



Souvenirs of Solitude: Finding Rest in Abba's Embrace

Brennan Manning , Daniel Henderson

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The most reliable guides of spiritual formation pinpoint solitude and silence as central to the spiritual life. Now Brennan Manning—in his honest, original, and winning way—shares from his own experiences to prompt you into the riches of spending time alone with God at rest in His presence.

Souvenirs of Solitude is a genuine appeal for you to find rest in God as you develop a lifestyle of worship and surrender. Discover the peace that comes with a relationship with the Almighty.

Includes an eight-day retreat guide that provides stimulating promptings for your own meditation during solitude.

Souvenirs of Solitude: Finding Rest in Abba's Embrace Details

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Laurie says

The first half of this book was great and deserved 5 stars in my opinion and I was disappointed that it didn't carry through that way. The second half got a little too preachy for my taste. At the end, the author includes a week of daily bible readings and devotions that are also excellent, especially the one on gossip(it hit close to home, ahem....).

I think it's overall a good read, and would recommend it.

Kristy says

Very moving book. I highlighted and wept through most of it. There were a few chapters toward the end that I wasn't too fond of, which were more Catholic-oriented, but otherwise this is a great book that touches your soul and opens your eyes.

Suzanne says

This is not a book that you read once and put down for all time. It is a book that you pick up time and again to digest what is relevant to your life at the moment. It is full of wisdom, both from life experiences and from Scripture.

Phil Lemons says

In some ways, reading this book felt like reading someone's personal journal. While that makes for a real and honest feel, it also feels a bit voyeuristic.

Manning's honesty is something that I've always admired. However, I found this book to not have the flow his other books have. Each chapter focuses on a topic that comes out of Manning's times in solitude. Some chapters feel more natural than others, but the reflections and prayers make for heart and thought provoking finishes.

Manning's Catholic theology is more prevalent in this book. I'm not going to make a big deal about this. I am a Protestant who came into the book knowing Manning to be a Catholic author. That being said, Manning's heart to help people how God sees them. As Manning puts it, He's crazy about us. And that is a message I am completely on board with.

Georgia Herod says

"Silence and solitude are precious commodities in [the author's] life." Brennan Manning says "[his] restless self finds peace only when [he rests] in God." Because of Manning's quest for a deepened relationship with God, he gives us a taste of experiences and insights in his pursuit--and those may have come in the midst of an ordinary day, in the middle of a crowd or a countryside retreat.

Twenty-one meditations, each followed by a related poem by Sue Garmon, reveal God at work in the midst of silence and solitude. The length of each reading encourages unhurried reading and contemplation on a daily basis.

The book closes with a guide for an eight-day retreat, with a Scripture passage for meditation and reflection.

Manning is honest and transparent in sharing his own hunger for a connection with Abba, Father God--and allowing his readers to gain from his pursuit.

Paulo Sousa says

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Título original: Souvenirs of solitude

Autor: Brennan Manning

Editora: Mundo Cristão

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Nesse pequeno grande livro, Brennan Manning, autor de livros consagrados como "O evangelho maltrapilho" e "O impostor que vive em mim", traz as reflexões nascidas em 10 anos de voluntário isolamento. Desses momentos nada ociosos nasceriam profundos aprendizados na vida do autor, pequenas pérolas que Manning vai recolhendo à medida que seu relacionamento pessoal com Deus cresce, e que, deitados são transformados em belíssimos textos, a exemplo do capítulo "A criança e o fariseu", na minha opinião, o mais tocante nesse livro.

O que gosto na leitura de Manning é a coragem com que expõe suas limitações, com que admite a falsidade em como se portou na prática da sua fé. Ex-alcoólatra e ex-padre, Manning extraiu das suas grandes aflições belas lições de como é possível penetrar no profundo de Deus, o que qualquer é capaz, e que requer uma boa dose de solitude. Eis o convite.

S.rae says

this is a book I read again and again to remind myself of the peace that comes with quiet.

Sarah says

A nice book of reflections- I used this for my morning devotions. I especially enjoyed the poetry at the end of every chapter.

Glen says

Brennan Manning exuded a naked pursuit of God and every time I read his books it stirs me to follow in those same steps. This book is more of a collection from past events and his reflections on those. It was very moving, especially the final chapter on Resurrection.

Ryan says

In *Souvenirs and Solitude*, Brennan Manning reminds us of the importance of meeting God in the void. Of taking time to be by ourselves and shutting everything off. It is during these times that our Heavenly Father lavishes us with his unrelenting love. These times are also times of refreshment. "When I am able to disengage myself from others and allow the Lord to liberate me from an unhealthy dependence on people," Manning says, "I can exist more for them, listen more attentively, love more unselfishly, speak more compassionately, play more playfully, take myself less seriously, and become more aware that my face is bright with laughter in the midst of a game I thoroughly enjoy". The goal, then, of silence and solitude is to center ourselves in God in order to give ourselves away to others. Only when we are full of Christ are we able to accomplish this selfless act of love.

First published in 1979, the stories and insights Manning illuminates are as effective and as relevant today as when they were first recorded. The relatively short chapters all stand alone nicely, making this book a sort of devotional. As a whole, though, the theme of God's love for us permeates every page. *Souvenirs and Solitude* gives readers an excellent representation of Manning's ability to make you laugh on one page and cry the next. Readers of Manning will be familiar with his honesty and candor, powerfully evident, for example, in chapter fifteen, "One For The Road." As a recovering alcoholic, Manning shares his gut-wrenching experience at a program and his struggle with "what could have been."

Punctuating each chapter is a poem by the late Miss Sue Garmon. Simple, yet, thoughtful, Garmon puts words to the thoughts in our head after reading what Manning has written. A perfect compliment. Ultimately, Manning and Garmon provide us with a tool to help us turn from ourselves to our Father and then, to others; an experience that is sorely needed in these days of mass information overload. Let us heed their advice and take time out to listen and be refreshed by our Lord.

Linda says

Although this book was written years ago, it speaks to our hearts today and compels us to take a look at our deepest heart.

Excellent devotional book...

Cindy says

This is a book that you don't skim through. It's a book you savor, enjoy, contemplate, and examine. This was a great devotional for me. I gave it 5 stars because you could hear the authors personal voice coming forth, nothing hidden, but real issues many of us deal with but don't talk about as Christians.

Colleen Mertens says

This devotion was my introduction to Brennan Manning. I related to many of the emotions he had in his stories. I felt like he encourages you to get closer to God. Brennan writes in a way that makes you want to spend more time with God. I liked this book and it lead me to other devotions by Manning as well. Good book to make you think.

Lisa says

I listened to this book then took it out from the library. Anything Manning wrote is well worth the read and reflection. I kept notes as this book has been part of my sabbatical. I think these were devotionals that he journaled.

One highlight from the book:

(79) "in my own ministry to others, the greatest percentage of time is devoted to healing through caring. Often people request prayers for deliverance, inner healing or physical healing. But more frequently they simply want a man or woman to whom they can turn--not because of what this person is able to do but because of what he or she is; a person who makes them feel wanted , a friend to love them, one who generate an atmosphere of warmth and trust in which they are able to love in return.

Francis MacNutt had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and prayed with a group of elders about his role in the church. He thought he might be a Catholic Kathryn Kuhlmann or Billy Graham.

Their word to him: "The communal discernment was that his role in the church was to be a loving man." That was it.

Gloria says

Pleasant, thought-provoking reading that is easy to read in sections. The 8-day retreat that is advertised with it doesn't amount to much and I wish it could have had more depth. Other than that, however, the content is lovely and encouraging.
