



A Godward Heart: Treasuring the God Who Loves You

By John Piper



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To Satisfy Your Soul — with God

John Piper invites you to experience deeper intimacy with God through these thought-provoking and soul-enriching meditations. Whether you are just discovering the divine richness of Scripture or have long been a passionate student, you'll find a deeper understanding of God and renewed insight for your journey.



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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *A Godward Heart*

“As a longtime admirer of John Piper’s powerful proclamation of the ‘supreme-ness’ of Christ in all things, I found this collection of short devotions to be comforting, thought provoking, and disturbing—all at the same time. Applying your understanding of the gospel to the real world has inescapable consequences. What you believe about the gospel determines the world you build. Here are, in a sense, John Piper’s blueprints.”

—*Kirk Cameron, actor, writer, producer*

“Pastor John Piper has a way, through these devotions, of waking me up from spiritual slumber. God has used these meditations to open my eyes to truth that sets me free.”

—*Shane Barnard, recording artist*

“My thirsty heart has often been directed to streams of living water through the devotional writings of Pastor John Piper. *A Godward Heart* is a fresh invitation to seek the Lord, to sit at the feet of the Savior, to savor Him as your greatest treasure, and to find deep satisfaction for your soul as you drink from His well that never runs dry.”

—*Nancy Leigh DeMoss, author, Revive Our Hearts teacher/host*

About the Author

JOHN PIPER is founder and teacher of DesiringGod.org and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For thirty-three years he served as pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis. He is the author of more than fifty books, including the contemporary classic, *Desiring God*. He and his wife, Noel, have five children and twelve grandchildren.

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A Word to the Reader

One of the reasons I put together collections of short meditations is that my life has been changed as much by paragraphs as by books. Books on one topic are valuable. They let the author explore all the angles of an insight. But where do the insights themselves come from? Usually they come from paragraphs. Even sentences. For reasons not entirely explainable, God can make a single paragraph life changing.

Perhaps some evening your soul is hungry. Not for anything in particular, just a soul-hunger. A longing. Something is needed beyond what television is going to give. Something about God, or about the meaning of your life, or about eternity. You’re tired and you know you probably can’t stay awake to read twenty pages. So you pick up a book that you know focuses on eternal things, a Godward book. And three minutes later you have seen something, and you will never be the same again.

It may take a lifetime to sound the depths of what you just saw. But the seeing happens in an instant. It’s as if God takes the paragraph in his fingers and uses it to adjust the lens on the eye of your soul, and something wonderful comes into focus that you had never seen before.

Isn't it amazing to think about the relationship between God's focusing fingers and the human activity of writing and reading? You may have read that same paragraph before, perhaps just the other evening. But this time God put his fingers on it and turned the lens just one more focusing notch. What this means is that I should pray as a writer and you should pray as a reader. We should ask God to do this focusing.

I think of your reading and my writing as a kind of partnership in the pursuit of a Godward miracle. I write, you read, but God gives the sight. What we both want is this miracle of seeing—seeing lifechanging things about God and life and eternity.

In one of his letters the apostle Paul said, "By reading you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4, author's translation). But was reading enough? A few sentences later he prayed that they "may have strength to...know the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18–19). Something more was needed than reading. Something from God—he called it "strength to know." Earlier he had prayed that the eyes of his readers' hearts would be "enlightened, that you may know" (Ephesians 1:18). Something from God is needed—in answer to prayer. This is what I meant when I said that God takes a human paragraph and puts his fingers on the lens of the eye of your soul. The slightest turn and we are made strong with sight. We are never the same again.

So I have written. And you are reading. And God is ready to act. My words are not Scripture. They are not infallible like God's words. But my earnest aim in all I write is to be faithful to God's written Word in the Bible. To point to God and his Son and his works and his ways. My aim is a Godward book in the hope that God will put his fingers on its paragraphs and turn the lens of the eye of your soul, ever so delicately, and bring glories into focus.

This is how God forms us into his image. "Beholding the glory of the Lord, [we] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18). This is our aim: From a Godward paragraph, to a sight of glory, to a Godward heart.

A very special word of thanks is due to David Mathis, executive editor at Desiring God. David helped me assemble these meditations from all the different places and times where I had written them. After I reworked them for this book, he provided his sharp theological, stylistic, and formatting eye to help me refine them for final release. I admire David's gifts and love his friendship. Thank you, David, for your partnership.

I have enjoyed a long and happy relationship with Multnomah Books, especially in bringing my shorter writings to publication. *A Godward Heart* is a continuation of what we began in *A Godward Life, Book One* (2001), continued in *A Godward Life, Book Two* (2003), *Pierced by the Word* (2003), *Life as a Vapor* (2004), and *Taste and See* (2005). I am thankful for this publishing partnership for the sake of spreading what I pray will prove to be life-changing, Christ-exalting paragraphs.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Browning:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they're still students or it for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great along with important the book *A Godward Heart: Treasuring the*

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Ray Goodrow:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education books but if you want truly feel happy read one using theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Often the A Godward Heart: Treasuring the God Who Loves You is kind of book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Jesus Thresher:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get large amount of stress from both day to day life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not only a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the book you have read is usually A Godward Heart: Treasuring the God Who Loves You.

Teresa Obannon:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you actually, why because this A Godward Heart: Treasuring the God Who Loves You book written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written with good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still question A Godward Heart: Treasuring the God Who Loves You as good book not simply by the cover but also through the content. This is one reserve that can break don't assess book by its deal with, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

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