



Pocket Dictionary of Christian Spirituality: Over 300 Terms Clearly and Concisely Defined
Available March 27, 2018
 \$10, 144 pages, paperback
 978-0-8308-4967-3

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New in the IVP Pocket Reference Series

What does the *Pocket Dictionary of Christian Spirituality* bring to the IVP Pocket Reference series?

Don Thorsen: Christian spirituality has long been an important part of my personal beliefs, values, and practices. For more than twenty years I have taught courses about the history and theology of Christian spirituality. In teaching about spiritual formation and faith development, I thought that Christians would be aided by a brief dictionary. Although online resources are increasingly accessible, the *Pocket Dictionary of Christian Spirituality* can be extremely valuable for students of the topic as well as a practical aid for those who seek to grow spiritually. Both Scripture and church history provide a wealth of spiritual practices, exercises, and disciplines through which God's Holy Spirit gives growth to Christians in becoming more like Jesus Christ.

What is at the heart of this pocket dictionary?

Don: Although it is by grace through the work of the Holy Spirit that Christians grow spiritually, both Scripture and church history describe numerous practices, exercises, and disciplines that Christians should follow because God wants to partner with believers in helping them become more Christlike in who they are as well as in what they think, say, and do. The apostle Paul says that God gives spiritual growth, and that Christians are to plant and water by aiding growth in ways described by Scripture (see 1 Corinthians 3:6).

What are three distinctive contributions of this dictionary?

Don:

1. This book provides brief definitions of spiritual practices, exercises, and disciplines that represent the teachings of Scripture as well as insights from notable spiritual guides in church history – ancient and modern, Catholic and Protestant.
2. This book always emphasizes the grace of God in producing spiritual formation, while at the same time focusing upon the role that God and Scripture place upon people's responsibility for living Christlike lives of holiness, love, and service.
3. This book presents the variety of ways that Christians have sought to grow in intimacy in their relationship with God, and how this information may inspire as well as describe step-by-step ways that Christians today may grow spiritually.