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FAITH



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Most people today probably presume that sacred books, ‘scriptures,’ are central for any religion. That is not actually the case if we look at the longer and wider scope of religions through the ages. It is a notion that we have inherited, and largely from Christianity.

- Larry Hurtado, *Destroyer of the Gods*



Psalm 1:1a, 2 NIV

Blessed is the one...

...whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and
who meditates on his law day and night.



Acts 2:42, 46 NIV

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...



Matthew 5:17 NIV

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”



Reconstructing Your Bible

LUKE 24:44-45



RECONSTRUCTING YOUR BIBLE

What the Bible Isn't

What the Bible Is

Why Do We Need It?

How Should We Read It?



What the Bible Isn't

A warm-fuzzy hunt



What the Bible Isn't

A warm-fuzzy hunt

A magic 8-ball



What the Bible Isn't

A warm-fuzzy hunt

A magic 8-ball

A roadmap for life



What the Bible Isn't

A warm-fuzzy hunt

A magic 8-ball

A roadmap for life

A reference book



RECONSTRUCTING YOUR BIBLE

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What the Bible Is

Why Do We Need It?

How Should We Read It?



**One story, written by multiple authors,
over a millennia of time, collected and
edited to point to one great hero: Jesus**



ONE STORY

Luke 24:44-45 NIV

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.



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2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



GOD-BREATHED

Authoritative



“”

To stay away from Christianity because part of the Bible's teaching is offensive to you assumes that if there is a God he wouldn't have any views that upset you, or differ from you. Does that belief make sense? If you pick and choose what you want to believe and reject the rest, how will you ever have a God who can contradict you? You won't! You'll have a Stepford God! A God, essentially, of your own making, and not a God with whom you can have a relationship and genuine interaction with.

- Tim Keller, *Reason for God*



GOD-BREATHED

Authoritative

Sufficient



GOD-BREATHED

Authoritative

Sufficient

Collected



GOD-BREATHED

Authoritative

Sufficient

Collected

True



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RECONSTRUCTING YOUR BIBLE

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If one puts aside the existence of God [and his speaking to us] as too doubtful...one has to make up one's mind as to the use of life. If death ends all, if I have neither to hope for good nor to fear evil, I must ask myself what I am here for, and how in these circumstances I must conduct myself. Now the answer is plain, but so unpalatable that most will not face it. There is no meaning for life, and thus life has no meaning.

- Somerset Maugham, *The Summing Up*



RECONSTRUCTING YOUR BIBLE

What the Bible Isn't

What the Bible Is

Why Do We Need It?

How Should We Read It?



Why Don't We Read It?

We don't have time.

It's difficult.

It can be boring.

It doesn't seem relevant.

We don't know how.



“”

What you give your attention to is the person you become. Put another way: the mind is the portal to the soul, and what you fill your mind with will shape the trajectory of your character. In the end, your life is no more than the sum of what you gave your attention to. That bodes well for those apprentices of Jesus who give the bulk of their attention to him and to all that is good, beautiful, and true in his world. But not for those who give their attention to the 24-7 news cycle of outrage and anxiety and emotion-charged drama or the nonstop feed of celebrity gossip, titillation, and cultural drivel. But again: we become what we give our attention to, for better or worse.

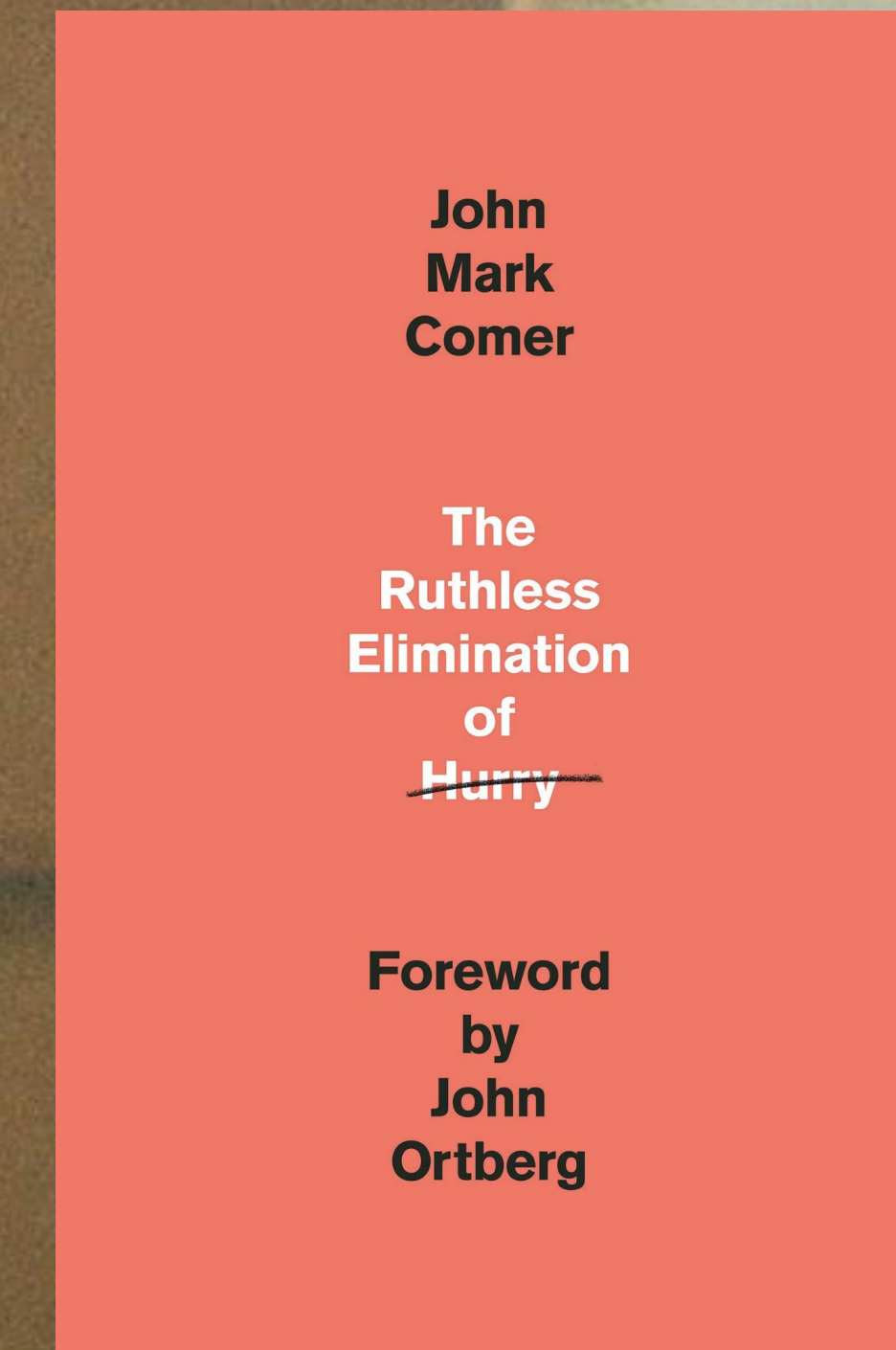
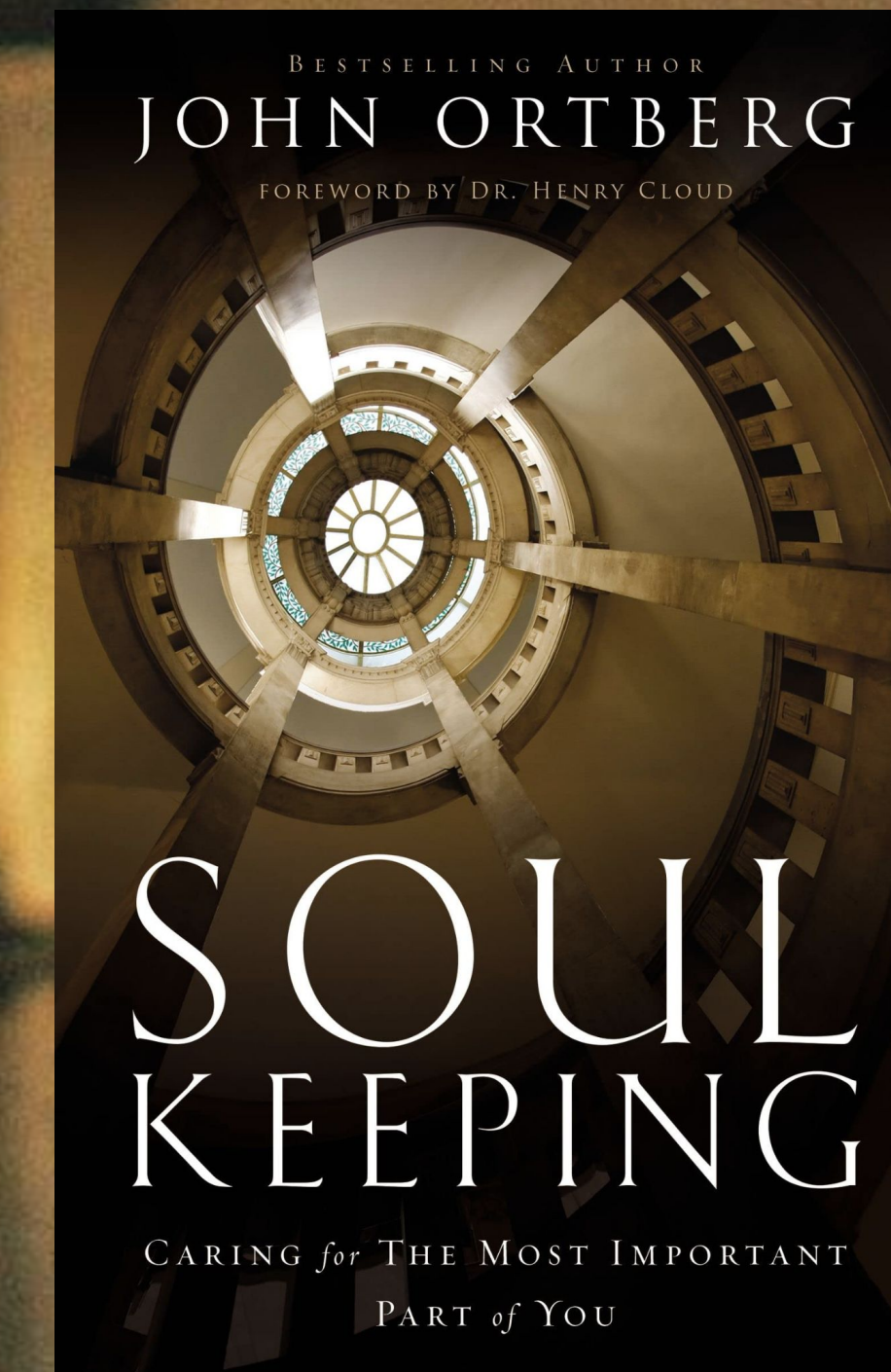
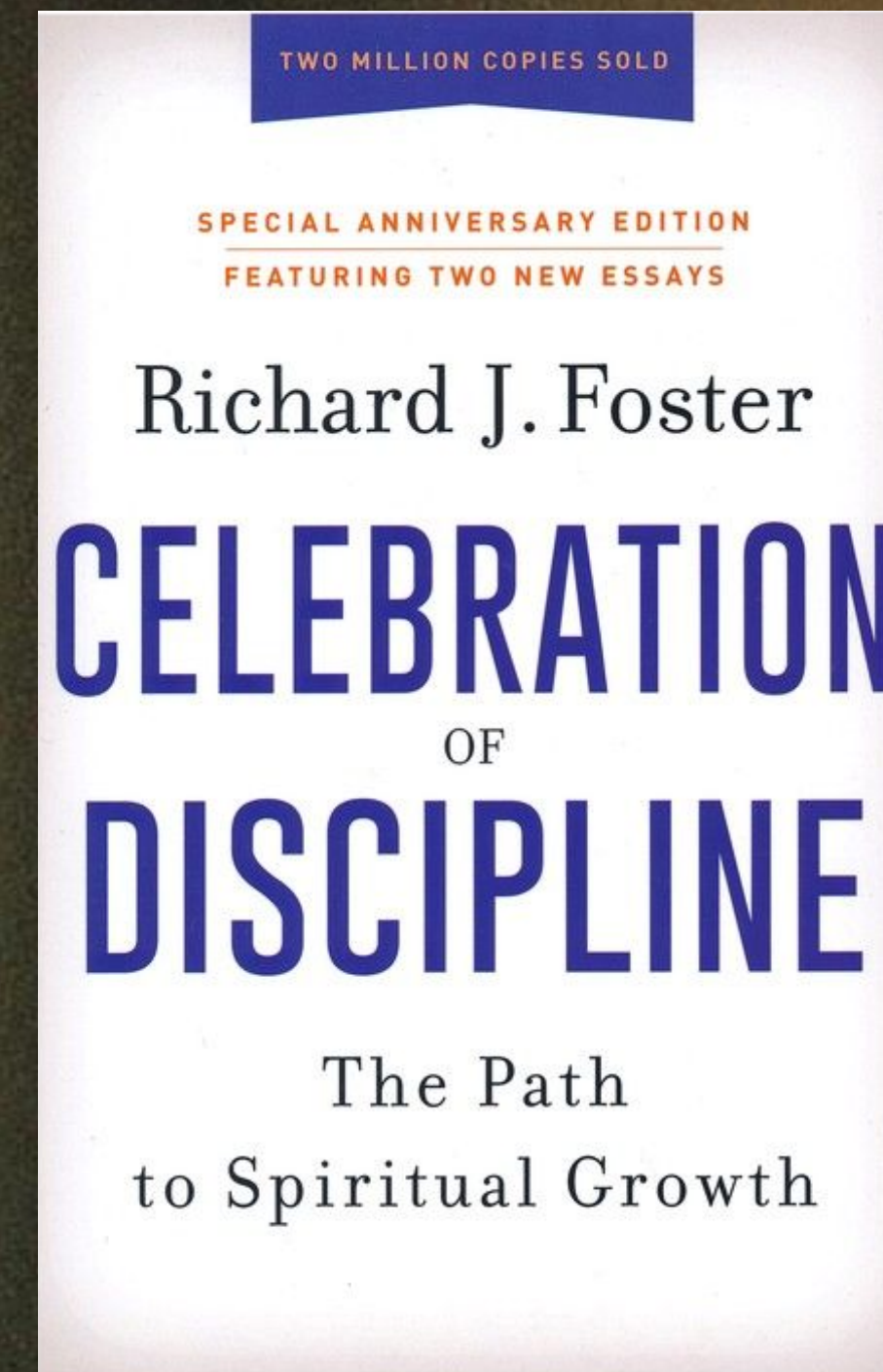
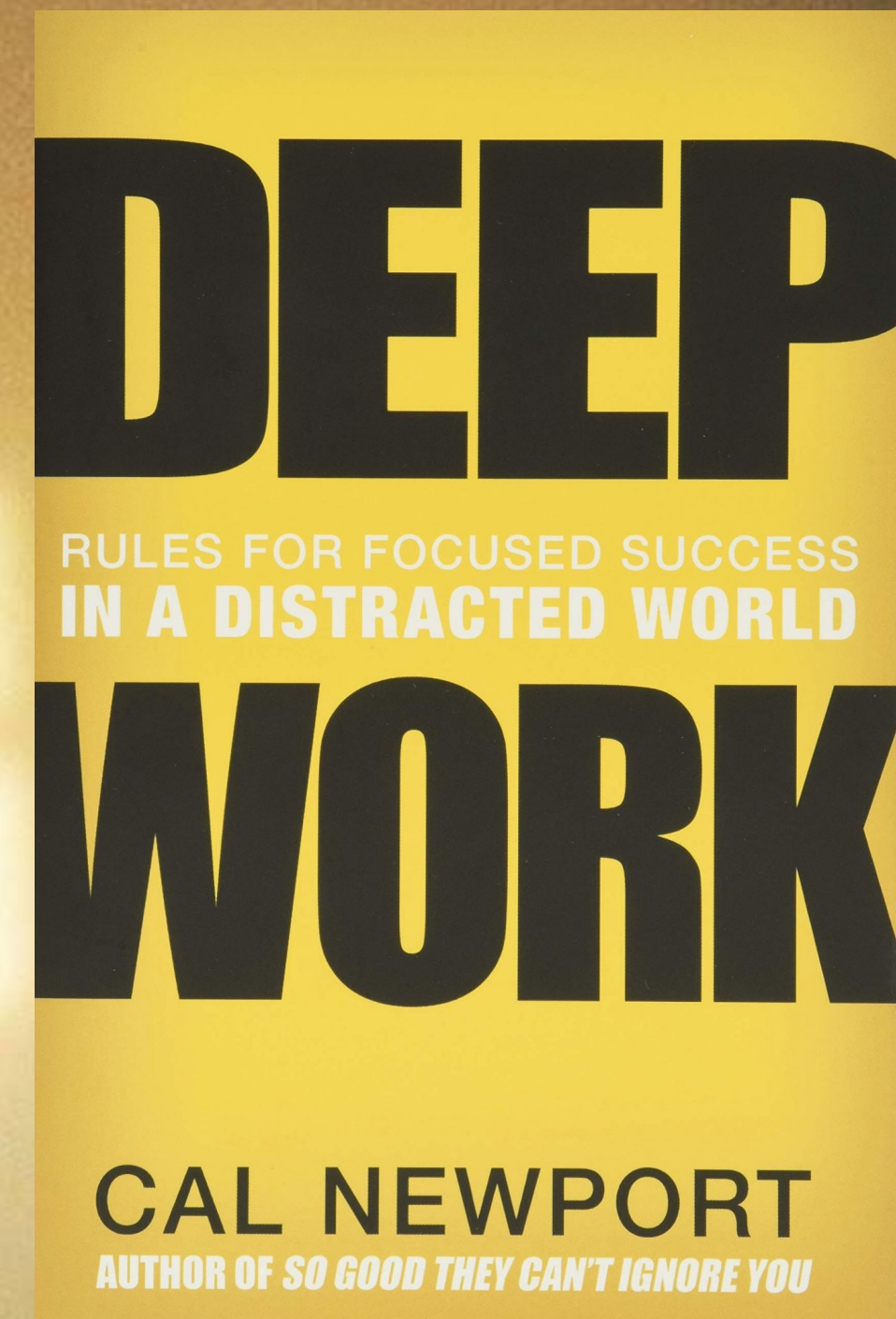
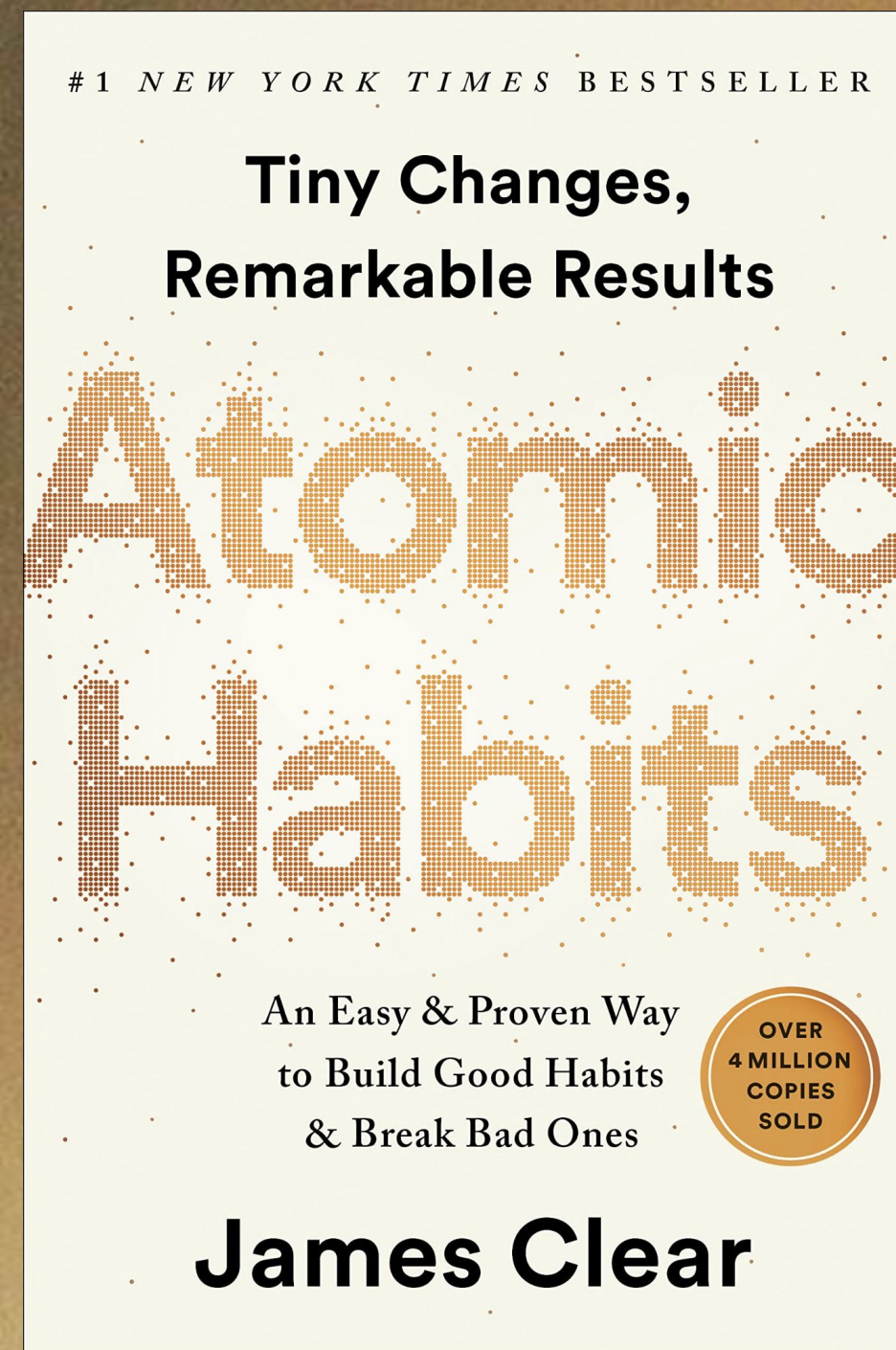
- John Mark Comer, *Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*



Matthew 6:21 NIV

“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.”





Why Don't We Read It?

We don't have time.

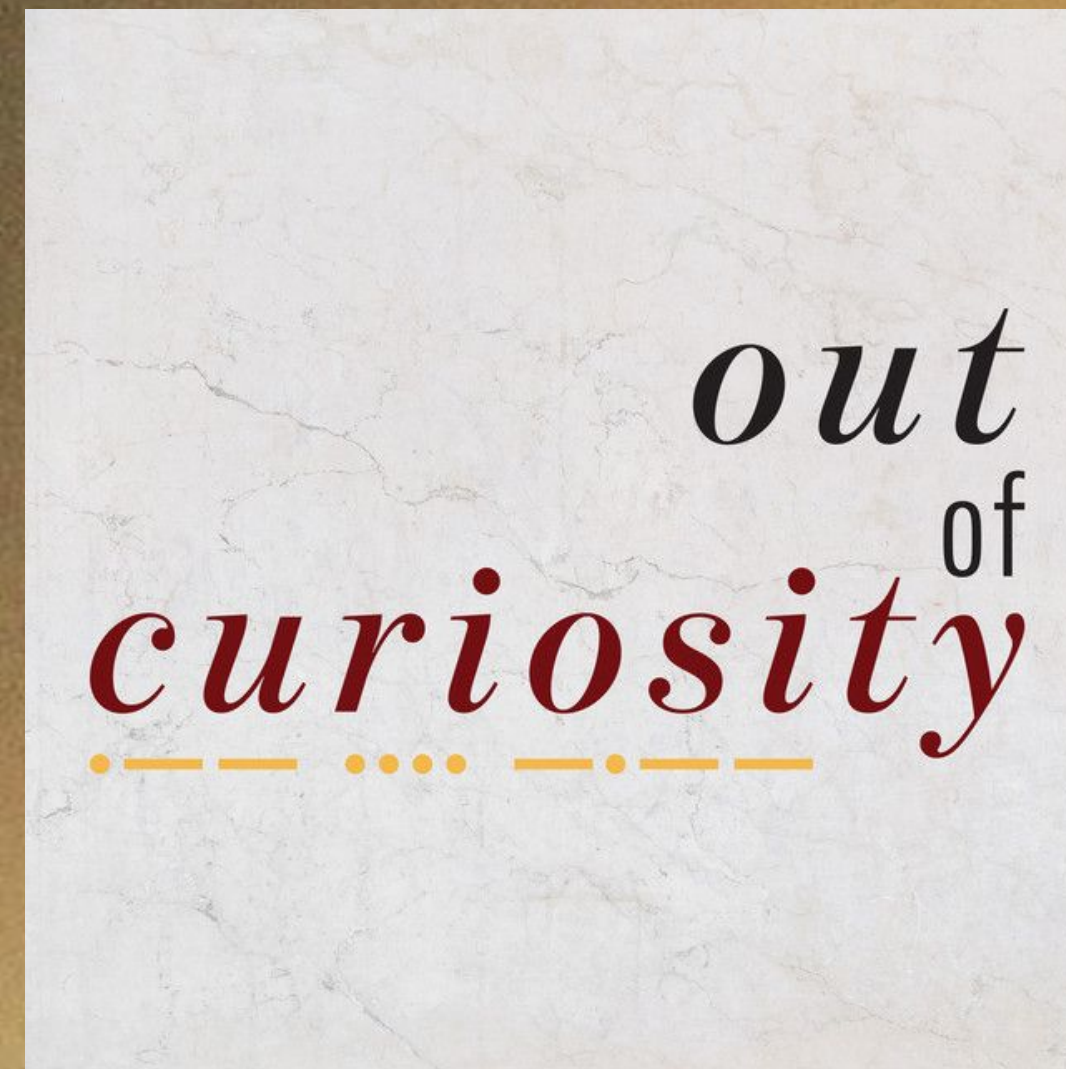
It's difficult.

It can be boring.

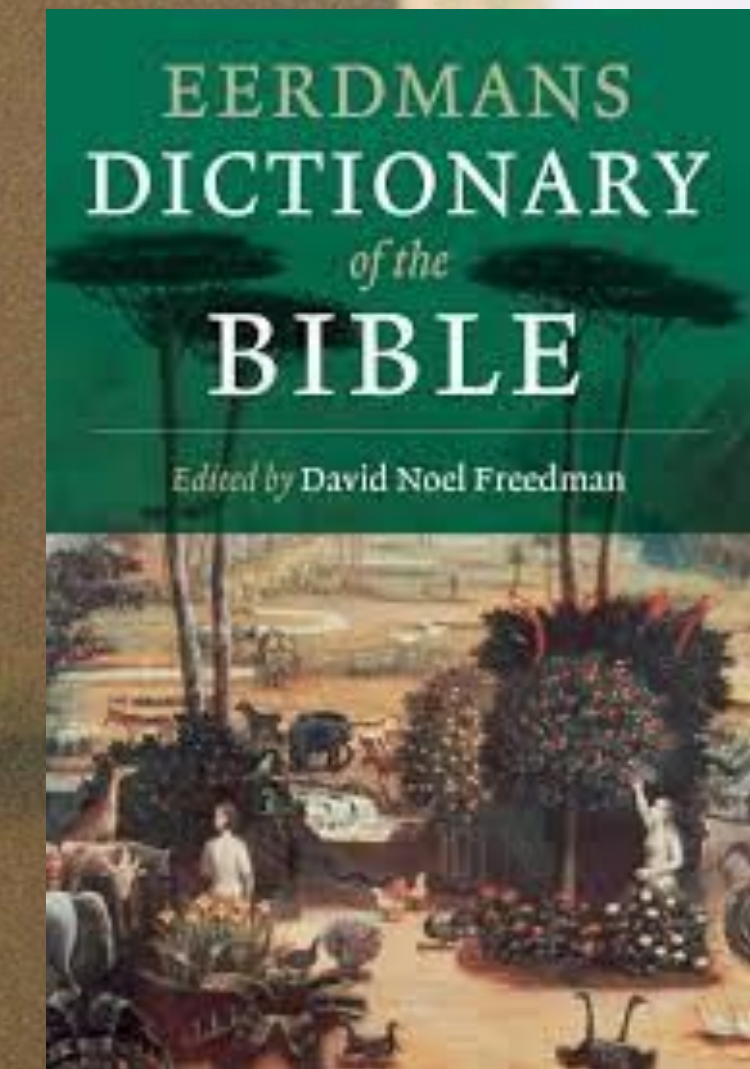
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We don't know how.





The Training Center



Why Don't We Read It?

We don't have time.

It's difficult.

It can be boring.

It doesn't seem relevant.

We don't know how.



How Should We Read It?

Prayerfully



How Should We Read It?

Prayerfully

Slowly



How Should We Read It?

Prayerfully

Slowly

Contextually



How Should We Read It?

Prayerfully

Slowly

Contextually

Humbly



How Should We Read It?

Prayerfully

Slowly

Contextually

Humbly

Communally



How Should We Read It?

Prayerfully

Slowly

Contextually

Humbly

Communally

Daily



John 1:18 NIV

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

