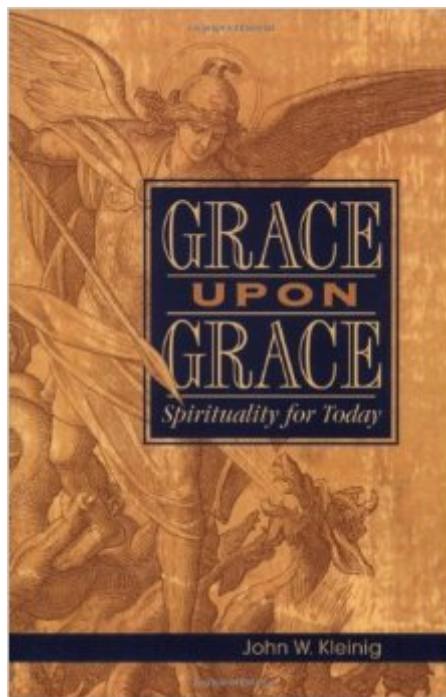


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# Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality For Today



## **Synopsis**

The longing for spiritual fulfillment, inevitably paired with spiritual frustration, is common among Christians. Do we read and study the Bible enough? Do we worship often and in the right way? Do we pray enough, in the correct way, and for the right things? How do we become truly spiritual? And the answers from numerous self-help spirituality books only lead to confusion and the fear of missing key steps on the road to becoming spiritual. In response, John W. Kleinig clarifies that there is no process for becoming spiritual. Instead, God graciously gives to us every spiritual gift that we need, beginning with the very gift of faith in Christ, our Savior. Because God has joined us to Christ, He continually comes to give us life.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Kleinig is the perfect one to write this aid for Christian spirituality for us entering early into the 21st Century. For one, he is an intense practitioner of Biblical study, interpretation and application. Second, he is driven to Christian spirituality by his Biblical practice. Thus, the readers of this marvelous work share his discoveries into this topic. A strong characteristic of this work will jump off the pages from this beginning: this will not approach the subject in the way the multitude of Christian books on the subject do. In fact, he criticizes and corrects them from God's Word. It is so drawn from Scripture that it oozes with God's inspired Word. He begins with a most vital concept: spirituality is received, not obtained, as he so eloquently puts it: "Our piety is all a matter of receiving grace upon grace from the fullness of God the Father." One quickly learns that such grace squared comes

in Christ. Thus, the second chapter, where he unloads the necessary begging of the saints, that we don't have the equipment, but only beg for it in Christ, and our total dependence upon Him for our spirituality. Thus, into practices of meditation, prayer, the spiritual battle and holiness. In these, he will shatter (and necessarily so) the all too often approach of performance suggestions and advice of the expert guides. He turns us to what Kleinig has been turned to, Christ crucified alone! This is truly marvelous and refreshing, as well as comforting, since it takes guilt and pressure off of us, who can't obtain holiness in our spiritual journey, but only when Christ lives in us. As but one example, he writes about prayer: "Little by little, God the Father has used the school of hard knocks to join me with Jesus in His praying and to rely on the prompting of His Holy Spirit, rather than on my own resources, in my spiritual life. So I now no longer regard prayer as an obligation, a duty that I must fulfill, but as something that is given to me, something that I receive from the triune God." This work will stimulate and motivate one's spirituality for 287 pages worth of time, but the thoughts that one receives here will stick and guide one ever deeper into Christ's forgiveness and life and abiding presence moment by moment, day by day. Certainly a treasure for the church, for its nourishment and guidance on the journey home to the City of God! Buy this, be transformed by it!

As a Christian woman, Mother and Grandmother, I find myself going back to the pages of this book every few months. It is a continuous reminder to me that God gives us every spiritual gift that we need to make it through this sinful world that sometimes can overwhelm us. It is a theologically sound read.

Grace Upon Grace is worth every penny. True spirituality comes not from within us, but from God working through his Word and Sacraments. Very helpful book on prayer and meditation especially

I completely agree with the review from rodboomboom and have found this work a breath of fresh air and insight. In the chapter on meditation these words about the effect of meditating on Scriptures have touched me deeply: "We become more open and at ease, as the light of Christ exposes and banishes the darkness in our hearts. We become more receptive to the world, the people around us, and the things that are given to us for our enjoyment. We live as in the Father's presence and see the world as His creation. We see ourselves as we are in Christ and see others as Christ sees them. Because the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see what is otherwise hidden from us, we have a vision of God's glory. We are truly blessed because Jesus sees us and loves us; He appreciates us and delights in us. And we no longer have anything to hide, nothing to be ashamed of. We share in

His glory and shine in His light. We are happy just to be with Him."Words to live and love by.

Cannot recall how many books I had read concerning spiritual growth, prayer, holiness, etc.. Since becoming a Lutheran several years ago I have really been freed up. Sometimes it seemed though that these type of issues were ignored by some Lutherans out of fear of becoming pietists. I like how this author says that there is no step-by-step process for growing spiritual but does go straight to the Work of Christ as the focal point that we need to have to understand these things in the life of a believer.

Very helpful insights into the power and reality of a Christian's prayers, faith and worship. Not a 'how to' or another guilt trip, but a needed reminder of how we make a real difference for All around us.

As my title says, this book shows how true spirituality is all about Christ working for us, not us working for Him. Our relationship towards Him is only enabled by His amazing grace. The book is very profound and speaks a needed voice for the world today, where everything on the spirituality market seems to be about self-help. Kleinig points out that we can't help ourselves, we must rely on Christ. My only critique is that he is a little dry and sometimes unnecessarily so. Don't read this book right before bedtime. The content is outstanding and worth the read, but it takes some discipline to "get started" in this book.

I am only half way through the 1st chapter after reading the preface & introductory, but so far I am able to follow the writing well. This book came highly recommended to me by my Pastor. I am anxious to read more, but am a busy mom of 4. I will make time to read this book though.

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