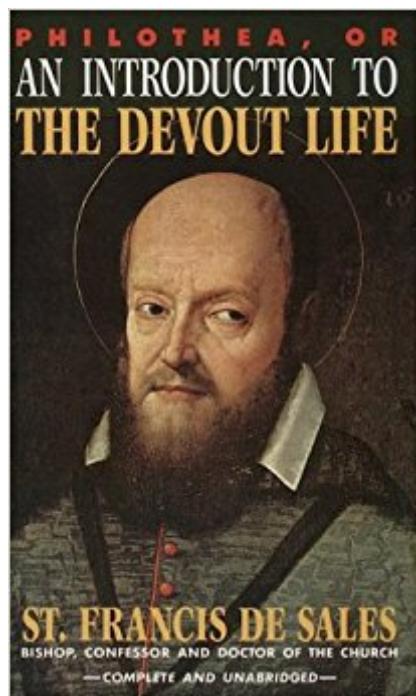


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Philothea, Or An Introduction To The Devout Life



Synopsis

Francis de Sales's *Introduction to the Devout Life* has remained a uniquely accessible and relevant treasure of devotion for nearly four hundred years. As Bishop of Geneva in the first quarter of the seventeenth century, Francis de Sales saw to the spiritual needs of everyone from the poorest peasants to court ladies. The desire to be closer to God that he found in people from all levels of society led him to compile these instructions on how to live in Christ. Francis's compassionate *Introduction* leads the reader through practical ways of attaining a devout life without renouncing the world and offers prayers and meditations to strengthen devotion in the face of temptation and hardship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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This is the perfect guide for anyone who is trying to live a holy life in the midst of the world. If I had to recommend one spiritual book for anyone to read and reread and reread over and over again, it would be either this book, or "the Practice of the Presence of God" by brother Lawrence. As a

matter of fact, you can't go far wrong by having both on your phone as Kindle books, or having both on your shelf at least, and rereading them alternating one after the other over and over again.

Having read this book, I can now understand why St. Francis de Sales is a doctor of the Church. Simply put, Philothea, or An Introduction to the Devout Life is a roadmap to Heaven. But unlike many of the theological tracts or mystical tomes which one often finds professing to do the same thing, this book is, very simply, a practical manual for living a devout life in a world that is often antagonistic to Christianity. It is also the closest many will get to having a canonized saint as one's own spiritual director. The advice offered is excellent, grounded in sacred Scripture and the teachings of the saints, and enlivened with colorful metaphors. (St. Francis obviously had an affinity for bees.) Though St. Francis lived 400 years ago, his guidance easily translates to life in the 21st century. He had a keen insight into the workings of the human mind, the devious yet innocent-seeming temptations presented by the devil, and the challenges faced by the soul seeking to live a pious life amid the petty cares of everyday life. And his insights transcend time and culture. No one can read this book without finding a section that directly applies to them, whatever their state of life. St. Francis's spiritual exercises, admittedly, are difficult. But who can doubt that following them to the full would have wonderfully efficacious effects on the soul? I have begun instituting a subset of them in my own life and have already reaped benefits. I hope to include more of them as time goes on and my spiritual stamina improves. St. Francis's advice on correct behavior, attitude, and personal morality is incredibly wise. Those who read and accept these teachings will assuredly live happier, more fulfilling lives, which are more pleasing to God. The several chapters on friendship--specifically true friendship versus worldly friendship--were of particular utility to me. I think many young Catholics would do well to read and ponder St. Francis's words on the subject so as to avoid temptation and the near occasion of sin in their relationships. In short, this book is a masterpiece of spiritual advice and I can't recommend it highly enough. Best of all, one need not read it cover-to-cover. It may be dipped into for incidental advice based on the reader's own flaws, strengths, state of life, and spiritual needs. If you are looking for a straight-forward, uncomplicated path to Christian devotion, this book is it.

I read this book years ago, and realized that I really wanted/needed to read it again. Ordering from you was very easy and I received it promptly. As I began re-reading it, I began to realize how much I had missed in my first reading -- probably because I was fairly young at the time, and am in my 70's now. But I could wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone who is serious about living as a disciple of

Jesus! St. Francis de Sales is a master at understanding the human heart and mind, and points out many cautions we are usually unaware of in trying to live a spiritual/devout life. And he has recommendations for alternate ways of thinking/being. It is definitely a book that you need to sit and ponder over as you read -- not a quick fix! But very worthwhile the time invested!

"Introduction to the Devout Life" is a good work of spiritual advice for those beginning to take their prayer life seriously, and those needing to refresh themselves with a reintroduction to the basics of a life of prayer. St. Francis de Sales wrote this work with laymen in mind, and it is very much suited to those who live "in the world." It is divided into five parts, one which introduces exercises to get one started, a second which gives counsel on prayer and the sacraments, a third on the practice of the virtues, a fourth on how to avoid temptations in the spiritual life, and the last gives some instruction on how to renew our spiritual devotion and confirm ourselves in it. St. Francis' gentle manner makes for relatively light reading, given the age of the work, and John Ryan's translation is very accessible. Given that there are theological differences, it might offend certain types of Protestants with its emphasis on sacraments and the like, but with that qualification I heartily recommend it to any Christian seeking to deepen their life of prayer.

This version of "Introduction to The Devout Life" by Saint Francis De Sale is ok. I bought it for a group study and I found that this version was incredibly hard to follow along with when I read it using my kindle app for my phone. So difficult in fact that I broke down and purchased the \$7.99 version, which has a much better format especially for the cell phone app. If you were reading it by yourself then this version would do just fine, however if you are purchasing for a group read dont waste your money here.

This book gives a lot of helpful advice on how to prioritize time so Jesus is honored often. Also it stresses charity in one's daily conduct.

This book written by Saint Francis, is literally a spiritual guide to help us to obtain a Devout Life. And contrary to popular belief being Devout and having a Devout Life is not something that only applies to religious people. Even a military can have and should have a Devout Life. If you wish to become closer to our Lord let Saint Francis teach you how to live a Devout Life and taste the joy of living close to Our Lord.

The book that I bought from was supposed to be in "good" condition...which it seemed to be, until I opened it up. Whoever marked it as "good" must never have opened the book. The glue for the binding was pretty much ready to go so now whenever I open it to a certain page, it splits and pages start to come out. Mind you, I've been very careful with it, trying to turn pages softly so it wouldn't happen, but how am I supposed to read it, if it just continues to break apart? I absolutely love the book...I've read it before so it's the advertised condition of the book that I'm complaining about...not the book itself.

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