

27 BOOKS

CHRISTIAN TEENS SHOULD READ



A PROJECT OF THEREBELUTION.COM AND

BRETT HARRIS



“GIVE YOURSELF UNTO READING. *The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men’s brains, proves that he has no brains of his own.*” – **CHARLES SPURGEON**

THIS IS NOT A LIST OF TEEN BOOKS. **THIS IS A LIST OF BOOKS TEENS SHOULD READ.**

You also won’t see any “student versions” on here. That’s because I believe teens can read the same versions grownups are reading.

This list is drawn from my own personal reading as a young adult. I read most of them in junior high or high school and the rest as a twentysomething.

I have excluded dozens of *good* books from this list in order to highlight only the *best* books I’ve ever read — those books whose impact was deep and lasting.

– **Brett Harris**, Co-Author of *Do Hard Things*
brett@therebelution.com



27 BOOKS

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Click covers to visit a book's Amazon.com page. Books are listed (roughly) by strength of recommendation. You may send feedback to: brett@therebelution.com.

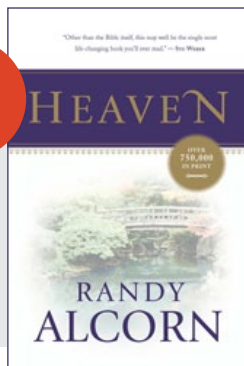
1



DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE BY JOHN PIPER

“Only one life, twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.”
John Piper has written more than 50 books. This may be the best. Every young person on earth should read and re-read it. The title really does say it all: Don't waste your life.

2



HEAVEN BY RANDY ALCORN

What will heaven be like? Randy Alcorn presents a thoroughly biblical answer that will transform a young person's perspective on life, ignite an eager longing for heaven, and inspire them to live in light of eternity while serving faithfully on earth.

3



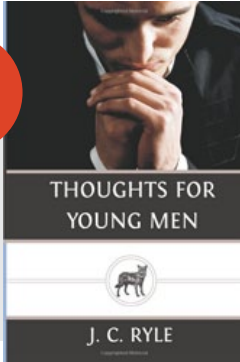
DAVID BY WALTER CHANTRY

Man of Prayer, Man of War

An honest look at one of the Bible's greatest heroes — a man after God's own heart who stumbled often but returned to God with a melted heart for pardon and help. Walter Chantry is a masterful writer and biblical scholar. Great devotional read.



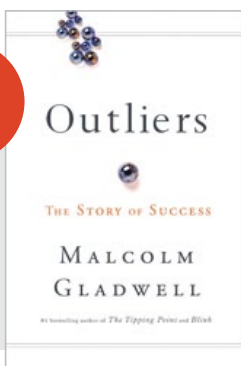
4



THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN BY J.C. RYLE

A timeless classic for young men *and* young women. This short book by J.C. Ryle addresses special dangers facing young adults, provides powerful biblical counsel, and suggests some general rules of conduct every Christian should follow. Must-read.

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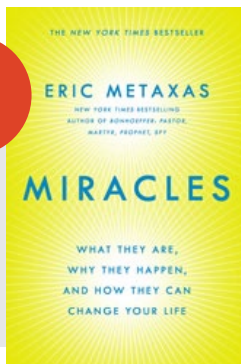


OUTLIERS BY MALCOLM GLADWELL

The Story of Success

An in-depth and thought-provoking look at why certain people succeed and others don't, *Outliers* is a foundational must-read for young people who want to make an impact on their world. Highly recommended. #1 *New York Times* bestseller.

6



MIRACLES BY ERIC METAXAS

What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life

This faith-building and mind-blowing read will deepen a young person's view of God and heighten his or her sense of awe. Eric Metaxas offers compelling evidence that miracles are not only possible, but are far more widespread than most of us imagine.

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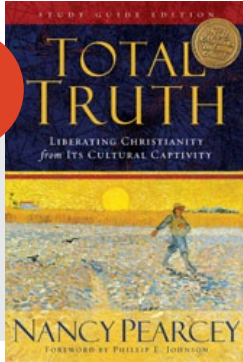
JUST DO SOMETHING BY KEVIN DEYOUNG

A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will

Pastor Kevin DeYoung teaches Christians how to make God-honoring decisions without the use of dreams, visions, fleeces, impressions, open doors, random Bible verses, casting lots, liver shivers, writing in the sky, etc. Short, easy, life-changing read.



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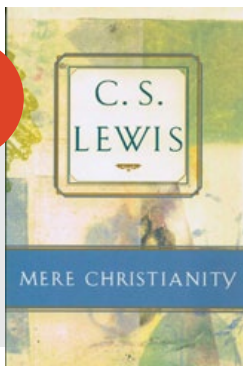


TOTAL TRUTH BY NANCY PEARCEY

Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity

Our culture sends teenagers the message that faith is a private matter only—personally comforting but publicly irrelevant. In this *Gold Medallion Award* winning book Nancy Pearcey makes the passionate case that Christianity is truth for all of life.

9



MERE CHRISTIANITY BY C.S. LEWIS

A powerful apologetic for the Christian faith from one of the most important writers of the 20th century. Young people who would like to see their faith defended with clarity, precision, and splendid prose, should grab this book immediately.

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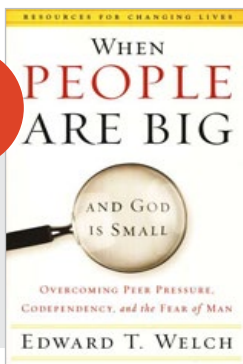


SWITCH BY CHIP & DAN HEATH

How to Change Things When Change is Hard

We all have things we'd like to change about ourselves and our world. Brothers Chip and Dan Heath bring together decades of research to shed light on how lasting change happens and how we can overcome obstacles that stand in the way.

11



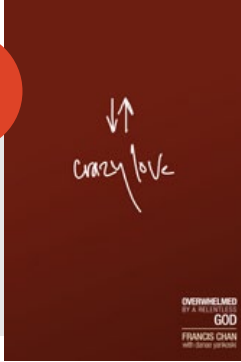
WHEN PEOPLE ARE BIG AND GOD IS SMALL BY ED WELCH

Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man

“In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?” So sings the Psalmist. But quote that verse to a high school student and they’ll tell you the “fear of man” can prove a formidable obstacle. Ed Welch provides biblical solutions for all ages.



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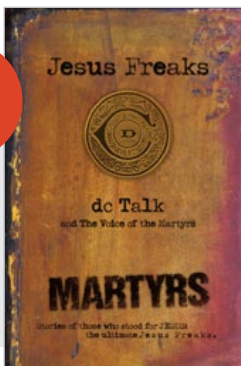


CRAZY LOVE BY FRANCIS CHAN

Overwhelmed by a Relentless God

The answer to teenage apathy isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts — it's falling more in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis Chan describes it, you will never be the same, because God's love changes everything.

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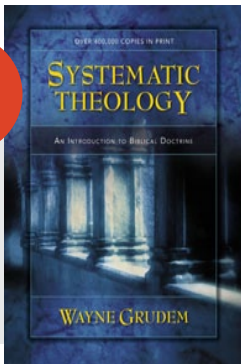


JESUS FREAKS BY DC TALK & THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS

Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus

A collection of gripping martyr stories from throughout church history, *Jesus Freaks* is a faith-building and perspective-shifting read for all ages. Their stories deserve to be told. And those who read them will never be the same again. Highly recommended.

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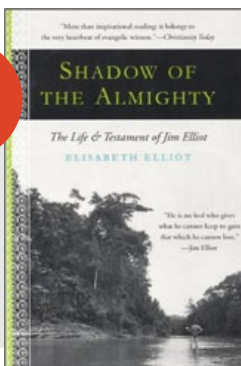


SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY BY WAYNE GRUDEM

An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine

This 1,264-page “giant” should be perched on every Christian teenager’s shelf for when they have questions like, “Are there errors in the Bible?” or “How do we know that God exists?” or “Can Christians lose their salvation?” and many, many more.

15



SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY BY ELISABETH ELLIOT

The Life & Testament of Jim Elliot

Arguably the greatest missionary story of modern times, this powerful book introduces readers to the life and testimony of martyr Jim Elliot, including his time in high school and college. A life-changing look at a passionate young man of God.



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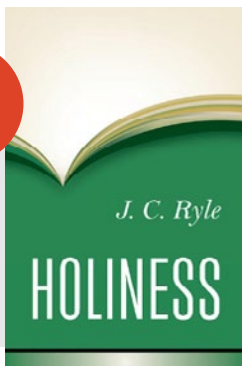


BE THE CHANGE BY ZACH HUNTER

Your Guide to Freeing Slaves and Changing the World

Since the age of twelve, Zach Hunter has been working to free men, women, and children bound in slavery. This inspirational little book invites young people to discover their own passion and shows them that anyone can change the world.

17

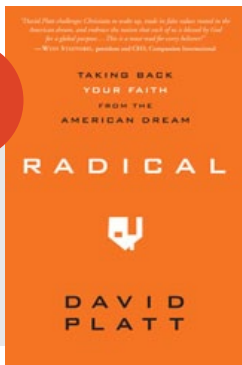


HOLINESS BY J.C. RYLE

Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, & Roots

This classic from the 1800's is widely considered one of the best books on Christian living ever written — and has certainly stood the test of time. J.C. Ryle joins C.S. Lewis and John Piper as the only authors to land two titles on this book list.

18

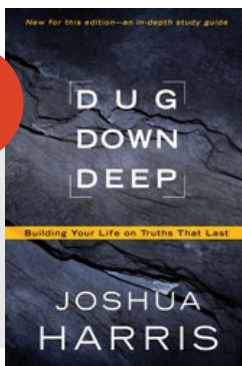


RADICAL BY DAVID PLATT

Taking Back Your Faith From The American Dream

It's easy for American Christians to forget how Jesus said His followers would *actually* live. He said they would leave behind security, convenience, and even family for Him. And in *Radical*, David Platt challenges all of us to *actually* live that way.

19



DUG DOWN DEEP BY JOSHUA HARRIS

Building Your Life on Truths That Last

This book would make the list even if I wasn't related to the author. *Dug Down Deep* is an engaging and powerful look at how the truth of God's Word can transform an apathetic church kid into a student with a burning passion to truly know God.



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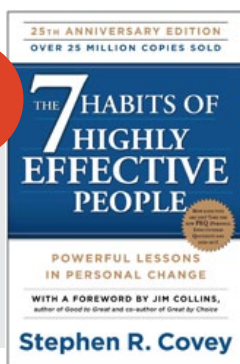


WHEN I DON'T DESIRE GOD BY JOHN PIPER

How to Fight for Joy

Perhaps John Piper's most practical book to date with five entire chapters devoted to practical application and proven strategies in the fight for joy in God. This is a remarkable resource you will find yourself dipping into again and again.

21

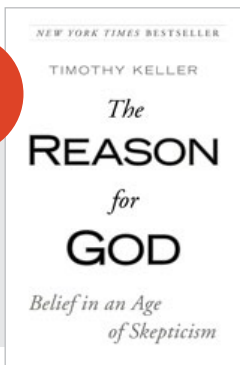


7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE BY STEPHEN COVEY

Powerful Lessons in Personal Change

One of the most influential self-help books of the last century, Stephen Covey's seven habits encompass time management, teamwork, cooperation, and communication, as well as the lost practice of self-renewal. Every teen should adopt these habits.

22



THE REASON FOR GOD BY TIMOTHY KELLER

Belief in an Age of Skepticism

Pastor Timothy Keller uses literature, philosophy, anthropology, pop culture, and intellectual reasoning to explain how belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. For young people *The Reason for God* provides some intellectual bedrock.

23



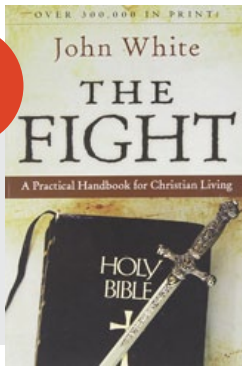
THE WORLD IS FLAT BY THOMAS FRIEDMAN

A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century

Young adults are growing up in a brave new world — and award-winning *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman is here to introduce them to it. *The World is Flat* is a helpful and engaging primer on how technology is “flattening” the globe.



24



THE FIGHT BY JOHN WHITE

A Practical Handbook to Christian Living

A thorough, well-balanced, and practical guide to the ins and outs of Christian life. A proven resource for new believers or veteran saints, *The Fight* addresses faith, prayer, temptation, evangelism, guidance, Bible study, fellowship, and work.

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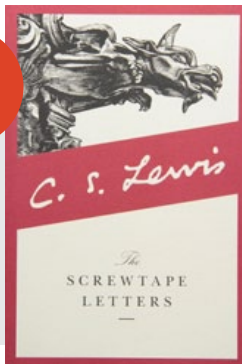


THRIVING AT COLLEGE BY ALEX CHEDIAK

Make Great Friends, Keep Your Faith, and Get Ready for the Real World

Written by a seasoned college professor and mentor, *Thriving at College* covers the ten most common mistakes college students make—and how to avoid them. A practical guide for launching into responsible, fruitful adulthood for the glory of God.

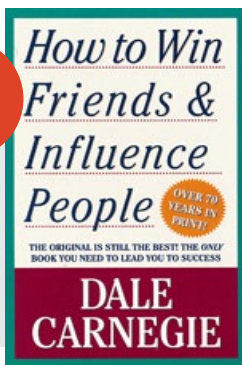
26



THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS BY C.S. LEWIS

A wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original classic by C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters* entertains and educates readers from the vantage point of demons, giving uncanny insight into human life and the spiritual realities that surround us.

27



HOW TO WIN FRIENDS & INFLUENCE PEOPLE BY DALE CARNEGIE

An entertaining primer on social interaction that every young person should read — but with caution. Dale Carnegie's advice is less about winning friends and more about being popular, which are not the same thing. Still, strongly recommended.

