

Book Review: 50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith.

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This is a review of a book read, not because it was a “must buy” or “that looks interesting”, but given as a gift for Christmas. So what did this congregational member think of this book? Well, firstly to acknowledge my prejudices – I rarely like an American author and would normally be put off by a title that included the words “every Christian should know”. That aside, it proved to be a treasure to delve into, especially given there was a holiday with more reading time!

In summary, this book provides a short vignette of each of the chosen women from birth in 1098 to death in 2013. The reader is not given the criteria used to choose from women over the centuries for inclusion in this anthology; however like the author, in reading of them I was inspired by the lives of these faithful women in a range of circumstances. For the earlier women, their inclusion relies on them either having been literate and having written themselves or having had biographies written about them. Despite the brevity of each vignette, I did feel that I entered a little into the lives of each woman.

For those who love history - it gives this through the eyes of Christian women. For those wondering about how women do ministry – there is an array of ways women have undertaken ministry over the centuries. For those who love to hear of God at work in the lives of people – here are wonderful testimonies.

Personally, I was more inspired earlier rather than later in the book, although I enjoyed reading to the very end. I was inspired by how high profile women were not superheroes, even though they often did things that I would never consider within my capacity. They were faithful to what they believed God had called them to do. Being faithful meant they remained committed to God even though they had doubts or anxiety. These women were obedient to God although they may not have been popular, respected or even acknowledged for their work and role in their time.

Through reading this book, I have gained a greater understanding of faith, circumstances over the centuries and how God uses us all for His glory despite our weaknesses and strengths.

Have a look at the front and back page of the book to gain further temptation to read it.

A Google search finds it available from a large range of bookshops. It is published by Baker Books as per the link below where is it available for purchase in hard copy or ebook.

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