

BOOKS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Paul said, *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine"* (I Timothy 4:12, 13). The great old apostle gives the admonition, *"...give attendance to reading..."* It's a subtle, but definite message - the way to be encouraged in our discipleship is to read profitable materials. In other words, first and foremost, read the Bible and after that, read good books.

President Truman said, "Readers of good books, particularly books of biography and history, are preparing themselves for leadership. Not all readers become leaders. But all leaders must be readers. Many readers become historians and teachers. They are retiring, timid when publicity is involved, and are among the greatest assets to this republic." (From a hand-written manuscript found in Truman's desk after he died, Post-Presidential Papers.)

Often times I am asked by church members and minister friends around the world what books helped shape, mold and guide me. This is not an exhaustive list, but I offer it to you, because lately I have been asked by more than one person for a listing of these books. What a blessing to read! It takes you places you've never been. You have the privilege, through reading, to initiate a bonding of the mind with great thinkers of the past. A good book can stir up your faith, give you ideas for life-change, and enhance your overall mental attitude. The following are some of the most influential books that I recommend:

1. The Suffering Saviour: Meditations on the Last Days of Christ

F. W. Krummacher; Moody-Press, Chicago, 1947

2. The Holy Spirit: Who He Is, and What He Does

R. A. Torrey; Fleming H. Revell

3. The Shadow of the Broad Brim (The Life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon Heir of the Puritans) Richard Ellsworth Day; The Judson Press, 1934 (*recently reprinted by Crown Christian Publications, Powell, TN)

4. All of Grace

C. H. Spurgeon; Moody & Pilfeim (*Try to read it in Spurgeon's Victorian/Puritan English; there has been an update to modern English.)

5. Why Revival Tarries

Leonard Ravenhill; Bethany Fellowship

6. The Pursuit of God

A. W. Tozer; Christian Publications, Inc. Harrisburg, PA

7. The Knowledge of the Holy

A.W. Tozer; Christian Publications, Inc. Harrisburg, PA

8. In His Steps

Charles M. Sheldon; Grosset & Dunlap

9. George Muller of Bristol

Arthur T. Pierson; Fleming H. Revell

10. David Brainerd, Beloved Yankee

David Wynbeek; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

11. The Real Billy Sunday

Elijah P. Brown; Larry Harrison, Christian Book Gallery

12. The Works of Thomas Brooks (6 volumes) for a great sample: Heaven on Earth

Thomas Brooks; The Banner of Truth

13. The Pilgrim's Progress

John Bunyan; Various publishers (get in original format, not updated English)

14. Charles G. Finney: An Autobiography

Charles Finney; Flemming H. Revell also Christian Book Gallery, St. John, IN

15. Stonewall Jackson

James I. Robertson; Macmillan Publishing

16. Screwtape Letters

C. S. Lewis; Macmillan Publishing

17. The Cross

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; Crossway

18. Revival

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; Crossway

19. Studies In The Sermon on The Mount

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

20. The Applause of Heaven

Max Lucado; Word

21. The Beatitudes

Thomas Watson; The Banner of Truth

22. The Ten Commandments

Thomas Watson; The Banner of Truth

23. The Mystery of Providence

John Flavel; The Banner of Truth

24. R. E. Lee

Douglas Southall Freeman; Charles Scribner's & Sons

25. Autobiography of Peter Cartwright

Charles L. Wallis (Edited); Abingdon Press

26. E. M. Bounds On Prayer

E. M. Bounds; Whitaker House (among many others)

(All of his books, now in one volume - if possible get original edition, not updated English)

27. The Shepherd of The Hills

Harold Bell Wright; Bethany, most recent publisher

28. George Whitefield (The Life and Times of the great Evangelist of the 18th

Century Revival) Arnold A. Dallimore; The Banner of Truth (and at one time) Crossway

29. Prayer, Asking and Receiving

John R. Rice; Sword of The Lord Publishers, 1942

30. Mornings On Horseback (the world of the Young Theodore Roosevelt)

David McCullough; Simon & Schuster

31. Rhapsody in Black (The Life Story of John Jasper)

Richard Ellsworth Day; Judson Press

32. Think and Grow Rich

Napoleon Hill; Random House Publishing Group

33. The Luggage of Life

F.W. Boreham; Kregal Publications, Grand Rapids, MI

34. With Malice Toward None (A Biography of Abraham Lincoln)

Stephen B. Oats; Harper/Perennial Publishers

35. Ordering Your Private World

Gordon MacDonald; Thomas Nelson Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.