

My Top Ten

David Troublefield

Free at Last, Tony Evans. One of my top picks that covers many issues that Christians face and can help you understand what became available to you when you became a Christian. This book is easy to understand and discusses your new position in Christ, the battle that goes on within, how to exchange your old life for a new available life, the bondage of legalism, walking by flesh or spirit, reprogramming your mind, the beauty of brokenness. This book can set many free.

Families where Grace is in Place, Jeff VanVonderen. This is the greatest book I've ever read for raising a family in grace. There are basically two kinds of families, the rules based and the grace based. We all know that it is much more fun to hang out with grace based families instead of Pharisee families. Jeff shows that the primary cause comes when Christian husbands, wives and parents focus on a spouse or child's behavior, then set out to apply pressure, make rules and control attitudes by being fixers or controllers. Jeff's message of God's grace can transform the relationships within marriage and family. I assure you, you will not look at your children the same way after reading this book.

What God wishes Christians knew about Christianity, Bill Gillham. Reading this book is like setting in a great Biblical scholar's class and getting answers to questions that you've always wondered about the Christian life. You will learn about forgiveness, how we have to "give it up" so that Christ can take control, what our true identity is, what it means to be free from the law and being the bride of Christ.

Tired of Trying to Measure Up, Jeff VanVonderen. Another great VanVonderen book. I have recommended this many times to people that constantly struggle spiritually, but never feeling anything but tiredness, feeling guilty and nothing is ever "good enough", rest is impossible, performance expectations prove you'll never measure up and the Christian life has ceased to be a joy. If trying hard were the key to the victorious Christian life, many of us would be in the "Hall of Fame". This book will help you get off the works-righteousness treadmill and receive the rest that comes through what Christ has done on the cross.

Velvet Elvis, Rob Bell. I am a big fan of Rob Bell's book's and videos. Bell's recent book, *Velvet Elvis*, is a hip attempt to help Christians "re-paint" the Christian faith in a way that helps people connect with Jesus today. The title of the book is inspired by a decidedly out-dated painting of Elvis in Bell's basement. The painting becomes a metaphor for old, out-dated ways of thinking about Christianity and the goal of the book is to "repaint" the Christian message in a way that is culturally relevant and meaningful today.

The Inward Journey, Gene Edwards. I enjoy exploring the writings of the deep thinkers and Edwards rates right up with C.S. Lewis. In this book, Gene sheds a lot of light on the area of suffering. Though not all of it is meant to be taken literally, Gene writes from the perspective of an elderly Christian who is reflecting back on his life. Gene show us how God uses suffering to mold us into his perfect vessel. I suggest this book to anyone who is having a hard time and does not know why.

Grace Walk, Steve McVey. This book helps you understand and internalize the fact that "A person's behavior has absolutely no influence on God's love". We like to think that God favors and loves us more because we 1) attend church regularly 2) tithe 3) love our neighbors 4) live by the ten commandments 5) don't curse or chew or chase women who do 5) give to Christian causes 6) have daily devotion, and a whole list of other things. Living the grace walk gets you off this religious roller coaster and can give you rest!

Classic Christianity, Bob George. Bob cuts straight to the heart of the issues that cause so many believers to start out in excited enthusiasm only to end up merely "going through the motions" of the Christian Life. Bob shows us the way back to the life Jesus provided for us when He set us free.

How Good is Good Enough? Andy Stanley. This is a quick read book. Andy does a great job of explaining how to deal with the philosophy held by many people that good people go to heaven and that all religions lead to the same god.

The Bondage Breaker, Neil T. Anderson. Being Neil's specialty, this book ultimately helps people break negative thought patterns, control irrational feelings, and break out of the bondage of sinful behavior. This book will help those: 1) realize they have the right to be free, 2) confront the power of Satan, 3) fight the temptation to do it their way, 4) trade deception for grace, 5) affirm their identity in Christ. Those struggling will discover how to embrace the promise of Jesus to win the spiritual battles that confront them.