



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

Michelle DeRusha

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Throughout history, countless women have boldly stepped out in faith and courage, leaving their indelible mark on those around them and on the kingdom of God. In lively prose Michelle DeRusha tells their stories, bringing into focus fifty incredible heroines of the faith. From Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Anne Hutchison to Susanna Wesley, Harriet Tubman, and Corrie ten Boom, women both famous and admirable live again under DeRusha's expert pen. These engaging narratives are a potent reminder to readers that we are not alone, the battles we face today are not new, and God is always with us in the midst of the struggle.

50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith Details

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From Reader Review 50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith for online ebook

Julie Raymond says

Michelle DeRusha has written an informative book. I particularly appreciated some of the biographies stretching back in history, despite the difficulty of researching reliable and detailed information. Michelle's introductory and concluding paragraphs gave an insight into her thoughts on the contribution of each woman. Interestingly, I happened to be reading Geoffrey Blainey's 'A Short History of Christianity' at the same time so it was great to hear about the contributions of women when so much of Christian (and indeed secular) history is about men. I was impressed by the great variety of expressions of faith, reminding us there is no one formula to having a personal faith and indeed the expression of it. The book is also a great 'taster' and I hope to read some detailed biographies of some of the women mentioned that I hadn't heard of before.

Ryan Marks says

Not all of these women were representative of biblical Christianity....too liberal of a perspective, no respect for the lenses of Scripture

Katherine Wacker says

In her book, 50 Women Every Christian Should Know, Michelle DeRusha writes brief biographies of women who impacted their societies and cultures. Each profile is five to seven pages long and summarizes these significant women who lived from the Middle Ages to the present day. Highlighting each woman's life and beliefs within their historical contexts, 50 Women is not a critique of their various theological viewpoints. It is, however, helpful in educating the reader about the lives of influential women who may have been overlooked.

50 Women Every Christian Should Know is useful in filling gaps in Christian history. The biographical and historical information is interesting and informative. The profiles of Katharina Von Bora, Fanny Crosby, Edith Schaeffer, and Flannery O'Conner are especially enjoyable. However, the work lacks depth. Some of the women discussed dabbled in mysticism and entertained theological error. There seems to be an absence of biblical and political discernment throughout. No doubt each woman had an impact on her society, but there is too much ecumenical emphasis. These women deserve to be known, but are not on equal theological footing. Not without historical value, 50 Women should be read with caution in mind.

I was given a free copy from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Jen Ferguson says

Today in my quiet time, I asked God for some wisdom and uplifting words to soothe my weary soul. After meditating on some scriptures, I felt led to my bookshelf where Michelle's book sat. I skimmed the table of contents, wanting instantly to absorb the wisdom of these women's lives. I asked God which woman I should read about today and was led to Ruth Graham Bell. When my eyes found this quote, my heart leapt. I knew this was the piece God wanted to use to help my downtrodden heart: "Make the least of all that goes and the most of all that comes. And keep looking forward. Don't look backwards." I am incredibly grateful for this book, as it gives us access to women who have gone before us and we are able to bring them into our present communities. Though their bodies are no longer with us, their wisdom remains alive within these pages.

Susan Stilwell says

In 50 Women Every Christian Should Know, author Michelle DeRusha introduces us to ordinary women who influenced generations with their extraordinary faith and determination. Michelle tells each woman's story, sharing her struggles and doubts, and then draws insight from each woman that inspires us to press on in our own journeys of faith.

Engaging, informative and delightful to read, 50 Women is a must-have for every resource library.

Kymberly says

Some I questioned why they were put in the book but it was really interesting! I learned a lot! definitely one that I will read again as well as read more about these women individually.

Christina says

If you want to be inspired ...please read this book.

This women are extraordinary women, way ahead of their time. With love in their hearts, devotion to Christ and compassion for humanity, they dedicated their lives to do good and sacrificed their comfort and self interests to improve others lives. And because of them we women have opportunities that we do now.

I am grateful for their courage, strength, commitment to make life better for all. God rest their souls.

Amy Sullivan says

My prediction: Instant classic.

Starting from the first page of the first woman, readers learn Hildegard of Bingen was the tenth child in her

family, and she was dedicated to the church as a tithe when she was only eight years old. WOW!

Michelle DeRusha gives readers a good look into each woman's life by highlighting unique facts and pointing us straight back to our great big God.

If I could give this book six stars I would.

Marisa says

I really thought I would love this book, especially with the advanced praise it has received by so many people that I highly respect. However, I have to admit I didn't like this book. It was a great historical reference but it definitely wasn't something I would read for pleasure the way I had thought it would be. I had expected a book that helped me to tie my life to those through history and to feel encouraged by these 50 women, yet it felt a lot like I was reading a text book and I struggled to retain the information in it. As a resource I think this book would make an excellent addition to your shelf, but I don't recommend it as anything more than a text book.

Michelle Kidwell says

50 Women Every Christian Should Know

Michelle DeRusha Baker

Books Baker Books

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This book gives you a glimpse into the lives of fifty great Christian women, and shows us a bit of how they impacted the Christian faith. This is the brief stories of women who were willing to stand up for what they believed in some even risking their lives.

If you like reading true life stories of Women who made a difference in the Christian faith everyone from Hildegard to Ruth Bell Graham this is a book you will want to add to your library.

I give this book five out of five stars...

Happy Reading...

Dichotomy Girl says

So this actually ended up being better than I feared. i.e. that it was going to try to stuff all of history into a tiny little modern evangelical box. But I was pleasantly surprised by the inclusion of a diverse group, protestants, Catholics (even modern ones), early Unitarians and even some holiness/pentecostal types around the early 1900's.

To be honest, some of the early ones came off as sounding crazy / going through some kind of midlife crisis,

(but my atheist husband would most likely say that there is a very fine line between faith and insanity anyway...).

Ultimately this book kind of made me sad. It seemed that throughout history, Christian women were concerned with the disenfranchised, the poor, the needy, the marginalized of society, and I feel that somewhere along the lines (especially in America) Christianity became the thing DOING The marginalizing. It's the very reason why I not only do not attend any kind of church, but that I rarely admit out loud to any but my very closest friends and family any kind of faith or belief.

The entries that I found most interesting, were those women that I had never heard of: Antoinette Brown Blackwell, Simone Weil & Josephine Butler. But as always I am particularly drawn to stories of women who go against the status quo to do what they think is right.

Donna says

This is a most valuable book for Christian women to read as encouragement from sisters of the faith. It offers a strong motivation to "go forth despite your fear or hesitation." The writing is objective and non-judgmental. I really enjoyed the vast assortment of Christian women through the ages.

Katie M. Reid says

DeRusha includes accounts of women I had never heard of, as well as a handful of familiar faces. With the sharing of each women's story the reader gleans valuable treasures to take with her on her own faith journey. The common thread throughout this book is the commitment and conviction of these 50 women to stay the course set before them.

Danielle says

A great overview of the lives of Christian women and their contributions to the world over the years. As one who has read a TON of biographies of Christian women since childhood, I was happy to discover many "new to me" women in this book. Each chapter is about three pages long and is a brief look into the woman's life, struggles, and legacy. I love that she covers Catholics, Protestants, and those who would not fall into either category. I discovered the lives of many women I've heard of--and even seen paintings of--but did not know their stories, like Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila. And I've been inspired to read more detailed biographies on Dorothy Sayers and Flannery O'Connor.

Christine says

This is a collection of concise biographies of fascinating women of faith. I enjoyed it very much!

