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The Counselor: Straight Talk About The Holy Spirit

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Synopsis

Straight talk about the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is confined to creeds, the church becomes like a land with no water or a kite with no wind. In his life and writings, A.W. Tozer was insistent that the church reclaim a practical theology of the Holy Spirit - that it actually know him. The Counselor will help you cultivate sweet communion with God. Gifted at bringing lofty thoughts down low, Tozer explains clearly who the spirit is and what it means to know him. His words will leave you with a deep longing to be filled with the blessed spirit, to have joy, peace, life, and power in Him. "[The Holy Spirit] wants to be Lord of your life, to possess you so that you are no longer in command of the little vessel in which you sail."

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 4 hours and 41 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: christianaudio.com
Audible.com Release Date: April 18, 2016
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B01EB9NCOQ
Best Sellers Rank: #320 in Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Pneumatology
#2615 in Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christianity
#8173 in Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Spiritual Growth

Customer Reviews

A.W. Tozer was a pastor and Christian author who lived from 1897 to 1963. I have seen him quoted numerous times. I have finally read a book by him. Or, actually, this book is an edited version of two classics that Tozer wrote. It is still quotable, though! This book was not exactly what I expected. I thought that this book would be about how the Holy Spirit dwells inside of Christians and counsels them. The book, after all, is entitled The Counselor. Instead, this book talks about the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Tozer addresses the question of why so many Christians or professing Christians are not filled with the Holy Spirit. He also discusses what being filled with the Holy Spirit looks like. What does being filled with the Holy Spirit mean, according to Tozer? As far as I can recall, Tozer in this book does not answer that explicitly. But he does talk about what being
filled with the Holy Spirit looks like. He looks at the Book of Acts, in which the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. He also examines church history, as he refers to such examples as Martin Luther, John Wesley, and others. For Tozer, being filled with the Holy Spirit includes a variety of characteristics: joy, an intense hunger and thirst to know God, speaking with authority, God anointing one’s preaching so that it produces results, spiritual transformation, and knowing God through the Holy Spirit rather than through intellect. For Tozer, being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a process that stretches out over time. Rather, it is a single event of spiritual empowering. How does one become filled with the Holy Spirit, according to Tozer?

Why I Choose this Book: These last few months I’ve been interested in finding out more about the Holy Spirit. Until recently I hadn’t thought much about Him, and so it’s almost like a whole new dimension was added to my world when I became consciously aware of Him in my life and in the world around me.

What I Thought About this Book: I enjoyed reading this book, more so the second half than the first. It’s always enlightening to read books by great Christian authors and I’m so thankful I can learn from them instead of having to learn everything in life by trial and error. The book was, as you can see from the title, about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is such an important part of being a Christian, but far too often we don’t even recognize the fact that He is one of the Trinity. He is alive and active, not an it or a thing. This book helped me to have a clearer understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in the world. Sadly though, all in all this book wasn’t really my favorite. Somehow the author’s style bugged me a bit. He was emphatic about things that I wasn’t comfortable with him being emphatic about, and one of my quirks is being really bothered by that type of thing. I’m pretty sure this is just a “me” thing though, and that other people will enjoy it and glean a lot of good information while reading it.

Conclusion: There were some things I didn’t agree with, but overall it was good. I found myself challenged to live a holy and acceptable life before God. I especially liked chapter seven where he talks about different great men and woman of the faith. I want to look up some of the people he mentioned and read books about them.

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