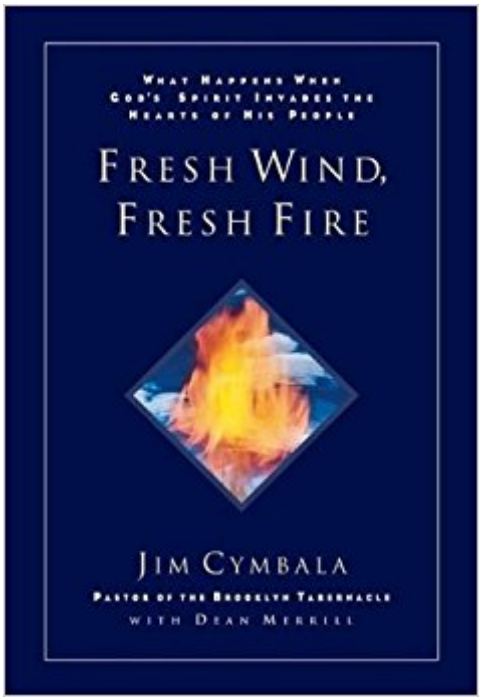
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Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire



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Synopsis

Pastor Jim Cymbala shares the lessons he learned when the Spirit ignited his heart and began to move through his people. This unforgettable story will set a fire burning in your heart to experience God’s mercy, power, and love as though for the first time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As though blowing oxygen upon the dying embers of a fire, pastor Jim Cymbala revived a broken-down church in a rough-shod inner-city neighborhood through Christian faith. Twenty-five years ago, the Brooklyn Tabernacle could barely draw 26 people to a Sunday service. Nowadays the congregation is 6,000 strong--filled with converted prostitutes, pimps, drug addicts, and homeless people, as well as yuppies and wholesome families. Although he’s quick to give God credit for this miraculous success story, Cymbala admits that there may be a few human decisions that led to this Christian triumph. Most significantly, he made sure his church community embraced everyone, from all walks of life--no matter how distasteful or foreign. "Christians often hesitate to reach out to those who are different," according to Cymbala. "They want God to clean the fish before they catch them. If someone’s gold ring is attached to an unusual body part, if the person doesn’t smell the best or the skin color is not the same, Christians tend to hesitate." Thus, Cymbala encouraged his congregation to adopt the very same tolerant and accepting attitude as their God does. The results? Let’s just say a church thrives in Brooklyn. Accomplished cowriter Dean Merrill helps this tender true story stay satisfying and highly readable. --Gail Hudson

Twenty-five years ago, Cymbala, worn out from pastoring two congregations, devoted himself solely to the dwindling band of worshipers at ramshackle Brooklyn Tabernacle. Today, the old building has been replaced, there are 6,000 worshipers at four Sunday services, the church choir wins Grammies and sings for Billy Graham's crusades, and Cymbala is asked to speak all over the world about how he did it. Although he believes he didn't do it--God did--Cymbala does have a secret: the church is first and foremost a house of prayer, he says, a place where souls can call on God. Accordingly, Cymbala established Tuesday-night prayer meeting as the most important church function (later, church members began a "Prayer Band" to intercede round the clock for all and sundry). With professional Christian writer Merrill's help, Cymbala tells not his church's story as much as the stories of individual souls whose saving illustrates the truth of his testimony that God responds to prayer made in repentance and faith. Cymbala considers his work part of the revivalist tradition of nondenominational Christian evangelism, and he cites 300 years' worth of the great revivals and revivalists often, adding greater interest to a book that voices some of the oldest Christian wisdom with the vivid immediacy of telling tomorrow's news. Ray Olson

Such a great reminder. I'm reenergized in my commitment to prayer. Thankful for Pastor Jim's take on this and the stories he shared and the call to pray. It is not really an option. He said something @ one point that really made me think....it was something like "Ok, so heaven is spending eternity in the presence of the Lord. Prayer is spending time in the presence of the Lord. If we're not praying here on earth, why would we ever want to spend forever in heaven?!" I'm paraphrasing but it was a kick in the butt for me. Why do i not prioritize this when it's something so "simple" and yet the only way to really commune with the Father while still in this sinful world. Amen!!

I honestly think the title of this book is cheesy. Will that being said the content (the part that really matters) was amazing! Every pastor, missionary, Sunday school worker, full-time working, "lay" person, and church goer....actually everyone that wonders about Christianity should read this. It is a honest look at the modern Church in America and asks us to examine ourselves (and helps probe) to see whether we are indeed doing what God called us to. It is NOT a hyper - self righteous, liberal, or questionable in doctrine. This guy has very solid doctrine and focus on where the focus should be...in other words the VERY opposite of the Pharisees which "strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." God bless Jim Cymbala for writing this book!

In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Pastor Jim Cymbala emphatically makes the case for making prayer a bigger part of every ChristianÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life. He effectively supports his arguments with some lessons from the Bible and some lessons from history, but probably most importantly, lessons from his experience as pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle Church.Jim Cymbala became pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in 1971 without any formal training other than a college sociology degree and a few years of business experience. The church was on the verge of collapse. It had fewer than twenty worshippers, few resources, and appeared unable to make its monthly mortgage payments. When this book was written in 1997, the Church had grown incredibly. The original church now has four Sunday meetings (each 2 Ãƒâ Ã Â hours) at a facility that needed to be built to accommodate 1,600 attendees, plus BT has started another 6 churches in the greater New York area and another ten elsewhere. But Pastor Cymbala makes clear that the goals of his church have nothing to do with the dreaded modern ABC trinity (attendance, budget and cash) that others use to measure success of churches.Pastor Cymbala shares the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“secretÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• of how BT survived, thrived and transformed peopleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s lives. The secret comes down to one simple word: prayer. It is made clear that the Brooklyn Tabernacle and its members needed to be transformed, but are their issues any more urgent than my issues or the issues of other people in my congregation? Maybe, but it doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t matter! My church and I (and probably all of humanity) need to take seriously the Biblical examples of centering worship and life around prayer.The Brooklyn Tabernacle has a strong music ministry. Pastor CymbalaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s wife Carol is the choir director and accompanist and writes some of the songs, even though she cannot read music. There are many examples on YouTube, iTunes and elsewhere of the remarkable music made by this choir; but, as the book makes clear, this wonderful music is much less a result of talent and training than it is of the choirÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ongoing commitment to and reliance on prayer.This book contains some amazingly powerful examples of answered prayers. Perhaps the most poignant is the story of Pastor CymbalaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s daughter Chrissy, who rebelled against her earthly and heavenly fathers in her late teens. If there is anything missing from this book, it is explanations of how BT deals with unanswered prayers. I think I know the answer: pray with more focus, pray with more frequency, pray with more intensity, pray with more unity and listen for GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s answer more fervently!

This was such a wonderful read. I purchased this book long ago and did not get to read it until recently. I think it was meant for such a time as this time. I learned many profound truths of humble

beginnings a pastor goes through and it really touched my heart. I was astonished by things shared, in a humbling way. I wept, laughed and saw the hands of God upon the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church. Our Choir leader joined his wife there leaving our church and we enjoy seeing Danny singing on their televised program. The most important point out of this book was that everything IS about God. I agree with the points concerning the quantity of those who attend, and other doesn't carry weight unless all focus is on who deserves all the Glory which is Jesus and the price He paid for humanity. Very touching accounts and a bold statements of what takes place that often many don't see including thoughts on "New experiences" and persons traveling here and there to get a touch from God. I agree totally He is there where you are also, as an Intercessor myself prayer is the key to God's heart (my view) but the same Jim Cymbala States. God bless him and his wife and daughter. His account of his daughter gives me hope for mines and others I prayed for. Wonderful fresh bold no fluff truths to live by. This is an excellent read to purchase if you desire straight forward encouragement and light.

I have wanted to read this book for quite some time. Why? I watched some videos of Jim Cymbala praying with the people at his church, the Brooklyn Tabernacle. What I saw was authenticity. Reading the book did not disappoint. He credits prayer as the key to the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“successÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• of his ministry. This book says a lot about ministry and the need to do it GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s way. Cymbala makes a statement I will quote:"We must face the fact that for our churches and ministries to be all God wants them to be, they must be saturated with prayer. No new revelation or church-growth techniques will change the fact that spiritual power is always linked to communion with God. If you and I are prayerless, if our churches have no appetite for GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s presence, we will never reach our full potential in him."

For sure one of the top 20 books of all time written for Christians. It's an AMAZING read. I just read it again and give it away all the time to encourage, inspire and remind people of why are faith is so on fire! Please read this book if you haven't yet or read it again if it's been a while. Pastor Cymbala is anointed by God.

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