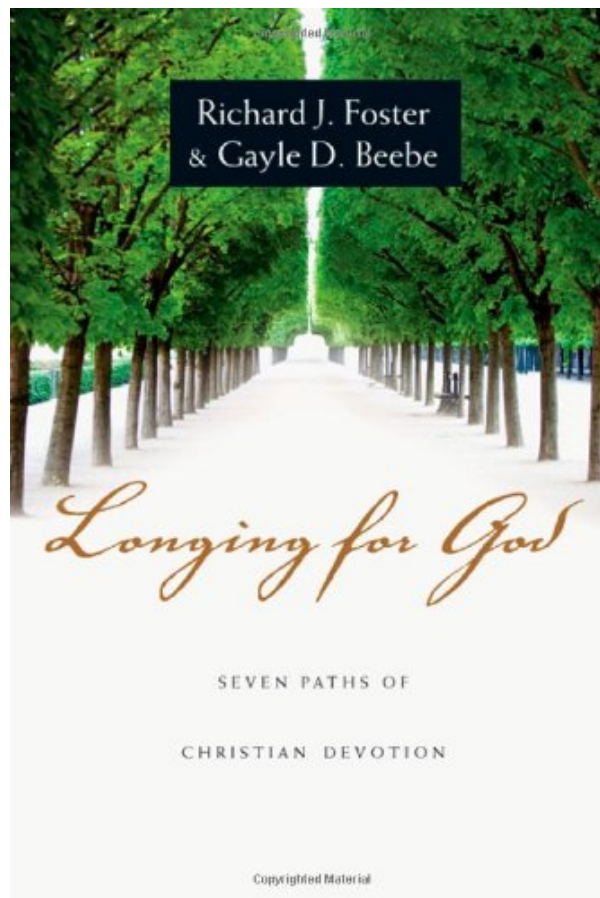
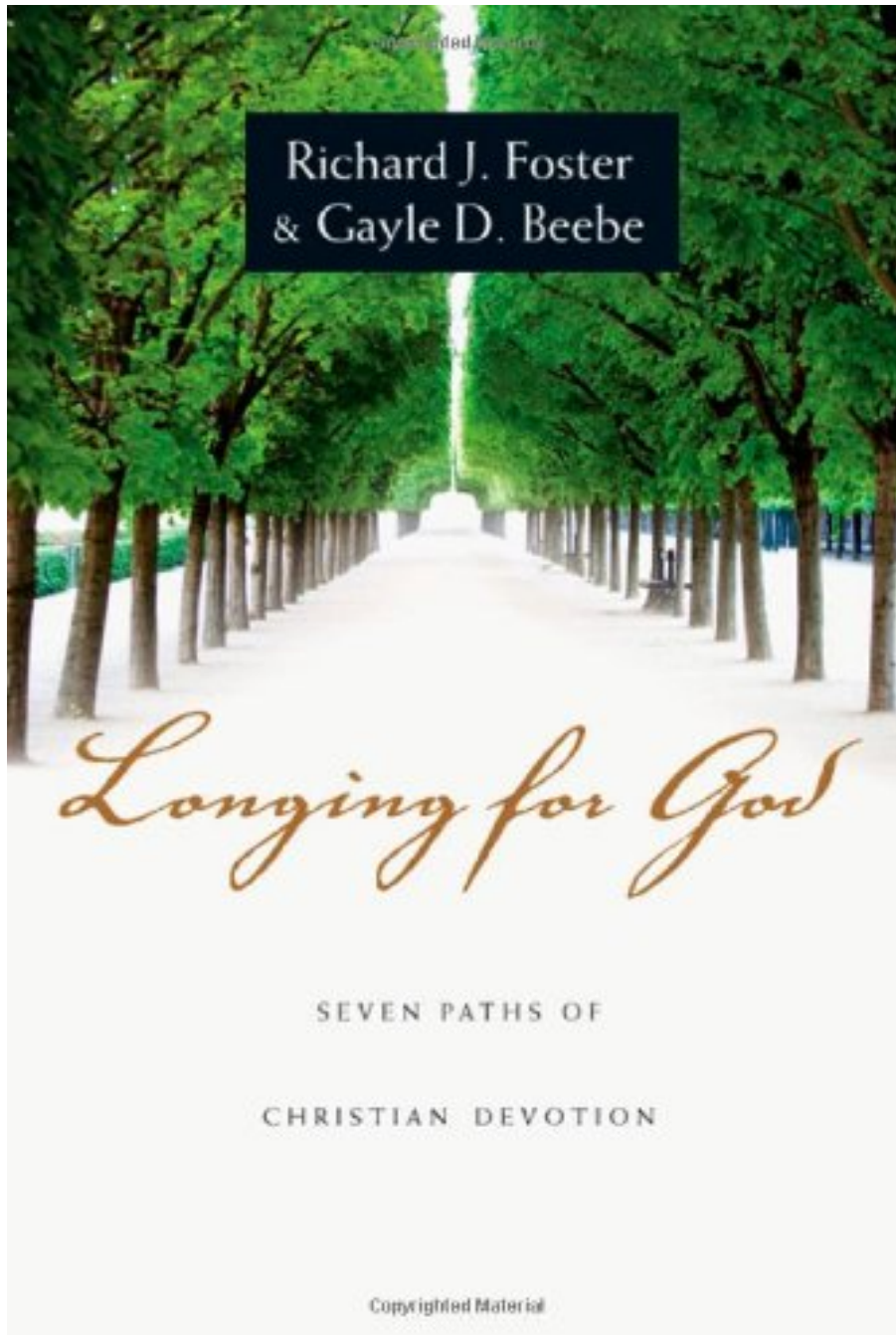


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CHRISTIAN DEVOTION BY RICHARD J.  
FOSTER, GAYLE D. BEEBE**



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**Longing For God: Seven Paths Of Christian Devotion By Richard J. Foster, Gayle D. Beebe.** Happy reading! This is exactly what we desire to state to you who enjoy reading so considerably. Exactly what about you that assert that reading are only responsibility? Don't bother, reviewing behavior should be begun from some certain factors. One of them is reading by responsibility. As what we wish to provide right here, guide entitled Longing For God: Seven Paths Of Christian Devotion By Richard J. Foster, Gayle D. Beebe is not type of obligated book. You could enjoy this e-book Longing For God: Seven Paths Of Christian Devotion By Richard J. Foster, Gayle D. Beebe to read.

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2010 Christianity Today Book Award winner! 2010 Golden Canon Leadership Book Award winner! Think of the moment you last experienced God. Do you know him that closely in this moment? Truly experiencing the love of God gives us a taste of his goodness and his love for us, but often those moments are fleeting. We get distracted by life. Our awareness and understanding fade while our longing to experience him that way again increases. In these pages you can begin to fill that longing by developing your capacity to receive and respond to God's love. Spiritual formation is the process through which one's inner self is opened to the work of the Holy Spirit, who forms us into the image of the Son. Here Richard Foster and Gayle Beebe, both experienced leaders in spiritual formation, introduce you to people from the past who have known God deeply. Each person helps you to grasp one of the seven primary paths to intimacy with God that have been developed throughout Christian history. Chapters are divided into sections, each segment surrounding a key figure and concluding with a reflection and prayer. This rich resource can guide you into the same deep intimacy with God, opening you to the Spirit's work of transformation.

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- Published on: 2009-04-12
- Original language: English
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Systematizing paths of Christian devotion

By Alex Tang

This book reminds me of the approach taken by Richard Foster (2001) in his book, *Streams of Living Water*. While in *Streams*, Foster divided the Christian traditions, here they try to divide the spiritual life as seven paths of Christian devotion. These paths are

- (1) The right ordering of our love for God
- (2) The spiritual life as journey
- (3) The recovery of knowledge of God lost in the Fall
- (4) Intimacy with Jesus
- (5) The right ordering of our experiences with God
- (6) Action and contemplation
- (7) Divine ascent

The authors have selected a few Christian spiritual saints from the past to support each one of these path. For example in the path of action and contemplation, John Cassian, Benedict of Nursia and Gregory the Great were chosen as examples and a small sample of their writings were quoted.

As a student of Christian spirituality, I welcome the revival of interest in the leaders of the spirituality tradition. The Desert Fathers and Mothers, Christian mystics, spiritual directors and spiritual writers are enjoying a revival of sorts. Their works are being taken down from dusty shelves and their writings are being reprinted. These saints are very complex people and they lived in a time and space very remote to our time and space. Therefore I fear when they and their works are used to support certain views of spiritualities without reference to the context in which their works were produced. Oops. Sorry about the rant.

This is a well written book by two scholars of Christian spirituality. The seven paths mentioned are well

defined but somehow felt too 'neat.' I hope now that Christian devotion is categorized, it will not be systematized and formulatized. In his book, *Streams*, Foster identifies six dimensions of the Christian life. After the publication of the book, Renovare organizes spiritual formation groups which meet regularly. During each group meeting, they make sure they study or conduct activities that touches upon these six dimensions. While this sounds like a balanced Christian life, somehow it is too artificial and again, neat. Christian life is more complex than that. It is not a formula but a way of life.

After saying all that, this is a good book to read about Christian spirituality.

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Part Devotional, Part Lesson in Church History, and Part Challenge for Deeper Spiritual Growth

By FaithfulReader.com

When it comes to growing in-depth in one's spiritual life, Richard Foster is one of the first authors to whom you should turn. Founder of Renovare in Denver, Colorado and author of many books --- including the classic *CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE: The Path to Spiritual Growth* --- he has long been known for challenging followers of Jesus to reflect more of God in every area of their life.

In his latest book, Foster teams up with Gayle D. Beebe, president of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, on a project that has taken three years to develop and write. *LONGING FOR GOD: Seven Paths of Christian Devotion*, is well worth the wait. The book is based on the idea that throughout history, both individuals and societies have taken different paths to become alive to God. Once these spiritual awakenings occur, a hunger for God's habitual presence often lingers. So how do we encounter God's love in a way that stirs up the spiritual longings inside of us? Foster and Beebe believe there is no cookie cutter answer. Rather, our own capacity to receive and respond to God's love needs to be cultivated. We must be intentional about Christian spiritual formation.

They observe: "Today there is a growing awareness, reflected in an important body of literature, that we have destroyed the main centers of meaning and value to such an extent that we are left with few resources to cultivate and sustain our common life. At the same time a significant chorus of writers is seeking to recover the rich spiritual resources that once guided us morally, sustained us spiritually and satisfied our deep longing for God."

*LONGING FOR GOD* explores the seven primary paths to God that have developed throughout Christian history: right ordering of our love for God, journeying with God, recovering knowledge of God lost in the Fall, intimacy with Jesus, right ordering of our experiences with God, action and contemplation, as well as divine ascent. Each of the seven sections highlights three or four spiritual writers who illuminate this path of the Christian life. For example, in right ordering of our love for God, the lives and teachings of Origen of Alexandria, Augustine of Hippo, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Blaise Pascal are all explored. While the authors uncover the principles of each person's journey and teachings, they do it in a quick but thoughtful way. As a result, the material throughout the book is not only accessible but also enjoyable.

Along the way readers will come across Christian classics that they may not have heard about, or aspects of writers and thinkers of which they were unaware. Some of the familiar names, including Francis of Assisi, John Wesley and Teresa of Avila, are still given a fresh look and provide rich insights. As a result, the book is part devotional, part lesson in church history, and part challenge for deeper spiritual growth. Reading the pages is a rich reminder that we are not alone in our journeys of spiritual formation --- God is with us, and many have gone before us.

--- Reviewed by Margaret Oines

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

An excellent intro to spiritual growth

By Daniel E. Ritchie

Richard Foster has opened up the field of the diverse approaches to spiritual growth, historically considered, for a wide public. This volume, co-authored with Westmont College President Gayle Beebe, introduces seven approaches ("Spiritual Life as a Journey," "Action and Contemplation," etc.). Each one is accompanied by three or four examples from Christian history, from Augustine and Benedict to Thomas Merton. Each example may be read in a single sitting. Without dumbing down the thought and practice of these great figures, the authors communicate effectively to a general audience. The book will make many readers want to go deeper - which is no doubt the authors' intent. An excellent volume.

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"Few people pass through life without at one time or another wishing they had faith--or more faith. Longing for God offers the examples of Christians whose longings were answered." (J. Douglas Ousley, August 2009)

"By featuring the lives and teaching of 26 spiritual masters from church history, Foster and Beebe shine a light on seven paths (or orientations) to spiritual development. This survey brings together shared themes and unique contributions that guide those journeying with and toward God." (The 2010 Christianity Today Book Awards, Spirituality Category Winner, February 2010)

"Anyone longing for God will find this book to be a treasure chest full of gems. Dig in and you will be lavishly rewarded." (Barbara Sartorius-Bjelland, The Covenant Companion, November 2009)

"A rich resource which can lead one into a more intimate relationship with God." (Arnold Rzepecki, Catholic

Library World, December 2009)

"Like a personal introduction to those well-known Christian writers of the past." (Betty Waller, *The Lamplighter*, vol. 41, no. 2)

"Foster and Beebe certainly captured my interest and spiritual imagination as I used this book for my morning quiet time. I recommend it highly. The book is also available as an abridged audio book--a great resource for the morning commute or a road trip." (Gerry Ediger, *Mennonite Brethren Herald*, September 2009)

"The authors do an excellent job. They relay the practical and powerful messages of great thinkers and doers who were not always understood in their times, and they do so in a way that is intelligible for today's readers." (Wayne E. Groner, *Congregations*, Fall 2009)

"This book can serve as spiritual 'food' to nourish a hungry soul and serves as a great resource for teachers and pastors who do not have time to dig through ancient manuscripts looking for nuggets of useful information." (David Mercadante, *Quaker Life*, September/October 2009)

"A rich feast of Christian life and practice. Powerfully instructive on how serious people make real progress in the life with God." (Dallas Willard, *Christian Retailing*, July 6, 2009)

"Articulate, intellectual dialogue will satisfy the mind looking for a clear understanding of the ways people have historically attained spiritual intimacy." (K. R. C., *Church Libraries*, Summer 2009)

"When it comes to growing in-depth in one's spiritual life, Richard Foster is one of the first authors to whom you should turn. In his latest book, Foster teams up with Gayle D. Beebe, president of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA, on a project that has taken three years to develop and write. [This] is well worth the wait. The book is based on the idea that throughout history, both individuals and societies have taken different paths to become alive to God. . . . [As] a result, the book is part devotional, part lesson in church history, and part challenge for deeper spiritual growth. Reading the pages is a rich reminder that we are not alone in our journeys of spiritual formation--God is with us, and many have gone before us." (Margaret Oines, *FaithfulReader.com*, June 2009)

"Looking for a good mentor? This book helps you reach back into history to find spiritual mentors who had deep and abiding relationships with Christ. Each person featured (from Martin Luther to Augustine to John of the Cross) represents seven enduring paths to Christian devotion. You'll learn how they cultivated their relationship with Christ and gain insights for your own life and those you lead." ("*Ministry Toolbox*" (*pastors.com*), May 2009)

"I have found this book to have excellent insight into our walk with God. To probe deeply into the lives of those who had generally given all to have a relationship with God, resulted in much valuable reading. I can recommend this book to all those who want to invest more deeply into their Christian lives, or are interested in learning more about church history." (*City Light News*, Calgary, Alberta, May 2009)

"For a survey text on Christian spirituality, this would be an excellent book. Foster has always excelled at helping Christians appreciate the large variety of spiritualities and paths of spiritual formation that grow out of various Christian traditions. By using 3-4 persons as examples of each path, and drawing those persons from a broad historical and denominational background, the reader will certainly encounter everything from Quakers to Catholics, classical spiritual writers to contemporary guides." (*Internet Monk*)

(internetmonk.com), April 13, 2009)

"I would like every single Christian I know to read the book. It is a gold mine of knowledge, inspiration, encouragement, straightforwardness, and a joy to read. I could hardly put it down. It moves rapidly and keeps your interest. I cannot recommend it highly enough." (Bill Vaswig, founder and president, Preaching & Prayer Ministries, Inc., May/June 2009)

"Today we are in a state of flooding and yet have no water to drink. It is difficult to find authentic principles that satisfy our spiritual thirst. This is the very book that greatly helps those who are thirsty, worn out, burned out and tired of religious malpractices that are not truly spiritual. Richard Foster and Gayle Beebe show us how our faith ancestors found the wellspring of the deep and authentic spirituality and drew the fresh water that cleared their thirst. If you are looking for an authentic spiritual formation manual, you must read this book that will take you to the 'never-ending presence of God' experience!" (Joshua Choonmin Kang, author of Deep-Rooted in Christ, and pastor of OMC, Los Angeles)

"Living amid the rush of today's world--especially as one who leads in today's church--I need the wisdom of past saints. Their will to nakedly live in the light of God's Word distinguishes them from our tendencies to clothe ourselves in mere success, recognition or knowledge. Foster and Beebe afford us a resource to 'strip down'--to till our hearts, review our priorities and invite the Holy Spirit to plow our souls. His rain on such prepared soil is the key to any lasting fruitfulness in life or leadership." (Jack W. Hayford, chancellor, The King's Seminary, Los Angeles)

"Deep wells of living water dug by our ancestors have been filled with religious rubble and trash by American consumer spirituality. Like Isaac, digging again the wells of his father that the Philistines stopped up, Richard Foster and Gayle Beebe have cleaned out these deep sources of Christian nurture and formation for us. It turns out that there are wells all over the place. Use this book for your bucket." (Eugene H. Peterson, translator of The Message)

"Reading Longing for God is like stepping into an unfamiliar room and finding a wonderful group of vital and brilliant brothers and sisters in the way of Christ, reaching out to us from across the ages and from all kinds of personal characteristics and circumstances. We need to reach back and let them help us to know the fullness of life in the kingdom of God for who and where we are now. The spiritual impoverishment so widespread today among Christians is largely due to disconnection from 'the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.' The authors have opened doors into 'the unsearchable riches of Christ.' Let's go in." (Dallas Willard, author of The Divine Conspiracy)

"This is a feast for the mind and the soul. This is the best and richest of Christian thinking and soul-making made accessible to everybody. It would be very hard to read this without having your heart grow." (John Ortberg, author and pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church)

"This marvelous source book by Foster and Beebe invites us to a pilgrimage toward God. It takes us deeply and slowly into the old trusts of our fathers and mothers in faith. The book will be a valuable detailed reminder that the journey is not an easy one, and that we are not the first ones who have walked that way. The book meditates on the old habits whereby one may break from the present rush in order to be refreshed and transformed by a holiness that is beyond every quick fix and every surface offer." (Walter Brueggemann, author of The Prophetic Imagination)

Review

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**Longing For God: Seven Paths Of Christian Devotion By Richard J. Foster, Gayle D. Beebe.** Happy reading! This is exactly what we desire to state to you who enjoy reading so considerably. Exactly what about you that assert that reading are only responsibility? Don't bother, reviewing behavior should be begun from some certain factors. One of them is reading by responsibility. As what we wish to provide right here, guide entitled Longing For God: Seven Paths Of Christian Devotion By Richard J. Foster, Gayle D. Beebe is not type of obligated book. You could enjoy this e-book Longing For God: Seven Paths Of Christian Devotion By Richard J. Foster, Gayle D. Beebe to read.