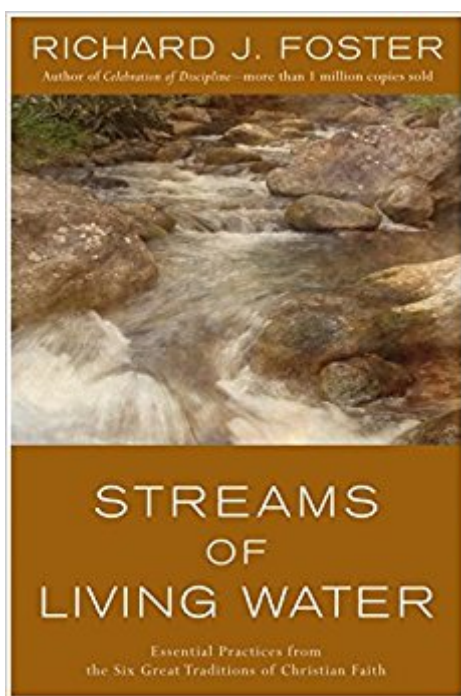


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Streams Of Living Water: Celebrating The Great Traditions Of Christian Faith



Synopsis

The author of the bestselling celebration of discipline explores the great traditions of Christian spirituality and their role in spiritual renewal today. In this landmark work, Foster examines the "streams of living water" — the six dimensions of faith and practice that define Christian tradition. He lifts up the enduring character of each tradition and shows how a variety of practices, from individual study and retreat to disciplines of service and community, are all essential elements of growth and maturity. Foster examines the unique contributions of each of these traditions and offers as examples the inspiring stories of faithful people whose lives defined each of these "streams."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Streams of Living Water is Richard J. Foster's roundup of six great traditions of Christian spiritual practice. His essays on spirituality--contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, evangelical, and incarnational--are grounded in straightforward profiles of biblical and modern characters whom Foster considers exemplars of these traditions. (The prophet Amos and the Quaker abolitionist John Woolman, for example, are featured in the chapter on social justice.) Each chapter ends with a bit of advice about how readers can cultivate new aspects of spiritual life and keep these Christian traditions alive: "Take a bath instead of a shower. Waste time for God," Foster writes, in his chapter on the contemplative tradition. Foster doesn't really break new ground in Streams of Living Water--he's written about most of these spiritual disciplines elsewhere--but this book is a useful and engaging introduction to a fairly broad range of Christian spiritual practices. --Michael Joseph Gross

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"...a marvel of a book covering two milleniums of Christian experience. With clarity and restraint, Foster invites the reader to draw from his wells of wisdom as he paints in words the portraits of those who have shaped our rich and varied heritage. His broad brush strokes bring to life the streams of living water that for centuries have nourished our souls. Not only that, he generously gives tangible application to our fragmented lives in the here and now." -- Ingrid Trobisch, author of THE CONFIDENT WOMAN and KEEPER OF THE SPRINGS "Foster's engaging writing and thoughtful presentation make the book appealing to a broad readership." -- Publishers Weekly "Richard Foster has written another classic." -- Dallas Morning News "Richard J. Foster has offered the church an exquisite gift in his new book STREAMS OF LIVING WATER. Foster paints a masterful portrait of Jesus... This well-written and immensely appealing book needs to be read by every individual who is committed to reaching maturity in his or her spiritual life." -- Sojourners Magazine "STREAMS OF LIVING WATER is educational and inspirational...[it] provides the chart for negotiating through the shallows and narrows, the rapids and bays that make up a remarkably diverse and rich body of faith." -Dale Hanson Bourke, Religion News Service -- "STREAMS OF LIVING WATER may well be Foster's most important work yet." -- A Closer Look "This book is an amazing bridge-builder." -- CBA Marketplace --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fascinating book....great stimulus to conversation about the important things in life. Not prescriptive, but provides a lot of information that will help one make decisions about what fits best. Highly recommended.

Richard Foster explores the historic traditional streams of Christianity. He identifies characteristics of various denominational emphases to elaborate on their practices and Christian values of worship, discipline and ministry. The parameters of the book may seem arbitrary and to atomize the faith; however, Foster makes clear that he considers each to represent a part of the whole. The streams are not separate but perspectives on the image of Christ, the head of the church from which and to whom all streams flow. For the several streams, Foster devotes a chapter that includes an historical paradigm, a Biblical paradigm and a contemporary paradigm that includes a profile of a standout Christian from that tradition (more or less). Foster also defines and highlights strengths and weaknesses of each stream. The format of the book creates something for everyone and perhaps

too much for most readers. It is history, a commentary on the contemporary church and a collection of Christian profiles. Foster also writes eloquently and in depth about how each stream works into the spiritual disciplines. This is overall a good look at the picture of Christianity and should hold readers interest and enlighten them.

I met Foster's writings in seminary and I find they lift us to places and thoughts I am always enlivened by. This is a different work than the other books I have read. This is a history of important themes in Christian life. I have now met people I'd never heard of through this one! Biblical examples to mirror the people Foster describes flesh out the themes he is discussing. This is not a book of meditations but a larger work of ideas, biographies, teaching, concepts, to explore the spiritual paths followers of Christ have taken and their contributions to Christianity.

Helpful and informative book. Great connections with historical of spiritual formation streams. Loved the book! Resources at the end of the book were a surprising bonus!

Still in the process of reading this great book. It arrived on time, is a clean copy and a good read. Thank you.

This book has helped me appreciate the beliefs and expressions of faith of Christians with world views that differ from my own. Indeed I see how the other streams can enrich my faith, expand my appreciation of traditions, and has helped me see afresh that God is bigger than my box!

Wonderful book. Well written and easy to follow. In depth discussions of the different types of Christian spiritual practices and frameworks. Well worth adding to any library about Christian spiritual practice.

Very scholarly with many notes and references. Compelling to read. The structure of paradigms from historical, Biblical, and contemporary references and the positives and negatives of each stream of faith provide the reader with much to contemplate.

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