



*Invitations from God:
Accepting God's Offer to
Rest, Weep, Forgive,
Wait, Remember and
More*
Available July 2011
\$15, 208 pages, paper
978-0-8308-3553-9

“As the flood of invitations from organizations, business, charities, family entertainment, athletics, fitness and education pull us in their wake, we must grab a branch and take stock. Are we ignoring the invitations that matter most? If God were to ask us, ‘What did you do with the fifteen years of evenings, weekends and vacation that you had in life?’ would we answer, ‘Well, I watched TV, worked out and sat on the beach?’ Do we have any idea what God’s invitations to us are? Do our yeses to invitations simply divert or stroke our ego? Or do they nurture and grow body, soul and spirit? Do they build connections within the body of Christ and bring health to our marriage and family? Do the invitations we accept make us more free or less? Which invitations are shaping your world?”

“Introduction: The Invitation-Shaped Life”

“Loving the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself is all about learning to see past the judgment of badness to the Creator’s desire for this person. It may take time and a lot of looking, but it is how we practice the presence of people. We give them our attention and ask for clarity to see them as Jesus did. We ask to recognize their needs as quickly as we recognize our own. This doesn’t mean we become outgoing and extroverted if we are not. It simply means that we begin to notice people and to really look at what their words and faces are telling us. By practicing their presence, we give them the gift of mattering!”

Chapter 3, “Invitation to Practice the Presence of People”

“God invites and even commands us to trust him to manage the world for twenty-four hours each week without our labor. Sabbath is the day that reminds us who we are. We don’t have to justify our existence by striving and driving. We aren’t less of a contribution to the world because we honor our limits and produce less one day a week. We are God’s well-loved creatures, created in his beautiful image, no matter what we do or don’t do. We didn’t earn this identity as the beloved; it was bestowed like a kiss from God before we ever left the womb. Keeping Sabbath is one way we enter into the restfulness of who we are in God.”

Chapter 4, “Invitation to Rest”



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Why did you decide to write *Invitations from God*?

I have watched over-optimized people struggle with their choices. So many good things to choose from, so little time. We want to say yes to everything. As I witnessed the toll of our yeses in craziness and soul-depleted lives I wanted to say, "It doesn't have to be like this. You can say yes to God's invitations and find an antidote to the craziness."

The subtitle is *Accepting God's Offer to Rest, Weep, Forgive, Wait, Remember and More*. What difference does it make when we say yes to these invitations from God?

God's invitations slow us down, unmask our idols, root us in reality, deepen our ability to care for others, transforming us into men and women of character. Saying yes to God could change you, your future and the world you live in.

What do you want your readers to take away from *Invitations from God*?

- Saying yes to God is the best and most important thing you can ever do in this life. Saying yes to God is saying yes to life.
- Saying yes to God lands you smack in the middle of Jesus' own life—his joys, sorrows and the suffering of this world. Feeling what Jesus feels for this world spring loads us for action. Right action depends on waiting, weeping, following, resting and living life in the "most excellent way."
- Saying yes to God's invitations is the only way out of the maze of cultural imperatives.
- Saying yes to God is the only way we will look like Jesus and not like everyone else.

What is your hope for *Invitations from God*?

I long for people to say yes to life. I believe the church and Christ-followers don't have to look like our culture. We can be the breath of fresh air, the place of freedom and depth and change for the better.

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