

Resilient Love

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. **–Jeremiah 31:3**

Your Silence Is Golden

Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say. **–Luke 12:11-12**

Let Go and Let God

The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **–John 12:25**

Even the Weakest Can Still Build for Eternity

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . **–Matthew 6:20**

Ultimate Joy

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” —**John 4:34-35**

Fact or Fiction?



*Can divine truth and prophetic insight come through a Christian novel? **Frank Peretti** thinks so. In this exclusive interview, the genre-changing author explains why believers should pay more attention to today's “stories.”*

interview with Marcus yoars

CHARISMA: Many of our readers may not know that you actually have an Assemblies of God ministry background. Tell us about your Pentecostal roots.

PERETTI: I grew up in the Assemblies of God church. I was a licensed minister with the Northwest district of the AG until my mid-30s but stepped down because God had called me to be a writer and speaker. I tried pastoring for five years, and that showed me I wasn't really cut out to be a pastor. My family is all still AG; I'm just off on my own now. I've been to a lot of different churches since then, but I still have a Pentecostal basis in my doctrine.

CHARISMA: How did your upbringing shape your early writing, particularly as you wrote *This Present Darkness* and *Piercing*

the Darkness?

PERETTI: It provided a broad base for my perspective of things. I draw upon every aspect of life, each spiritual experience in God's Word as I grow in the Lord—it's a pretty broad spectrum. So now I have a much wider view of things than just strictly an Assemblies of God view.

CHARISMA: Those books helped re-establish for much of the American church the reality of spiritual warfare, demonic strongholds and everyday angelic involvement—which had mostly been emphasized in charismatic circles. What prompted you to write about such things?

Dream: Discovering God's Purpose for Your Life



Dutch Sheets

Bethany House Publishers

From conception to refinement and fulfillment, Dutch Sheets, speaker and author of *Intercessory Prayer*, explores the many aspects of a dream or vision. He demonstrates from Scripture that humanity was created to be creative, joining its Creator in making the world a better place. Sheets maintains that within our dreams God has a dream, if we listen and submit our vision to Him. He recounts those who have made advancements in industry and technology who have been benefactors to others.

The book challenges readers to dream big with God, encouraging

those who need to persevere to see fulfillment, and cautioning those who have let their dream become all about self. Sheets' insights into Abraham's pilgrimage and each altar he built show a progression in the character's relationship with God. And his thoughts on Jacob's life illustrate the refinement the vision must go through.

Ultimately, the process of receiving and pursuing a dream is about more than the dream itself; it's about growing in a relationship and partnership with God, who uses the process to build and refine godly character. The author's use of humor and illustrations makes for an enjoyable, inspirational read, and the questions at the end of each chapter make it suitable for a group study. —*Deborah Delk Grady*

The Explicit Gospel



Matt Chandler with Jared Wilson

Crossway

Acknowledging sociologist Christian Smith's comparison of contemporary Christianity to "moral therapeutic deism," Matt Chandler, lead pastor of The Village Church in Dallas, has penned this treatise to clearly expound the biblical meaning of the gospel.

The author traces the grand themes of the Bible: God, Man, Christ, and focuses on personal salvation and transformation. In addition, he emphasizes that the gospel is "cosmic"—it focuses on the larger scheme of the restoration and redemption of a fallen universe (see Rev. 21:5).

Chandler emphasizes the necessity of a balanced approach to the gospel; in so doing, he warns believers of the pitfalls of a “Christless Christianity” and syncretism, in which the gospel becomes indistinguishable from other belief systems and solely stresses “making the world a better place.”

In sum, Chandler challenges readers to re-examine what it means to be a Christian in this brief, provocative work endorsed by the likes of Rick Warren. —*Brian Smith McCallum*

The Book Of Us



The *Handbook of Pentecostal Christianity* (University of Chicago Press) is an easy-to-read guide to studying the fastest-growing Christian religious segment in the world. With content from 24 scholars from five continents, the collection provides an understanding of the origins, development, beliefs and practices of Pentecostalism worldwide.

Sifting for Growth



Dubbed as the largest gathering of church planters in the world, Exponential 2012: Sifted, held April 24-26 in Orlando Fla., will emphasize the church planter’s spiritual, physical and emotional health as the very foundation for reproducing.

Speakers include Mark Batterson, Wayne Cordeiro and Bill Hybels.