic continues to endure as one of today's best resources for learning to listen closely to God.

6. Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World by Andy Stanley

In Irresistible, Andy Stanley, chronicles what made the early Jesus Movement so compelling, resilient, and irresistible by answering these questions:

- What did first-century Christians know that we don't—about God's Word, about their lives, about love?
- What did they do that we're not doing?
- What makes Christianity so resistible in today's culture?
- What needs to change in order to repeat the growth our faith had at its beginning?



7. Jesus: A Pilgrimage by James Martin

James Martin, SJ, gifted storyteller and New York Times bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, brings the Gospels to life and invites believers and seekers alike to experience Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and travel. Father Martin ushers you into Jesus' life and times and shows us how Jesus speaks to us today through combining fascinating insights of historical Jesus studies with profound spiritual insights about the Christ of faith, recreating the world of first-century Galilee and Judea.

8. Love Wins by Rob Bell

In *Love Wins: Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*, Bell addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith—the afterlife—arguing, “would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever?” With searing insight, Bell puts hell on trial, and his message is decidedly hopeful—eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, Love Wins.

9. May I Have This Dance by Joyce Rupp

This revised edition of Joyce Rupp's best-selling book "*May I Have This Dance?*" has been updated with new guided meditations for each month of the year. Joyce Rupp invites readers to join God in the dance of life. She explores twelve themes, including "The Road to Life" and "The Playground of God," following each with prayer suggestions such as litanies, guided meditations, and journal keeping. Readers will be delighted to accept the invitation to dance with the Divine Partner - a dance of truth and wholeness - throughout the seasons of the year.

10. Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

In the classic *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis, the most important writer of the 20th century, explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Bringing together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War Two from his three previous books *The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality*, *Mere Christianity* provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful apologetic for the Christian faith.

