



The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible

Anonymous, Dallas Willard, Eugene H. Peterson, Richard J. Foster

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The Renovare Spiritual Formation Study Bible offers a new way for discovering the full riches of the Scriptures. As bestselling author and the project's editor, Richard Foster explains, "When I first began writing about spiritual formation, the soul hunger in people was obvious and the resources meager. Since then, a publishing avalanche has occurred on the subject--some helpful, some less than helpful. But there has remained a huge gap; a gap that if not filled will seriously undermine all the gains that have been made. The gap I refer to is a resource for approaching the Bible through the lens of Christian spiritual formation." The Word of God is not merely a text to be mastered but a lifestyle to pursue. This unique Bible, spearheaded by bestselling authors Foster (Celebration of Discipline) and Dallas Willard (The Divine Conspiracy), integrates the spiritual disciplines into the Christian life by showing how they are central to the Bible's teachings and stories. The desperate need today is for a richer, fuller understanding of the relevance of Scripture for daily living. The Renovare Spiritual Formation Study Bible focuses on illuminating issues of spiritual formation throughout the Scriptures, providing a unique window into how we can become more intimate with God. More substantial than a devotional Bible, yet deeper than a study Bible, the Renovare Spiritual Formation Study Bible is poised to redefine what the Bible can mean for Christian discipleship. This unique study Bible will include several distinctive features: -An introductory essay explaining the paradigm of "The With-God Life," which views the whole of Scripture as the unfolding story of God's plan for how we can have an intimate love relationship with our Creator.-A series of fifteen "With God" essays sprinkled throughout the Bible laying out the progression of the biblical story of how God has, at each stage in history, been forming a people who can freely love both God and others.-Introduction and notes for each book of the Bible, explaining not only the historical and theological background, but also highlighting the main themes for spiritual formation.-Spiritual exercises for helping readers take the next step in incorporating what they encounter in God's living Word.-Profiles of key biblical characters emphasizing how they practiced and modeled spiritual disciplines and the "With-God life."-A "Spiritual Disciplines Index" that provides a glossary and Bible references for each spiritual discipline and key themes of spiritual formation. RENOVARÉ is an intrachurch movement committed to the renewal of the Church in all her multifaceted expressions.

The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible Details

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From Reader Review The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible for online ebook

Joel says

we received this from Mom Miller for Christmas. Actually, we have the Catholic version with the apocrypha (same price) but it doesn't show up on the Goodreads book choices. The intro by Richard Foster and the general editors is a nice intro to the "with-God life"- a term that they use throughout the commentary. I also like Foster's explanation of why the NRSV is a great version to use- ecumenical, accurate, good English flow, etc. If you could just buy or read the intro, you could use it with whatever Bible you are already reading. If you aren't reading one, this one is very accessible.

Steve says

First, what is spiritual formation? As defined in the introduction, "Spiritual formation" is the process of transforming the inner reality of the self (the "inward being" of the psalmist) in such a way that the overall with-God life seen in the Bible naturally and freely comes to pass in us. It's wesome! Jessica inspired me to read through the Bible like she and Andy are doing right now. I am following the same reading plan called Eat this Book from the YouVersion Bible on my phone. Ironically, this is the title of a book I read in the last couple of years written by Eugene Peterson. He is also the author of the Message which is my favorite Bible paraphrase,

Chris says

The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible is formatted like a lot of study Bibles. It has chapter introductions, study notes at the bottom of each page, and occasional text boxes in the midst of the text. What is different is the intent. As I understand it, this Bible is an attempt to bring a combination of contemporary Biblical scholarship and suggested spiritual practices to the reader seeking to be changed by the scripture.

All of the scriptural books are grouped in larger sections, each with an introduction on how that particular grouping of text fits into a broader scriptural narrative, which is referred to as "The With-God Life". Each book then also gets its own introduction, written by a different Biblical scholar, who I think is also responsible for the study notes within that book. This means that the commentary on each book is being written by a scholar with particular insight on it. It also means that the introductions and notes for some books stand out as much more helpful than others. My favorites were Job, Jeremiah, Amos, Matthew, Luke, Romans, Corinthians, and Hebrews. I found all of these interesting and helpful. It should be noted, though, that the notes on most of the books aren't very thorough. Unlike a more standard study Bible, there is no attempt to address every verse, or to provide help for every question. Frequently in reading the scripture, seemingly obvious questions and concerns came to mind, but when I checked the bottom of the page I found no notes addressing them. Instead, the commentators seem to have been given the liberty to comment primarily on the themes and issues that stand out most to them, or seem most relevant for encouraging the spiritual growth of the reader. Themes are definitely favored over minutia.

The Bible notes also focus a lot on spiritual disciplines. Wherever possible they highlight the disciplines

described in scripture (in "Responding" sections), and there is an appendix with a list of all the disciplines they have highlighted.

The translation is the very excellent NRSV, and it includes the Deuterocanonical books (aka the Apocrypha), which I had never read before, but enjoyed exploring.

I'm not sure how to think of this Bible, or to whom to recommend it. I think I learned a lot just reading through it, and reading all the notes along the way, but that was also a major project. Previously I had been trying to read the Bible once each year, but with my desire to read all the notes and chapter introductions, along with my new role as a dad, it took me about three years to get through this one. I'm planning on going back to it as a resource in my own teaching, or when I have questions. As I said, some of the material is really good, and I definitely appreciated the overall themes and narrative structure highlighted by the editors. However, I wouldn't recommend it as a primary resource since it doesn't attempt the same thoroughness as a typical commentary or study Bible.

Maggie says

Love this translation and the manageable amount of notes. Just as I read and wonder "what in the hizzy heck does that mean?" I will notice the note below. Good reflection questions make me want to read more and read again.

Karin says

I own so many Bibles, always looking for the one that's just right. This may be it! Or at least it's right for me right now. My history in Bibles: The Bible as Literature, the King James, the Scofield NIV, the Recovery Bible, the Oxford New Revised Standard, the Lutheran NSRV, and now, this version of the NSRV with its emphasis on spiritual formation.

Kris says

I bought this as a gift for all the college graduates in my college ministry a few years ago. It continued to be something of a fashion for the serious followers of Jesus in my ministry to get their hands on this incredible resource. Then one of my students actually went out and bought me one. I was elated. I hope to use it for many years to come. The downside is that it's pretty bulky for a Bible. It's not real handy. But it is definitely great as a desk resource or to be used in the quiet moments of your home or office. I also love the list of contributors: Dallas Willard, Eugene Peterson, Walter Brueggemann, and of course Richard Foster among others.

Annabelle says

I really like the spiritual disciplines index and notes. They've helped me read scripture for devotion again.

Donna says

Update, Dec. 12, 2010: I've read the entire Bible!

Obviously, this is a long-term project. So far, I've read Genesis, Matthew, Ezra, Acts, Nehemiah, Mark, Esther, Romans, Job, Exodus, Luke, 1 Corinthians, Leviticus, John, Proverbs, 2 Corinthians, Numbers, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, James, Joshua, 1 Peter, Judges, 2 Peter, Jeremiah, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Lamentations, Ruth, 1 Samuel, Jude, 2 Samuel, Ezekiel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, Daniel, Hosea, 1 Chronicles, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, 2 Chronicles, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi and Revelation.

I really liked this translation and think it's a good, clear one for anyone who, like me, is reading the entire Bible for the first time. I'm divided about the notes in the margins. For example, I'd never write a play or paint a picture about my faith. I'm not that type of creative. But I loved the quotes from great religious scholars. Lots of highlighting went on there.

Suzanne says

Beautiful. Well written introductions for each book. please note: this is not a study bible but focuses on spiritual formation. Pages are thin and there is some bleed through. the typeset is easy on the eyes but on the small side. I have the leather edition.

Julie Mihevc says

This is my favorite Bible. The idea of spiritual formation that permeates this version, as well as the quality of the commentary has blessed my spiritual life in great measure. I love this Bible.

Nancy says

This is truly the finest bible I have ever encountered. The margin notes and essays are really wonderful. They call me to examine myself and the scripture I am reading. I am drawn deeper in to the text and closer to the Divine.

In my Quaker meeting we call these kind of notes "queries". Questions without answers but that cause us to ponder more fully and explore more deeply our thoughts and feelings. It is sustaining and uplifting to meditate on these queries. They bring the bible alive.

With this bible I look forward to bible reading and what it will bring to my day and my life. I am saddened that it has fallen out of print. I do wish Zondervan would bring it back. I buy used copies whenever I see

them to share with friends.

I have both the NIV translation as well as the NRSV. They are both terrific. I am hoping that it will be made available electronically so that I can carry it with me everywhere. I wish I could get this on my Kindle and iPad. It would be great to have it with me always.

I wish I knew how to contact Timothy K Jones to thank him for this fantastic resource.

Linda says

hands down my favorite bible and i own quite a few.

Beth says

Solitude and Silence, Frugality and Fasting, Secrecy and Sacrifice, Study and Prayer, Service and Submission, Worship and Celebration, Fellowship and Confession...

I have the version with the Apocrypha though. Not sure it's the "protestant version"...as a matter of fact I don't think it is. BUt it's great.

Nancy says

I wish that Zondervan would bring this book back into print. It has by far the best bible notes I have ever read. They really take you deeper into the scriptures and help you to come closer the the Divine. I have given many copies to friends and family. I have both the NIV translation as well as the NRSV. They are both terrific. I wish I could get this on my iPad or Kindle too. It would be great to be able to have it with me.

Wendy says

My favorite Bible. I love the "Entry Point" reflections based on different spiritual disciplines including Lectio Divina, Ignatian, and Franciscan.
