

# Spiritual Growth Recommended Reading Book List

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## 📖 Classics 📖

**Knowing God**, J.I. Packer

**Mere Christianity**, C.S. Lewis

**Basic Christianity**, John Stott

**The Normal Christian Life**, Watchman Nee

*These works represent enduring, foundational teachings on the Christian faith that are intellectually satisfying, and spiritually transforming. Think of them as required reading for anyone who desires to have an intimate relationship with God, and to enjoy a life-long pursuit of spiritual growth.*

**Celebration of Discipline**, Richard Foster

*Spiritual practices to develop our faith are organized as Inward, Outward, and Corporate Disciplines.*

**The Confessions of St. Augustine**, St. Augustine

*The most popular work of the man who more than any other shaped western civilization. The first 10 chapters constitute a spiritual autobiography and some spiritual and philosophical reflections; the last three chapters are a reflection on the creation story*

**Pilgrim's Progress**, John Bunyan

*A spiritual allegory. Of books written in English, one of the all-time most popular.*

**Religious Affections**, Jonathan Edwards

*"What is the nature of true religion? . . . [What are] the distinguishing notes of that virtue and holiness that is acceptable in the sight of God?" In this classic work by America's greatest theologian and philosopher, Edwards considers the nature of revival and the genuine work of the Holy Spirit.*

**The Spiritual Exercises**, St. Ignatius of Loyola

*Spiritual exercises arranged into 4 weeks, by the founder of the Jesuits*

**Ascent of Mount Carmel, Dark Night of the Soul**, St. John of the Cross

*The writings of St. John of the Cross are unsurpassed for mystical theology. The "dark night" is a must-read for anyone seriously concerned about growing spiritually.*

**The Imitation of Christ**, Thomas à Kempis

*This book is said to have been published in more editions than any other, apart from the Bible, with 6000 appearing by the turn of this century. This little devotional book is simply written but immensely moving.*

**A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life**, William Law

*This is one of two or three books that greatly influenced the young J. Wesley.*

**The Practice of the Presence of God**, Brother Lawrence

*In this little collection of letters and reflections, Brother Lawrence encourages us to be continually in God's presence.*

**Knowledge of the Holy**, A.W. Tozer

*Considering the beauty of God's character and how it impacts our lives*

**True Spirituality**, Francis Schaeffer

*A discussion of the effects of sin on human nature and what it means to be changed by God*

**The Cost of Discipleship**, Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Compels us to face ourselves and God in any situation.*

**Pensees**, Blaise Pascal

*Meditations of a French mystic.*

**📖 Contemporaries 📖**

**Experiencing God**, Henry Blackaby & Claude King

*How to live the full adventure of knowing and doing the will of God*

**Believing God, and A Heart Like His**, Beth Moore

*A look at the life of David, and how he trusted God in spite of failures and challenges*

**Purpose-Driven Life**, Rick Warren

*Understanding God's purpose and plan for your life so that you can learn to live the life He made you to have*

**Desiring God**, John Piper

*Meditations of a "Christian Hedonist"*

**Wild at Heart**, John Eldredge

*Every man has "a Battle to Fight, A Beauty to Rescue, An Adventure to Live..."*

**The Ragamuffin Gospel**, and **Ruthless Trust**, Brennan Manning

*The grace of God is poured out for ordinary people who eagerly seek it; He loves the "ragamuffins" who often feel bedraggled, beat-up, and burnt-out.*

**Lord, I Want to Know You**, Kay Arthur

*How to call upon God for provision, comfort and strength (insightful study based upon names for God found in Scripture)*

**Call to Discipleship**, Juan Carlos Ortiz

*God calls us to radical obedience, growth and maturity, and life-long learning*

**Disappointment with God**, Philip Yancey (Zondervan)

*Yancey shows how our expectations of God are disappointed, and then we have a typical "Job reaction." His discussion of how to come to terms with God's love is very convicting, especially if you have been through some trials and disappointments.*

**Finding God**, Larry Crabb (Zondervan).

*A look at some of the deeper attitudes and problems we face as we grow as Christians and try to get closer to God. Barriers come up from our own expectations and our sinfulness. This is a book for Christians who have been through some suffering or frustration in their sanctification.*

**Honest to God? Becoming an Authentic Christian** , Bill Hybels (Zondervan)

*Hybels challenges us to be consistent with our Christianity, in the family, in the work place, in our attitudes and prayers. He offers typical signs of inconsistency and practical advice on how to sincerely follow God. Good conviction for Christians of any age.*

**Loving God**, Chuck Colson

*Colson uses entertaining stories in each chapter to illustrate the importance of the Bible, faith, friendship, on the Christian's personal relationship with God.*

**Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament**, Christopher J. H. Wright

*Knowable and discernable in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is thus eminently knowable to us. The witness of the whole of Scripture, from its first pages to its last, directs us to a Holy Spirit empowering the people of God, and sustaining and renewing the face of the earth.*

**Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament**, Christopher J. H. Wright

Christopher Wright is convinced that Jesus' own story is rooted in the story of Israel. In this book he traces the life of Christ as it is illuminated by the Old Testament. And he describes God's design for Israel as it is fulfilled in the story of Jesus.