



UPSIDE-DOWN SPIRITUALITY

THE 9 ESSENTIAL FAILURES
OF A FAITHFUL LIFE

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Notes

Introduction

1. For the original sources of these quotes and a thorough discussion of these accusations, see chap. 1 of Larry Hurtado, *Destroyer of the Gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2016).

2. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: MacMillan, 1952), 174.

3. Michael May, “Total Failure: How George Foreman’s Losses Showed Him the Light,” *All Things Considered*, May 24, 2017, <http://www.npr.org/2017/05/24/528995768/total-failure-how-george-foremans-losses-showed-him-the-light>. All quotes are from this article.

Chapter 1 The Good News That God Doesn’t Believe in You

1. This quote is often attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson or Oliver Wendell Holmes, but probably originated with Henry Stanley Haskins. See <http://quoteinvestigator.com/2011/01/11/what-lies-within/>.

2. Attributed to Brad Henry. See, for example, Danielle, “Brad Henry, Founder,” *Gather and Lounge*, June 8, 2015, <http://gatherandlounge.com/brad-henry-founder/>.

3. A variety of versions exist for this prayer, traditionally ascribed to St. Patrick (mid-fifth century). This one is taken from <http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/st-patricks-breastplate.html>.

4. Ludaemia Elisabeth, “Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus,” 1687, trans. August Crull (1880). Public domain. For the full text, see <http://www.lutheran-hymnal.com/lyrics/tlh348.htm>.

5. Bo Giertz, *The Hammer of God*, trans. Clifford A. Nelson (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1973). *The Hammer of God* is a collection of three novellas, each of which tells the story of a pastor who struggles to come to grips with the all-sufficient grace of God. Fridfeldt's story is the second of these.

6. Paul Zahl describes these little-l laws this way: "The principle of divine demand for perfection upon the human being is reflected concretely in the countless internal and external demands that human beings devise for themselves. In practice, the requirement of perfect submission to the commandments of God is exactly the same as the requirement of perfect submission to the innumerable drives for perfection that drive everyday people's crippled and crippling lives." Paul Zahl, *Grace in Practice: A Theology of Everyday Life* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007), 28.

7. William McDavid, Ethan Richardson, and David Zahl, *Law and Gospel: A Theology for Sinners (and Saints)* (Charlottesville, VA: Mockingbird Ministries, 2015), 18.

8. Giertz, *Hammer of God*, 203–4.

9. Giertz, *Hammer of God*, 204.

10. Robert F. Capon, *The Mystery of Christ (and Why We Don't Get It)* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993), 21.

11. Capon, *The Mystery of Christ*, 90–91.

Chapter 2 What If I Just Want to Be Average?

1. Brooks and Dunn, "Only in America," *Steers & Stripes* (Arista Nashville, 2001).

2. As quoted in Jenna Krajeski, "This Is Water," *New Yorker*, September 19, 2008, <http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/this-is-water>.

3. He writes, "So we see that sin is and acts the same everywhere. It does not want to be sin; it does not want to be punished because of sin. It wants to be righteousness." Martin Luther, *Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 1–5*, vol. 1 of *Luther's Works*, American ed. (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1958), 179.

4. For a thorough discussion of ambition's rise from vice to virtue, see Michael Horton, *Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014), 87–103.

5. Brennan Manning, *Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2015), 73. Manning's quote is from John Shea, *Starlight: Beholding the Christmas Miracle All Year Long* (New York: Crossroad, 1993), 92.

6. Bo Giertz, *With My Own Eyes*, trans. Bror Erickson (Irvine, CA: NRP Books/New Reformation Publications), 155.
7. Giertz, *With My Own Eyes*, 155.
8. Horton, *Ordinary*, 88.
9. Quoted by James Finley, *Merton's Palace of Nowhere: A Search for God through Awareness of the True Self* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1978), 54.

Chapter 3 Go Home, Heart, You're Drunk

1. R. Laird Harris, ed., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), 466.
2. James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2016), 8.
3. Smith, *You Are What You Love*, 1.
4. Marie Kondo, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* (New York: Random House, 2014).
5. Taffy Brodesser-Akner, "Marie Kondo and the Ruthless War on Stuff," *New York Times*, July 6, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/10/magazine/marie-kondo-and-the-ruthless-war-on-stuff.html>.
6. A line from Alanis Morissette's hit single "Ironic," *Jagged Little Pill* (Maverick, 1995).
7. G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1995), 102.
8. Smith, *You Are What You Love*, 1.
9. Kimm Crandall, *Beloved Mess: God's Perfect Love for Your Imperfect Life* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016).

Chapter 4 Supermoms, Über Dads, and Other People Who Don't Exist

1. Miranda Lambert, "The House That Built Me," *Revolution* (Columbia Nashville, 2010).
2. William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, serialized in *Punch* (1847–1848), chap. 51.
3. "Be a Fun Mum" Facebook timeline post, May 5, 2017, <https://www.facebook.com/Be.A.Fun.Mum/photos/a.131934583910.106221.122111748910/10155203352798911/?type=3&theater>.
4. "ABQ," *Breaking Bad*, season 2, episode 13, directed by Adam Bernstein, written by Vince Gilligan, aired May 31, 2009, on AMC.
5. "Phoenix," *Breaking Bad*, season 2, episode 12, directed by Colin Bucksey, written by John Shibban, aired May 24, 2009, on AMC.

6. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, 81.
7. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, 81.
8. William Martin, "Make the Ordinary Come Alive," *The Parent's Tao Te Ching: Ancient Advice for Modern Parents* (Boston: Da Capo Press, 2009), 35.
9. Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson, *Give Them Grace: Dazzling Your Kids with the Love of Jesus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011), 164.
10. Fitzpatrick and Thompson, *Give Them Grace*, 21.
11. Brené Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are* (Center City, MN: Hazelden Publishing, 2010), 56.

Chapter 5 My Altar Has a Diesel Engine

1. John Barnett, "Seek First His Kingdom: An Invitation to Christian Vocation," *Christ at Work: Orthodox Christian Perspectives on Vocation* (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2006), 43.
2. Barnett, "Seek First His Kingdom," 59.
3. "Church Staff Learns Fresh Batch of Buzzwords That Will Be Meaningless in Six Months," *Babylon Bee*, May 12, 2017, <http://babylonbee.com/news/church-staff-learns-fresh-batch-buzzwords-will-meaningless-six-months/>.
4. Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian," *Career of the Reformer I*, vol. 31 of *Luther's Works*, American ed. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1957), 344.
5. Norman Nagel, "Luther and the Priesthood of All Believers," *Concordia Theological Quarterly* (October 1997), 280.

Chapter 6 Love Will Not Sustain Your Marriage

1. He writes, "As high as God is above man, so high are the sanctity, the rights, and the promise of marriage above the sanctity, the rights, and the promise of love. It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "A Wedding Sermon from a Prison Cell," *Letters and Papers from Prison* (New York: Touchstone, 1997), 46.
2. Aziz Ansari and Eric Klinenberg, *Modern Romance* (New York: Penguin, 2015), 214.
3. Ansari and Klinenberg, *Modern Romance*, 214.
4. Ansari and Klinenberg, *Modern Romance*, 214.
5. Ansari and Klinenberg, *Modern Romance*, 215.
6. Ansari and Klinenberg, *Modern Romance*, 215.

7. Ansari relates the advice of psychologist Jonathan Haidt, who urges that we adopt a “narrative view” of marriage, in which the “best life is about building a story” together. Ansari and Klinenberg, *Modern Romance*, 221.

8. Robert F. Capon, *Bed and Board: Plain Talk about Marriage* (New York: Mockingbird Ministries, 2017), 147.

9. Alain de Botton, “Why You Will Marry the Wrong Person,” *New York Times*, May 28, 2016.

10. Capon, *Bed and Board*, 40.

11. C. S. Lewis, “The Sermon and the Lunch,” *God in the Dock* (New York: HarperOne, 2014), 284.

12. Lewis, “The Sermon and the Lunch,” 285.

13. De Botton, “Why You Will Marry the Wrong Person.”

14. Gustaf Wingren, *Luther on Vocation*, trans. Carl C. Rasmussen (Evansville, IN: Ballast Press, 1994), 6.

15. Esther Perel, “The Secret to Desire in a Long-Term Relationship,” TED Talk, February 2013, https://www.ted.com/talks/esther_perel_the_secret_to_desire_in_a_long_term_relationship/up-next.

Chapter 7 Building Walls and Digging Moats?

1. Kristine Phillips and Sarah Pulliam Bailey, “‘Evil Has Invaded Sanctuary’: Texas Massacre Likely the Worst Church Shooting in U.S. History,” *Washington Post*, November 6, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/11/06/evil-has-invaded-sanctuary-texas-massacre-likely-the-worst-church-shooting-in-u-s-history/?utm_term=.c287bdbc39f3.

2. Rod Dreher, *The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation* (New York: Penguin, 2017).

3. Dreher, *Benedict Option*, 155.

4. Dreher, *Benedict Option*, 182.

5. Dreher, *Benedict Option*, 188.

6. Dreher, *Benedict Option*, 12.

7. Even after Cyrus, the Persian king, issued a decree in 538 BC that allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, only a minority did. “After all, Palestine was a faraway land which only the oldest could remember, and the journey thither difficult and dangerous; the future of the venture was at best uncertain. Moreover, many Jews were by this time well established in Babylon.” John Bright, *A History of Israel*, third ed. (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981), 362. Indeed, over time, Babylon, not Israel, would become one of the chief centers of Jewish religious studies. The Talmud, for instance, that foundational compendium of Jewish

learning, is the *Babylonian* Talmud. Although a Palestinian version exists, its significance is greatly overshadowed by its Babylonian counterpart.

8. Michael W. Holmes, *The Apostolic Fathers in English* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006), 295.

9. Holmes, *Apostolic Fathers in English*, 295–96.

10. James K. A. Smith, *Awaiting the King: Reforming Public Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017), 195.

11. A favorite image of James K. A. Smith, who argues that we have reduced people to thinking creatures: “We imagine human beings as giant bobblehead dolls: with humungous heads and itty-bitty, unimportant bodies. . . . ‘You are what you think’ is a motto that reduces human beings to brains-on-a-stick.” *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2016), 3.

12. David Zahl, “Here We Still Stand Conference,” October 20, 2017 (San Diego, CA), <https://www.herwestillstand.org/videos/>.

Chapter 8 There’s No Such Thing as a Personal Relationship with Jesus

1. Matt Mauney, “History of Asbestos,” Asbestos.com, accessed July 31, 2018, <https://www.asbestos.com/asbestos/history/>.

2. Matt Mauney, “Asbestos Fireproofing and Fire Prevention Materials,” Asbestos.com, accessed July 31, 2018, <https://www.asbestos.com/products/general/fireproofing-fire-prevention-materials.php>.

3. Andrea Boggio, *Compensating Asbestos Victims: Law and the Dark Side of Industrialization* (New York: Routledge, 2016), 155.

4. Mauney, “History of Asbestos.”

5. Tom Wolfe, “The ‘Me’ Decade and the Third Great Awakening,” *New York*, August 23, 1976.

6. Wolfe, “The ‘Me’ Decade.”

7. Wolfe, “The ‘Me’ Decade.” Italics added.

8. Stephen Freeman, “Psychology as the New Sacrament,” *Glory to God for All Things*, September 13, 2016, <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/glory2godforallthings/2016/09/13/psychology-new-sacrament/comment-page-2/>.

9. I am indebted to Joel Miller for this insight, as well as for pointing me to the article by Tom Wolfe. See his blog post, “Why You Need More Than a Personal Relationship with Jesus,” *Joel J. Miller’s Essays & Commonplaces*, accessed July 31, 2018, <https://joeljmiller.com/personal-relationship-jesus/>.

10. Depeche Mode, “Personal Jesus,” *Violator* (Mute Records, 1990).

11. Charles Austin Miles, “In the Garden,” 1913. Public domain.

12. Cyprian of Carthage, "On the Unity of the Church," *Ante-Nicene Fathers* vol. 5 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994), 423.
13. Nate Larkin, *Samson and the Pirate Monks: Calling Men to Authentic Brotherhood* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007), 72.
14. Larkin, *Samson and the Pirate Monks*, 72.
15. Larkin, *Samson and the Pirate Monks*, 73. Italics in original.
16. Larkin, *Samson and the Pirate Monks*, 83.
17. Jared Wilson, *Supernatural Power for Everyday People: Experiencing God's Extraordinary Spirit in Your Ordinary Life* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2018), 136.

Chapter 9 The Church of St. Big Box

1. Brad Roth, *God's Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural Church* (Harrisonburg, VA: Herald Press, 2017), 38.
2. ASPS National Clearinghouse of Plastic Surgery Procedural Statistics, "Plastic Surgery Statistics Report 2016," [Plasticsurgery.org](https://www.plasticsurgery.org/documents/News/Statistics/2016/plastic-surgery-statistics-full-report-2016.pdf), accessed August 1, 2018, <https://www.plasticsurgery.org/documents/News/Statistics/2016/plastic-surgery-statistics-full-report-2016.pdf>.
3. Hartford Seminary, "Database of Megachurches in the U.S.," Hartford Institute for Religion Research, accessed August 1, 2018, <http://hrr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/database.html>.
4. Scott Thumma and Warren Bird, "Recent Shifts in America's Largest Protestant Churches: Megachurches 2015 Report," Leadership Network and Hartford Institute for Religion Research, accessed August 1, 2018, http://hrr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/2015_Megachurches_Report.pdf.
5. Jordan Peterson, *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos* (Toronto: Random House Canada, 2018), 72.
6. Tim Suttle, *Shrink: Faithful Ministry in a Church-Growth Culture* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014), 41.
7. G. K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man* (Brooklyn: Angelico Press, 2013), 216.
8. Augustus M. Toplady, "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me," stanza 3, 1776. Public domain.