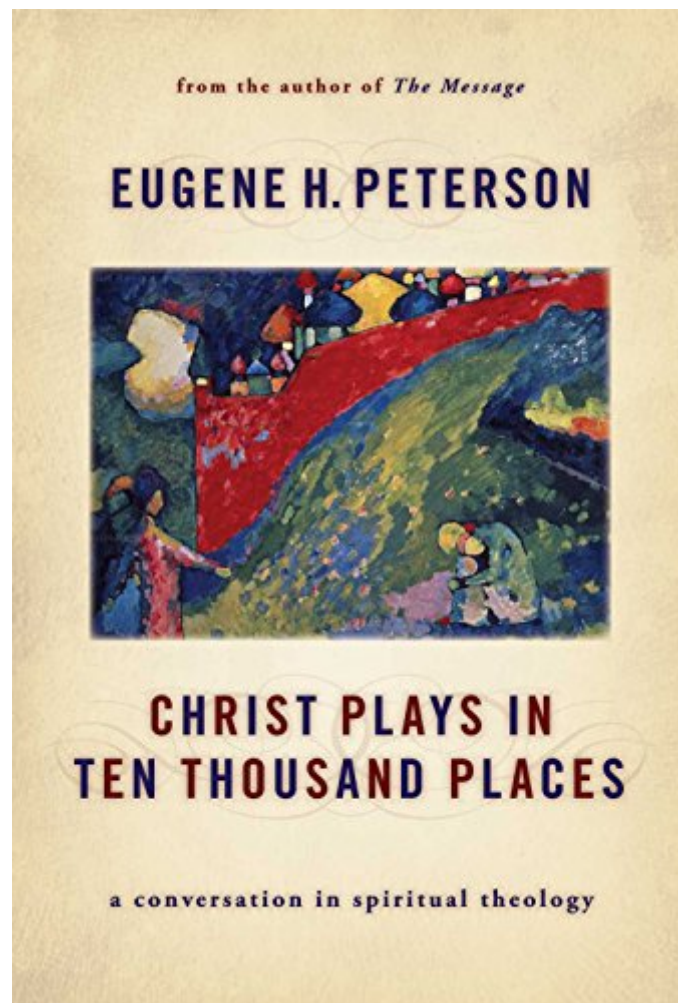


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Christ Plays In Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation In Spiritual Theology



Synopsis

Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places reunites spirituality and theology in a cultural context where these two vital facets of Christian faith have been rent asunder. Lamenting the vacuous, often pagan nature of contemporary American spirituality, Eugene Peterson here firmly grounds spirituality once more in Trinitarian theology and offers a clear, practical statement of what it means to actually live out the Christian life. Writing in the conversational style that he is well known for, Peterson boldly sweeps out the misunderstandings that clutter conversations on spiritual theology and refurnishes the subject only with what is essential. As Peterson shows, spiritual theology, in order to be at once biblical and meaningful, must remain sensitive to ordinary life, present the Christian gospel, follow the narrative of Scripture, and be rooted in the "fear of the Lord" -- in short, spiritual theology must be about God and not about us. The foundational book in a five-volume series on spiritual theology emerging from Peterson's pen, Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places provides the conceptual and directional help we all need to live the Christian gospel well and maturely in the conditions that prevail in the church and world today.

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Customer Reviews

This book was good and while it did not impact me as much as *The Jesus Way*, it was still solid meat all the way through. Peterson's insight into Scripture is always of use to me because he comes at it so much differently than I do. He is a constant reminder that there are many ways to study the Bible, and that any serious student must do his or her best to seek them all out. The section on 1 John alone is worth the read, although this book should be wrestled with and read all the way through. It can be a tough slog at times, but worth it in the end. As with all authors who truly make us think and spend time struggling with our views of God and His word, you may not always agree with where Peterson ends up, but in this case the journey itself is the reward. Take the time to go through this book and treat it as a conversation and allow it to develop as such and your reward will be great indeed.

As someone who has read several of Eugene Peterson's works, this one ranks among my favorite. (My other favorites are *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* and *Reversed Thunder*). Anyone who follows Peterson's writing, knows that he can extrapolate critical context from scripture in such a way as to make you see things in the Biblical narrative that you never caught before. This keeps the Bible fresh and engaging and leads into an ever growing relationship with Christ. For a lot of people, Peterson is only known for his translation of the new testament (*The Message*), but I am of the opinion that it is his books like this one where he most shines as an excellent theologian and spiritual writer. I own *The Message*, but find it of very little use. As Bibles go, a good NIV study Bible is really all that is necessary for me.

I really wanted to like this book and I absorbed the intended flow. However, I couldn't help but to feel like there was a lot of unnecessary fill-ins that could have been used for any christian book. The saving grace is that Eugene Peterson is an extraordinary thinker and centered on God. His insight in theology, spirituality, and even sociology is extraordinary. He weaves in and out of real life examples and biblical narratives beautifully. It goes without saying that he is incredibly gifted. I just wish that this book could have been edited better.

This book seemed complicated and unlike what I expected from the author of "The Message". It did

not keep my interest or present a better grasp of the role of Christ in the life of a Christian. .

When I read the first chapter all I could say was 'wow'! I found myself saying these over and over again. I couldn't put it down. This is a theology book that reads like a novel - a good novel. Peterson's style of writing is captivating. He paints a masterpiece with his words. It's not a theology textbook that is just some academic knowledge of God - though Peterson teaches you a great deal about God often things insights you may have never known. It is not a book about 'do this and then this and everything will be okay'. This is a book about the life of Christ living in us in ten thousand places and our being transformed to live the Christ life. It is about the Spirit bringing life to us and our experiencing the glory of God among the community of believers. He breaks down his book into three main chapters: Christ plays in Creation; Christ plays in History; and Christ plays in Community. Each main chapter focuses on two main passages; one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. One thing that I have found myself mulling over and over again is Peterson's insight into how that Wind, Breath, and Spirit are all the same word [pneuma] in both Aramaic that Jesus spoke and the Greek that the NT writers wrote in. Peterson asks us to imagine how our perceptions would change if we used 'wind' and 'breath' when we thought of the word 'spirituality' or the 'Holy Spirit'. For me it has caused me to think differently about the Spirit pervading my life, my family, our church, the city I live in, the dark places of the world... the way the mighty rushing wind invading the upper room in Acts 2 or the way the breath of God invaded Adam and created life.

This is a book to be chewed on, not read straight through. It is not a reference book, and not a how-to journal. As Peterson introduces each practical application, the reader will want to examine how he fits into Peterson's story. Currently I am reading about how the resurrection, the "wonder" of God, and Sabbath fit together. No one can pass through this spectrum of concepts without lingering for insight. Peterson has a gift for teaching but the outcome is dependent on each reader.

If along the way you feel like something is wrong, like you have taken a wrong turn; the writings of Eugene Peterson may be just what you need. Salvation; it's all about Jesus, we know it, we preach it, but do we really know what God's work of salvation means in its History and depth, in our lives individually and worldwide for all of time. Eugene Peterson helps us along the way. Jesus, it's all about Jesus.

Wow this guy knows Christ and he knows the world and he writes about the myriads of convolutions

in mixing the two. A great read by a great scholar

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