



The Journals of Jim Elliot

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Jim Elliot was part of a team of young missionaries murdered in Ecuador in 1956 by the Auca Indians to whom they were witnessing. At the age of 29, he left behind a young widow, a baby daughter, and volumes of personal journals written over many years.

In 1978, Revell published the complete and unabridged journals, edited by his widow, Elisabeth, and the journals have stayed in print ever since. And it's no wonder-Jim Elliot was an intelligent thinker and strong writer in these personal, yet universal, musings about faith, work, and love. The Journals of Jim Elliot is a wonderful account of the life of a man who yearns to know God's plan for his life, details his fascinating missions work, and loves Elisabeth-first as a single man, then as a happily married one.

The Journals of Jim Elliot will intrigue fans of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot, readers interested in missions, and young people struggling to find God's plan for their lives.

The Journals of Jim Elliot Details

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Charis Flanders says

Invaluable lessons for all who desire to "fill up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ". Jim's life, though not easy or always compelling, illustrates why "dying (everyday) is gain". Christ was not formed in him easily. What is undeniable in these entries, is that his martyrdom was not an isolated accident but an anticipated culmination of a life set on an unshakeable hope.

Ellen says

Incredibly convicting, inspiring, and encouraging. Elliot was pretty fiercely human and struggled with many of the same sins and doubts that I do, BUT -- his focus was Christ and he was singlemindedly devoted to living a life of sacrifice. Reminder for me: God doesn't use people who have it all together; he uses those whose sense of their weakness causes them to rely on his grace alone.

So incredibly grateful for Jim Elliot's example of a life truly well-lived.

"Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God."

Brian Eshleman says

This guy's intensity for the things of God at such a young age is both inspiring and intimidating. A true hero of the faith, he still comes across as very human. It will, I think, make you want to journal your own times in the Word and see what God does with that.

He also really strikes a note challenging himself and others to seek only God's best. He saw plenty of his peers settling for fruit in stateside ministries and seeing this as God's validation that they need not challenge themselves to go farther beyond what is comfortable. From just the outlines he sketches in his book and from the insights he is already showing, it is clear that he could have had a blessed, long, and relatively easy ministry as a teacher where the Gospel is already known. But he, like Paul, believe that he was specifically assigned to do more difficult. This book will make you really search yourself to find out if you are.

Mike E. says

What a life. This is the journal of missionary who became a martyr in 1956. His life was not wasted. I highly recommend the DVD documentary as well. Find it [here](#):

Pam Heckman says

Very good read. Jim Elliot was sold out for God. It was sad at times, but God used Him powerfully to bring the Gospel to the Auca Indians.

Tom Bubb says

This is my second favorite book. It's the only book that the Lord has TOLD me specifically to read and I thank him each day for that. Jim's vulnerability and example in these pages has drawn me closer to the Lord than I ever thought possible.

Elise Grinstead says

Personally, this was one of the most impacting books I have ever read. It takes time to get through it because the content consists almost entirely of Jim's journal entries, and those weren't written with a general audience in mind. But for me personally, as one who journals and contemplates my life and faith often, there was so much substance in Jim's words, questions, and situations that he recounts in his journal entries.

Richard says

Inspiring, amazing, and a bright flame that went out too soon. I was young when I read this book and it influenced by thinking and my direction in life, and still does.

Marc says

For some time now, I have been fascinated with Jim Elliot's story and the sacrifice he and his fellow missionaries made back in the fifties. When his widow, Elisabeth Elliot, died last year, I began to search for more information about Jim and Elisabeth and their unwavering faith in and devotion to God (most peculiar in today's culture). I was not disappointed in the book *The Journals of Jim Elliot* which includes Jim Elliot's recorded thoughts and experiences between 1948-1955. According to the editor, Elisabeth Elliot, she lightly edited these journals mainly by adding notes for clarity.

This book begins when Jim is a junior at Wheaton College and starts off a bit slow, but quickly you see this man has a consuming passion and singular purpose to fulfill God's will for his life - that people may know Jesus. Today's culture and the world around us encourages us to use what we are given for our gain and fame, but this man inspires one to make more of one's life with what God has given you.

Jim's journals portray an authentic man who sincerely loves God, but his writings don't censor his struggles

with the temptations and pitfalls common to men, the times when he doesn't feel motivated for the Lord, when he doubts the impact his efforts will have on God's kingdom or when he has challenges to his faith. Instead, he takes these before God and requests His help, time and time again.

It was interesting to read how a missionary is prepared for the field, although I'm sure there are countless other ways effective missionaries receive their training. This book made this larger than life martyr real & human. This is helpful because I think sometimes we view the impact achieved by the life of someone so well known as practically unattainable in our own life. Jim Elliot shows us in his journals that he struggled with the same things we do, and yet through his faithfulness to God, God allowed his efforts to leave an everlasting legacy.

I found a lot of inspiration in this book, but here are several quotes among the many that I highlighted in the book:

- "God, I pray, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn up for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life but a full one like Yours, Lord Jesus."

- "How often I must cause the spirit of jealousy to come upon Thee, Lord Jesus, when my heart desires others beside Thee."

- "God make me a warrior, I'm weary of this slacker's life of unbelief."

- "Lord, give me firmness without hardness; steadfastness without dogmatism; love without weakness."

- "God can only be glorified in praise when He is the true source and end of it."

- Just before he left for Ecuador: "I am ready to meet Jesus. Failure means nothing now, only that it taught me life. Success is meaningless, only that it gave me further experience for using the great gift of God -- Life. And, Life, I love thee, not because thou art long, or because thou hast done great things for me, but simply because I have thee from God."

Much more could be said, but I highly recommend this book.

Beth Hartley says

I learned from this book that if you are really dedicated to Christ, you will go where he leads. Loved the words of Jim Elliot and his passion and vision for salvation he had for the tribal Indians in South America.

Cindy says

At times, this book was difficult to follow because it is a Journal. Like most Journals we experience different activities each day, but Jim jumps topics with little explanation. I look at this book as if I were reading over Jim's shoulder. The references to what he study in school and the Bible correlations were interesting and helpful.

Madisson says

Oh wow - what a wonderful read. Jim Elliot was such a passionate, inspiring man and I'm so grateful for his legacy and the example of his life. I'm also grateful to Elisabeth Elliot for editing these pages and putting

them together for us to read. It was inspiring and such an encouragement to read about the struggles, as well as triumphs Jim encountered throughout the seven years documented between these covers. The flaws, the flesh and the failures are here, but there is no denying his dedication to God.

After reading *Shadow of the Almighty* and *Through Gates of Splendor* a few years ago, right away he became a hero of mine; now, reading his journals - entries of him pouring out his heart to the Lord for guidance and help, praising the Lord for provision and encouragement, asking for strength and perseverance in knowing what the Lord's will was for his life - has made him even more of a hero and an example to me. Isaiah 66:2b often came to mind: *"But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."*

Jim's focus was solely on Christ and living a life completely dedicated to Him, regardless of the personal, earthly things he might have had to sacrifice (one example would be not knowing the Lord's will regarding Betty, whether or not they should marry). There is so much substance to his words and his Bible study entries are deep and rich with lessons.

Three of Jim's maxims that I've always loved:

- ~ "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." p. 174
- ~ "Wherever you are, be *all* there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God."
- ~ "Determination, not desire, determines destiny." p. 278

I learned so, so much, was convicted numerous times and am encouraged in remembering that the Lord uses ordinary people, sinners saved by grace to complete His work. What an example and what a legacy Jim left.

Peyton says

It took me a while....but I am so glad that I read this book! I enjoyed parts of it and some of it was rather boring. Overall though a very good book!

HannahBeth says

This book was very good: his notes on the Bible were REALLY deep, and I learned a lot from him, but I also got a chance to see his "human", or sinful, side. I always tend to see the heroes of the faith as some sort of supernatural humans, who, yeah, sinned (but it was only this one little lie back when they were 4 years old or so), but were otherwise saintly. Reading his journals helped me to put who Jim Elliot was into a more realistic perspective (Elisabeth Elliot too!). :)

I would caution against younger readers for this book...he does make mention of what I list as "other" type of content *winks*. But, then again, it is his personal journals, so I guess you should expect personal thoughts/feelings. ;)

Jeff Short says

Jim Elliot's journals were compiled together by Elisabeth Elliot for publication. These are dated,

chronological journal entries, so they read that way and not as a cohesive idea development. These journal entries do tell a part of Jim Elliot's life story, obviously from his own perspective. Some entries are mundane but mainly the book is full of insights, thoughts, struggles, and more. I found it amusing how he thought Elisabeth too skinny in the early going but as his love for her grew, he seemed not to notice what he previously thought were flaws.

Jim Elliot's journals give a different yet valuable perspective on mission work. He knew he could die in the effort to reach the Auca's and in the end the five men chose not to defend themselves and sealed their witness with their blood. I highly recommend this book. The book is large but journal entries are brief and it lends itself to reading in a devotional manner.
