



Spiritual-Mindedness

John Owen , R.J.K. Law (Editor)

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Date : Published August 1st 2009 by Banner of Truth (first published 1681)

ISBN : 9781848710368

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Format : Paperback 249 pages

Genre : Religion, Theology, Christian, Christian Living, Spirituality, Christianity

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Patience says

Enjoying good preaching, praying fervently and earnestly in public, enjoying listening to others as they speak of spiritual things - all these are NOT signs of true spiritual thinking which is an evidence of new life in Christ. This is a challenging modern language summary of John Owen's 'The grace and duty of being spiritually minded'. Owen challenges us search our own hearts for evidence of spiritual thoughts, desires and delight in Christ springing up from within and often (if not most of the time). He also gives suggestions as to how to encourage these and allow them to grow.

Keith Feisel says

In his preface, John Owen (1616-1683) explains that he wrote this book because "... the world is at present in a mighty hurry, and being in many places cast off from all foundations of steadfastness, it makes the minds of men giddy with its revolutions, or disorderly in the expectations of them.... Hence, men walk and talk, as if the world were all, when comparatively it is nothing."

Though written in the seventeenth century, Owen's words seem to speak directly to our time. THE GRACE AND DUTY OF BEING SPIRITUALLY MINDED is an unforgettable spiritual experience in devotional reading. For our restless age, it serves to anchor the soul in the bedrock of God's Word.

John Owen was a Reformed theologian and acknowledged leader of Protestant Nonconformity. During the civil war his allegiance was with Parliament, and he accompanied Cromwell to Ireland and Scotland as a chaplain.

(From the back cover of my edition)

Matt Ediger says

Much needed

I have read several other works by John Owen. While The Mortification of Sin still remains my favorite, this one probably comes in second.

I have never found Owen particularly easy to read, but the effort is well worth it. Essentially at every turn of the page there is practical, convicting, and deep insight. The book is an examination of Romans 8:6.

Steve Alde says

I love this book. I am going through it a second time. It increases my love for and sense of awe of God and His gracious love shown through Christ Jesus. It also humbles me and motivates me to nurture within myself an ever increasing love and desire for God.

Darby Hughes says

This is excellent, wise, and really helpful. Each short-ish chapter is like a regular dose of spiritual medicine.

Stephanie says

So easy to read. So convicting. Excellent book

Jimmy Chavedo says

I want to give it 5 stars because it's Owen and brilliant, but I also want to give it 3 stars because it is repetitive. Most likely the 3 star leaning is because I am so removed from how anyone, much less a brilliant person like Owen, communicated almost 400 years ago. The concepts contained in this book are brilliant, but the style of communication left me less than enthralled with its reading-this says more about me than it does the work I am sure.

Rachel Humphrey says

Owen's examination of Romans 8:6.

Vincent Kajuma says

We read this together in a church book club, forcing me to read it fairly closely.

Of Owen's work, there is no disputing as to the spiritual help one can receive from this book. Of Mr. Appleby's abridgement of it, kudos for the easy, accessible language and capturing the gist his arguments quite reasonably and with remarkable simplicity. I had some qualms here and there, however, as one who read the abridgement alongside the original work (Goold's edition). In some places he skipped whole paragraphs which I thought were important in bringing out the whole thrust of Owen's cogent argumentation. Cutting out material is the point of an abridgement, though, and so one could say such truncation was necessary to his work. Some of the chapter titles also seemed to me to miss the heart of the message of the chapter. It made it hard to follow, especially for those relying solely on the abridgement, since it made the chapters seem repetitive. At times the chapters didn't seem to deliver what their titles promises. This also made it hard to follow the book's progression. I felt like I needed to depend on the original too much to make sense of the abridgement.

On the other hand, those are just the small qualms of an Owen lover, on an otherwise praiseworthy effort. The abridgement does accomplish the job an abridgement is meant to accomplish. It sets the reader on the trajectory of spiritual mindedness, and gives adequate information for one to capture the overall gist of Rom.

8:6, as Owen preaches it in this book. Thanks to Mr. Appleby and Grace Publications for making Owen's actually difficult work available to contemporary readers

I recommend this for those new to Owen's works. If you have the patience to plough through the archaic language, long sentences and close reasoning, go for the original work. If you are leading a study group, you need the original.

I also made questionnaires to aid in studying the abridgement (chapters 11 onwards), which can be obtained freely upon request.

Tolle Lege!

John Wise says

John Owen was an English Puritan and Oxford University administrator. He wrote *Spiritual-Mindedness* because he was deeply concerned about the dangers of worldliness. His work is blunt, hard-hitting, practical, and helpful.

Favorite quote: "Everything in the world has no greater aim than to possess the hearts and minds of men."

Alex says

I doubt I can express in words the greatness of this book. The immensity of the subject Owen deals with is infinite, as the object of our thoughts, as Christians, is infinite. That is Christ Jesus.

While reading this book I saw my own serious lack in this area; I saw how much more I need to meditate on things above where Christ is, and to count as rubbish the painted beauties of this present world.

What a great help and aid this book is to personal meditation on heavenly things. It is true to say, yet quite an understatement, that this is an incredibly practical book.

Definitely one of my favorite books by Owen. This is a must re-read!

"The real reason why believers enjoy praying is because through prayer they draw near to God. Believers have access to God on a throne of grace (Eph. 2:18; Heb. 10:19-20). Through prayer the soul is brought near to God by a spiritual experience. God is the source and centre of all spiritual refreshment, rest, and joy. So when in prayer the soul draws near to God, the joy of the Lord is communicated to it. The soul is abundantly satisfied with the fullness of God's house. He gives them drink from the river of his pleasures (Psa. 36:7-9)."

Bambi Moore says

Excellent.

Pete Williamson says

An excellent book for devotional reading. Reading Owen is like going to the doctor for a checkup - he will likely reveal that there is more wrong with you than you wanted to know, but in the end you can be confident that he knows what he's talking about and if you follow his instructions it will go well with you. Can't recommend this book enough!

Jerry says

Sturdy.

Kim says

46 11/28/13 'To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.' Romans 8:6
So much clarity and practicality, so much depth and challenging truth. Really wonderful.
