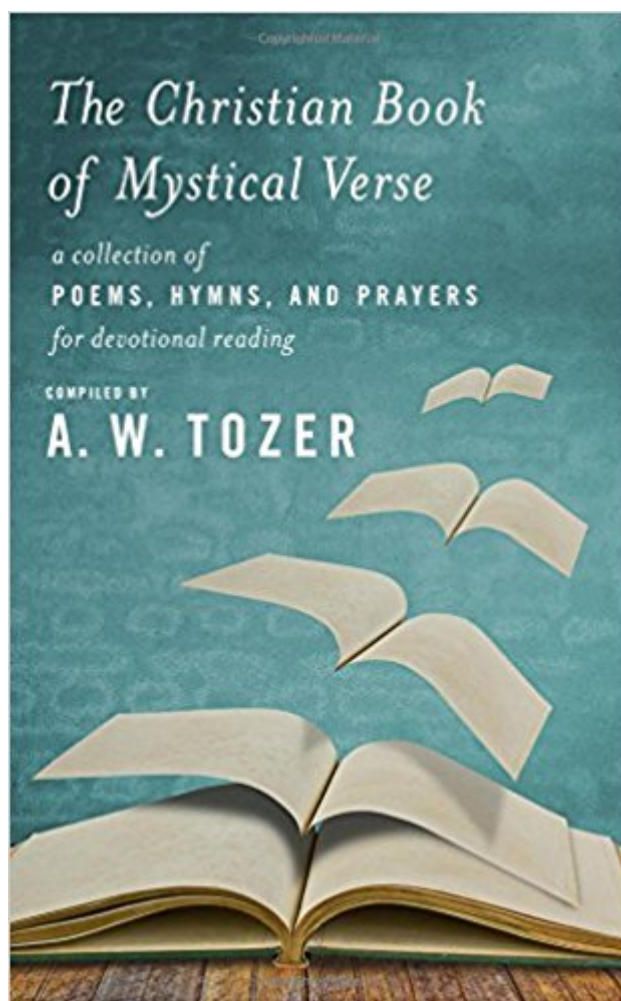


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The Christian Book Of Mystical Verse: A Collection Of Poems, Hymns, And Prayers For Devotional Reading



Synopsis

"... some of the best devotional verse the English language affords..."While the term "mystic" may have connotations that reach beyond traditional Christian thinking, it actually refers to a common spiritual experience that unites anyone who has fellowship with God. The poems in this book were hand-picked by Tozer and follow a logical pattern, going in line with the very nature of salvation itself and the death of Jesus on the cross, man's contemplation of his own sin, redemption, communion with God, awaiting the return of Christ, and celebrations of eternal fellowship with God in Heaven. Both intimate and exhilarating, The Christian Book of Mystical Verse is a book for anyone who seeks to worship God the Father, and who finds the rich language of Christians of old a great help in that endeavor.

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Customer Reviews

Featuring Isaac Watts, John and Charles Wesley, Christina Rossetti, and many more! Compiled and arranged with great intention by the late A. W. Tozer, this collection of verse takes readers on a spiritual journey—beginning with an overture of praise then flowing into meditations on the work of Christ, our need of Him, and the common Christian experience. Covering nearly the whole spectrum of religious feeling—penitence and confession, thanksgiving and praise, admiration, and more—the collection comforts hearts and aids in thoughtful, spiritual worship. With selections grouped by theme and indexed by title, author, and first line, The Christian Book of Mystical Verse is organized for repeated use—a treasure for exalting God with words

that mirror His beauty.

A.W. TOZER began his lifelong pursuit of God at the age of seventeen after hearing a street preacher in Akron, Ohio. A self-taught theologian, Tozer was a pastor, writer and editor whose powerful use of words continues to grip the intellect and stir the soul of today's reader. Among his best-loved books are the classics *The Pursuit of God* and *The Attributes of God*.

This is a wonderful collection of Christian Poetry. It is great to use alongside your devotional time, or just when you have a little spare time to read. I like how they are divided by subject and offers a variety of authors. I have another collection of Christian poems which is good. This, however, is fabulous. If you like poetry and love Jesus I would highly recommend this collection.

Good Read.

ready to start reading it

good

Sometimes you can judge a book by its cover. In this case, the writings A.W. Tozer collected between the covers of this book is exactly what the title says. "The Christian Book Of Mystical Verse: A collection of poems, hymns, and prayers." A.W. Tozer was a first-class scholar, but he didn't stop with mere head knowledge. He loved plunging deep into the spiritual realms to let God touch his heart, mind and emotions. So we find among his extensive library, collections of poems and mystical writings to enliven the heart and mind. Don't get thrown by that word "mystical." Tozer himself describes it this way. "The word 'mystic' as it occurs in the title of this book refers to that personal spiritual experience common to the saints of Bible times and well known to multitudes of persons in the post-biblical era. I refer to the evangelical mystic who has been brought by the gospel into intimate fellowship with the Godhead. His theology is no less and no more than is taught in the Christian Scriptures. He differs from the ordinary orthodox Christian only because he experiences his faith down in the depths of his sentient being while the other does not. He exists in a world of spiritual reality. I have a natural bent to be more left-brained, logical,

and fact-seeking. Years ago I discovered that poetry and other

“mystical” writings unlocked my right-brain hemisphere with all its emotion and passion, and made the left-brained stuff so much more real. The collection of writings in this book “scratches an itch” unlike any academic book ever can. Should you read “The Christian Book Of Mystical Verse”? I think so. Tozer said, “This is a book for the worshiper rather than for the student.” So if you are longing to worship God more deeply, this is a great book to dive into deeply.

I secretly love poetry. I even write it sometimes. Growing up, I attended a Mennonite middle and high school that had a chapel every day. We sang hymns from hymn books, and I absolutely loved how the hymn writers pieced their words and phrases together. When was the last time you picked up a hymnal? There is great theology in those songs. The same can be true about the poems in this book, compiled by Tozer, of different writers throughout history. Don’t let the term “mystic” scare you off! It has many connotations, but in this book it refers to a common spiritual experience that unites anyone who has fellowship with God. The poems are organized by themes (such as the nature of salvation, man’s own sin, etc). The language varies between poets and writers, because after all, many of the selections were written hundreds of years ago when the dialect was quite different than the slang we use today, using more formal wording that begs the reader to pay greater attention than if reading something written in today’s time. I’ve been using this book in my daily devotional time to help transition my thinking to a deeper focus, and without a doubt, enjoying it immensely. Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

A.W. Tozer is a compelling writer, whose books have deeply affected Christians for decades, so I was glad to see *The Christian Book of Mystical Verse: A Collection of Poems, Hymns, and Prayers for devotional reading* (Moody, 1963). However, it would be unfair to say that this Tozer’s book as much as it is a book of his influences. He wrote a 4 page introduction, but the remainder of the book is poetic verse collected under several headings: adoration of the godhead, devotional meditations on the cross, penitential reflections on our sins, rejoicing in forgiveness and justification, yearning for purity of heart, aspirations after God, delighting in God’s presence, the rapture of divine love, the rest of faith, the spiritual warfare, victory through praise, the prayer of quiet, the bliss of communion, joyous anticipation of Christ’s return, and immortality and the world to come. I found some familiar favorites, such as Isaac Watts, but also some people I was not familiar with, perhaps most notably

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863). All in all, this is a welcome collection. Poets have a way of lifting our eyes higher than simple prose and that goal is certainly accomplished in this book. More Christians would benefit from reading poetry and poetic prayers, such as in the excellent Valley of Vision. This collection by Tozer is a most welcome addition. I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from Moody Publishers. I was not required to share a positive review. These impressions are my own.

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