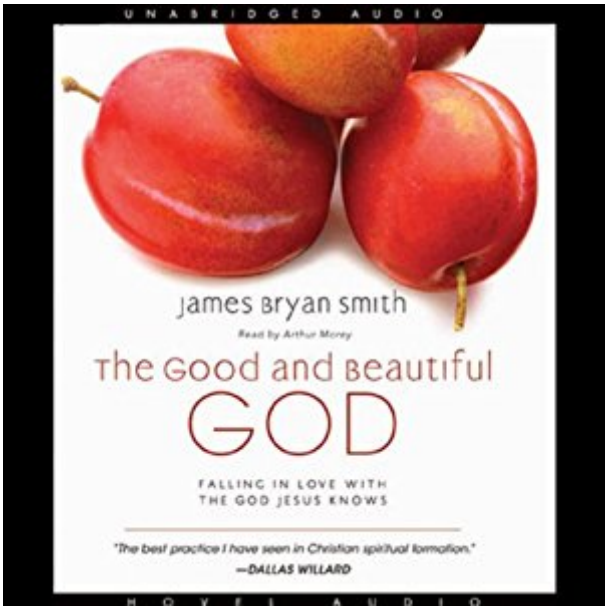
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The Good And Beautiful God: Falling In Love With The God Jesus Knows



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Synopsis

"God wants me to try harder." "God blesses me when I'm good and punishes me when I'm bad." "God is angry with me." We all have ideas that we tell ourselves about God and how he works in our lives. Some are true--but many are false. James Bryan Smith believes those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live. In fact, Smith declares, the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. The path to spiritual transformation begins here. Turning to the Gospels, Smith invites you to put your ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus himself reveals about God. Once you've discovered the truth in Scripture, Smith leads you through a process of spiritual formation that includes specific activities aimed at making these new narratives real in your body and soul as well as your mind. At the end of each chapter you'll find an opportunity for soul training, engaging in spiritual practices that reinforce the biblical messages on your mind and heart. Because the best way to make a complete and lasting change is to go through the material in community, small group discussion questions also accompany each chapter. Those who are leading apprentice groups will also find additional help and opportunities to interact with other leaders at the Apprentice website, www.apprenticeofjesus.com. This deep, loving and transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by--to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed--and to practice spiritual exercises that will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a must read for any Christian wanting to progress. It paints a picture of the God we need to know and points towards growing our relationship with Him. Christianity is all about relationship, not religion.

One great book! Wish I had read this 30 years ago. I am for sure recommending it to all the young professional I mentor.

This book has been a great beginning for me. Getting the story right--and the right story--is essential to living life right (and the right life? Maybe I'm just trying to be clever there...) Anyway, this book has really refocused me on a disciplined life, a spiritual life, once again. Not new material for me, but a new presentation, and a compelling one. Thank you, Dr. Smith!

This book is a great way to show you the real perception of God through Jesus's eyes rather than the world perception of God that most of us have. This book is great for anyone at any point in their relationship with God. I will definitely be reading it again!

Simple - straightforward- practical - easy to read - extremely Impactful if you can slow down and read it with the Spirit's guidance.

Wonderfully written with great biblical examples of who God really is compared to the false narratives of how society describes Him. A theological book that is easy to understand, but challenges you to think, while providing how to apply what the author is teaching. Loved it so much, I've purchased the 2nd book of the series.

"The Good and Beautiful God," along with the rest of the Apprentice Series, has quickly become one of my favorite series to recommend to people of all ages. James Bryan Smith uses language that allows anyone along the spectrum of the life-long Christian to an individual who does not believe in Jesus to better understand the heart and love of God Himself. Through Smith's articulation of people's development of "false narratives," the reader will better understand why God has been attributed such characteristics as "wrath," and how Jesus (what He says, the love He shows, and what He has done) rewrites these lies each of us have come to believe. The "Soul Training Exercises" (really, just disciplined practices) at the end of each chapter challenge the reader to continue to pursue the Lord throughout the week as he/she reflects on the teachings and

love that God has for each of us.The best setting for reading this series is within a smaller group. I've studied "The Good and Beautiful God" in a group of three, and gone through "The Good and Beautiful Life" with one other person. A smaller setting allows for a greater chance of accountability and honest discussion of the text, the Scripture passages that accompany each chapter, and of its application in our daily lives.Overall, I highly recommend this series to anyone that is seeking to better understand the love of God, how that applies, fuels, and compels us in our daily life, and how that translates to the community around us.

One of the best practical guides to spiritual formation I've ever read. Smith condenses dozens of teachings and practices used for centuries and makes them accessible to our current time and space.

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