

THE AUTHORS SHOW – Authors of Spirituality/Religion

Author: Richard Trayler

Growing in Intimacy with God: Accept Adore Abide, Xulon Press, 2016.

My professional writing career began with the book *Life Is Short... Compared To Eternity: Where Will You Spend Eternity? The Choice Is Yours*. The motivation for writing that book was to share what I know to be true and what I believe to be true about Biblical Christianity. As an executive in the medical device industry, I traveled to and conducted business in more than 40 countries. During my travels, I saw thousands of people who do not know about Biblical Christianity or Jesus. As a believer in Jesus Christ, that breaks my heart. I believe that if more people know what I know, they would do as I have done and place their faith and eternal destiny in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As I wrote *Life Is Short ... Compared To Eternity*, my primary focus was on evangelism. More specifically, I provided an overview of Biblical Christianity with facts to support its validity and why it should be considered a relationship rather than a religion. Then, I provided objective information on three religions / worldviews: Islam, Atheism, and Secular Socialism so that the reader could compare them with Biblical Christianity and determine which offers the greatest truth and hope. A third major topic in the book is Biblical prophecy. Approximately 25% of the Bible was prophetic when written. Literal fulfillment of these prophecies throughout history provides the greatest support of the Bible's claim that it is the inspired Word of God. For example, Jesus fulfilled more than 300 prophecies in His first coming. Many of these are presented and examined as well as major yet-unfilled prophecies and how these will affect each reader.

I was honored when I was named as one of the 50 Great Writers You Should Be Reading in 2012, as a result of the book, *Life Is Short... Compared To Eternity*. More importantly, however, I am humbled to see how the Holy Spirit continues to use this book to bring others to salvational faith.

I have had a very enjoyable and rewarding 40-year career, focused on cardiology in academic, clinical, sales, sales management, business development, and executive roles. Now that I am retired and no longer traveling extensively in the US and internationally, I have time to participate in small group Bible Studies and do more in-depth Bible study. This has been a tremendous blessing to me.

Several years ago, my best friend invited me to join him on a journey created by Influencers Global Ministries (<http://www.influencers.org/>). The purpose of the journey is for each man to develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. He and I were joined on this journey by two other brothers in Christ. Subsequently, he and I have lead several other journey groups and every man has found a treasure of infinite worth – a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ!

My goal in writing the book, *Growing in Intimacy with God: Accept Adore Abide*, was to encourage each reader to do what I am doing - grow in intimacy with God – The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. As I wrote this book, I was guided by the same two principles that guided me in writing *Life Is Short ... Compared To Eternity*:

- My goal is to communicate Biblical truth clearly, concisely, and directly. Carefully consider these passages:
 - o Hebrews 4:12 – 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - o Isaiah 55:11 – so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- What God has said about a topic is infinitely more important than what I could say. Consequently, approximately 18% of this book are direct quotes from the Bible (ESV and NASB translations).

o 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I believe that there are three vital steps in growing in intimacy with God. These are:

1. Accept the free gift of eternal life by placing your faith in Jesus Christ, Who lived a sinless life, died to pay the penalty of your sins, and rose from the dead.
2. Adore God for what He has done, is doing, and will do for you.
3. Abide in an intimate relationship with God, now and forever, by learning to yield your will to His and being obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

These three steps form the three parts (sections) in the book, are explored and expanded in thirteen chapters in the book. These are:

Part 1: Acceptance

Chapter 1: Are You Saved? Are You Sure?

Chapter 2: What Is Salvation?

Chapter 3: Justification – Salvation from the Penalty of Sin

Chapter 4: Future Judgments

Chapter 5: The Believer's Judgment

Part 2: Adoration – Knowing More About God

Chapter 6: How Can I know More About God?

Chapter 7: Why Adore God?

Chapter 8: Should You Fear God?

Part 3: Abiding – Knowing God

Chapter 9: Sanctification – Protection from the Power of Sin

Chapter 10: Abiding and Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

Chapter 11: Prayer

Chapter 12: Living, Serving, and Sharing

Chapter 13: Glorification – Salvation from the Presence of Sin

The primary focus of *Growing In Intimacy With God* is to help each reader have and grow in a personal, intimate relationship with God. You can know about God and know God, The Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and have continual fellowship and communion with Him.

I invite you to read this book and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you through three essential steps – Accept, Adore, and Abide – so that you may have the intimate relationship with God that you were created to have. Experience the inward transformation into the likeness of Christ and the outward manifestation of His love for others. When you do, you will begin to experience the abundant life that Jesus promised:

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10b