



I Talk Back to the Devil: Essays in Spiritual Perfection

A.W. Tozer, Gerald B. Smith

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Admitting that he felt "in raw contact with hell" during the preparation of these 12 sermons, Tozer presents the need for Christlike living. His thrust? Resist the temptation to be a run-of-the-mill Christian, stop acting like a frightened sheep and press on into the victory that can be found in "lion country".

I Talk Back to the Devil: Essays in Spiritual Perfection Details

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From Reader Review I Talk Back to the Devil: Essays in Spiritual Perfection for online ebook

Chris Wagner says

Very encouraging!!

Ashley says

This book has given me much food for thought about my spiritual walk. There are some pretty weighty questions that this book asks which sparked much conversation and exploration in my own heart of what I believe, what I fear, and what things am I still holding on to that I won't give over to the Lord.

In reality, I would give this book 4 1/2 stars. I think the title is misleading as only a small (very small) part of this book addresses the devil. Rather its a deeper discussion of the Christian faith and the direction its going...and not going.

Luke says

I Talk Back to the Devil is a series of fiery and convicting sermons on themes of spiritual perfection. He touches on many common hindrances, such as "chronic discouragement," fear of being labelled radical, and plain disobedience.

It is a very challenging and encouraging manual to those who want to be able to say with Paul, "One thing I do!" (See Philippians 3:12-14.)

Van Edwards says

AW Tozer is often held up as an influential Christian figure from the 20th century. Many people point to The Pursuit of God as a favorite book. To me, Pursuit had a devotional quality with mystical undertones. I felt in this book, his mystical underpinnings really come to the forefront. Several of these essays refer to Thomas a Kempis's The Imitation of Christ and The Cloud of Unknowing, a 14th century book by an unknown author that even Wikipedia calls a work of "Christian mysticism".

The last article compels us to love Christ and speaks of His qualities that make His love for us so incredible, so unchanging and worthy of our love in return - except he doesn't mention what He actually accomplished in His life, death and resurrection.

Other than that, the articles smack of a mid-20th century positivism. It was OK, not terrible, but not great either.

Barry says

A collection of sermons from Mr. Tozer, each chapter/sermon is a separate theme that accumulates to cover a lot of ground in the Christian walk. As usual, Mr. Tozer challenges, provokes thought, and encourages Christ-followers to step up their game and live an all-out life for Jesus.

Cinda says

This is a challenging collection of sermons from a man who knew Jesus in a deeply personal way. I found take-aways from each one to apply to my own spiritual journey. Read it if you want to be challenged to see things from an eternal perspective, and remember it's not a seamless book with one main theme. Tozer has other "better written" books, this is different in that he spoke these words in sermons, so "listen" as you read, and then read some of his actual books if you prefer a different approach.

Frans Karlsson says

Good book from Tozer about the need to pursue spiritual perfection and not let the christian life stay as it is.

Jennifer says

The title of this book is very deceiving. I don't think the devil is mentioned once. I read it because I feel challenged by the writings of A.W. Tozier. The book encourages Christians to rise beyond being a common or mediocre Christian to one who like the Apostle Paul presses on to know Christ. Loved this quote, "Prayer is the elevation of the heart to God, and that is all a man needs to praise, to pray and to worship."

Esther says

Tozer at his ranting best, but not really at the Devil. (not sure about the title) His focus is directed more toward the church and the lazy Christian.

David says

Believe it or not there are interesting similarities between what Tozer said and what I've read in the Philokalia.

Chris says

Hmm...I don't get where or if the talk back to the devil part came in?

In any event, it was a good exhortation to press in and get more serious about being a Christian - we are to get a deeper understanding of the relationship we have available to us with the Creator of the Universe, find out who the Word says we are and what we have in Christ, then start walking the walk and talking the talk...Amen :-)

Buddy Draper says

Very challenging and encouraging book re pursuing spiritual perfection and not settling for mediocrity.

Alexis Neal says

A bit lackluster, honestly. I haven't read Tozer before, but I will try not to hold this book against him in the future. It's not entirely clear what the point of the book is. The subtitle has changed since the original edition, and the title itself is a bit confusing. Spiritual warfare isn't really the theme of the book at all. Instead, the book is one long exhortation not to accept Christian mediocrity, but to press on toward perfection and the standard set by Christ. Tozer is right to criticize the modern Christian contentment with merely "adequate" faith, but he sometimes seems to believe that perfection is an attainable goal. Which is not only patently false--we will never attain perfection in this life--but does his readers a disservice, since the inevitable failure of this "quest for perfection" tends to lead to guilt and depression. The book doesn't really seem to say much of anything. He exhorts Christians to be filled with the spirit, to be set on fire with love of God, which is all well and good. The modern churchgoer is far too reluctant to be a fanatic for Jesus (not in the legalistic, hateful way portrayed on news shows, but in a sold-out-for-Jesus sort of way). But I didn't feel like Tozer really helped the reader *get there*. The book seemed to be more about selling the reader on the idea than actually providing meaningful guidance. So all in all, I would have to say that it kind of lacked *substance*. Which feels like a very critical thing to say about someone of Tozer's stature, but there you have it. Not a bad book, by any means, and my own spiritual mediocrity may be coloring my perception, but all in all, I expected better. Then again, this is not one of his best-known books. Maybe there's a reason for that.

Ac says

This book by Tozer goes down easy, but if you really let what he is saying penetrate it'll give you some serious heartburn. This is a book for those desiring to go further in their walk with Christ. It's for those that fear they may be lukewarm and aren't willing to let that be good enough. Tozer holds up a mirror and asks us to look at ourselves and our dedication to Christ more closely. Worth reading.
