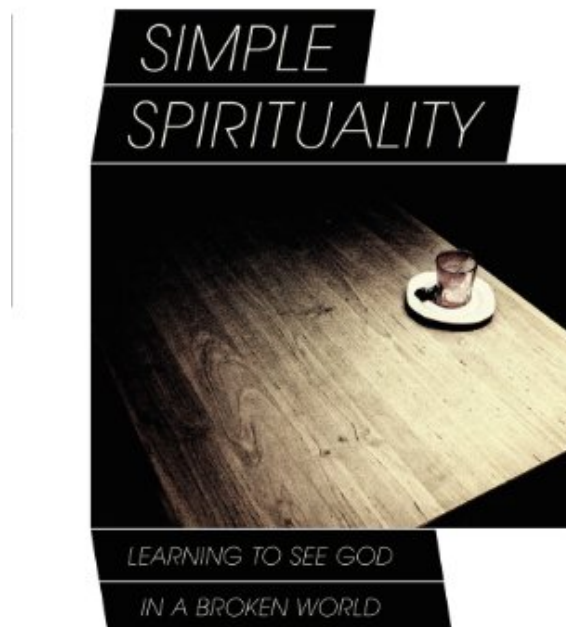


# SIMPLE SPIRITUALITY: LEARNING TO SEE GOD IN A BROKEN WORLD BY CHRISTOPHER L. HEUERTZ

CHRISTOPHER L. HEUERTZ  
International Director, Word Made Flesh

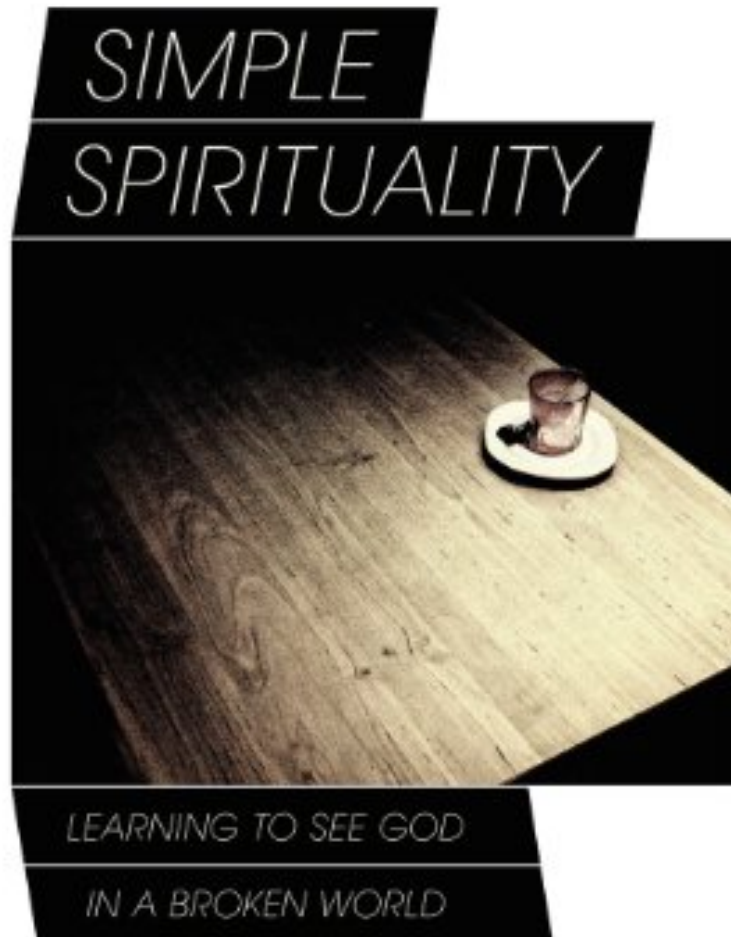


"A book for people who are ready to see."  
—from the foreword by SHANE CLAIBORNE

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## Review

This is the book I have been searching for. I will read it, absorb it, and then send a copy to all of our member care people. It is not a "how to" book on spiritual disciplines, but it gets to the heart of spirituality. It will become a central text for our spiritual formation conferences. (Jonathan B. Edwards, EMQ, July 2009)

Huertz leaves no luxury in this brief but powerful volume - what he is proposing is nothing short of a lifestyle transformation by way of loving and serving the poor and marginalized. If Huertz is successful at anything with this book, it's the gaping hole he puts in the tendency for Christians to have a merely devotional relationship with God and an ideological relationship with the world outside our comfort zones. I recommend it to anyone who is, in the words of Shane Claiborne in his endorsement, "ready to see." (John O'Hara (www.oharaville.com), January 10, 2009)

Don't read Simple Spirituality if you don't want to be convicted. Being a Christian, according to Heuertz, is about ministry to the broken; not merely to a broken world, but to those who are hurting, vulnerable and broken in the world. Simple Spirituality will make us uncomfortable with our materialistic Christian ways. (Frank Mills, Borderlands Reviews, (frankamills.com), October 2008)

Heuertz is simply an amazing guy with amazing stories about his life. (Dustin Nelson, The Journal of Student Ministries, September/October 2008)

Heuertz wrote a vulnerable book, one that puts his heart on display, and I couldn't help but want to let his words do work on my soul--but that takes more time. Heuertz doesn't claim to offer any secrets to spiritual success. Instead, he shares what God is teaching him through his friends, who happen to be the poorest of the poor. (Young Anabaptist Radicals, July 8, 2008)

Heuertz has an intimate knowledge of serving the poor and a deep hinger for spiritual asceticism, and his work provides a needed guide for the next generation of Christians who desire full service toward the work of God in both the immanent and transcendent realms. (Chris Keller, TheOtherJournal.com, July 22, 2008)

Chris understandable resists a formulaic, step-by-step spiritual formation in his presentation. Instead, his probing questions and personal stories are more like signposts on a lifelong journey; they let us know which direction on the path to take. Chris outlines a way of following Jesus that is paradoxically self-annihilating and liberating, impossible yet within reach. (all the small things blog, July 13, 2008)

With deep gentleness, Heuertz uses the brokenness of the world as a springboard for spiritual vitality. Using what he calls the "Five Stones of Brokenness," he challenges those of us who live in plenty to seek a fuller faith by reconsidering how we might "live more simply so others may simply live." (Ghandi) (The Link Between, July 27, 2008)

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"Chris offers a compelling invitation to a spirituality centered in the life, teaching and person of Jesus--an invitation that is both threatening and liberating, challenging and invigorating; and one that, in the end, is difficult to dismiss by anyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus." (Stuart Erny, director of campus ministries and codirector of AU--East Africa, Anderson University)

"Through his personal vulnerability, tender insights and unflinching truthfulness, Chris Heuertz invites readers to see, love and live more fully. Simple Spirituality is a compelling book with an important message." (Christine D. Pohl, professor of social ethics, Asbury Theological Seminary)

"Chris Heuertz has written a thoughtful, compelling invitation to think, trust and act more deeply in faith. He is aware of the enormous challenges we face and of the thickness of anxiety that can undermine faith. In the midst of that, he keeps his head clear, his heart focused and his words accessible. This book will be a source of strength and encouragement among those who are serious about 'following.'" (Walter Brueggemann, Professor Emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary)

"I have had my fill of spiritual devotional books and had pretty much decided not to pick up another one. Too many clones filled with formulas and occasionally sprinkled with quotes from the Bible. Most of the authors seem to be groping for a five-minute magical escape from life in the contemporary world. But Simple Spirituality caught my attention and drew me in. Instead of prescribing answers, Chris tells us about his deepest struggles and how God gives him release and victory through the disciplines of humility, community, simplicity, submission and brokenness. His narrative is seasoned with poignant stories about his friends, and his wholehearted obedience to God authenticates his message." (Norman G. Wilson, Ph.D., coordinator of intercultural studies, Indiana Wesleyan University)

"When Chris Heuertz speaks, I always listen carefully." (Roger Parrott, president, Belhaven College)

"Simple Spirituality brings together three critical transforming themes--simplicity, spirituality and a broken world--and captures the profoundness of them through very simple real-life narratives. The book not only meets a critical need in the mission world but raises critical questions for those working among the poor and the oppressed to grapple with. Chris and his wife, Phileena, have been a blessing--people of passion and simplicity. I am sure readers would be blessed." (Jayakumar Christian, National Director, World Vision India)

"Chris Heuertz's ability to weave real-life stories with scriptural and theological reflection makes this a very

engaging and refreshing book. At a time when the gap between the poor and rich continues to grow, Chris reminds us that what the gospel commands us to do is not so much to do things for the poor, but to become friends, indeed sit at the same table, with the poor. What makes such a duty possible, even delightful, are such gifts as humility, community, simplicity, submission and brokenness--simple spirituality, he calls it!" (Emmanuel Katongole, Associate Research Professor of Theology and World Christianity, and codirector of the Center for Reconciliation, Duke Divinity School)

"For those of us in the affluent West, spirituality has become muddled by materialism and complicated by our frenetic pace of life. Chris Heuertz helps to unwind the suffocating insulation that cocoons us and stunts our spiritual growth. From his amazing array of experiences among the poor, Chris has been educated in the seminary of the slums. In this deep but accessible work, he draws us alongside the prostitutes, the dying, the disabled and the beggars to help us learn what he has learned--that sitting so close to the heart of God, the poor have the proximity and perspective to teach us the art of simple spirituality." (Scott A. Bessenecker, director, InterVarsity Global Projects)

"There's no doubt about it: Chris Heuertz has found Jesus among the poorest of the poor--a Jesus who calls us to humility, community, simplicity, submission and brokenness. Throughout Simple Spirituality, as he shares his experiences from around the globe, he challenges and inspires us all to seek Jesus and follow him with renewed passion and integrity. Read it and be transformed." (Stephen A. Seamands, professor of Christian doctrine, Asbury Theological Seminary)

"This is a challenging and appealing book. It reveals the part of love to Jesus and of Jesus--presence to the poor, the broken and the vulnerable. Chris has a gentle and realistic way of showing that this path which can appear as austere, suffering and insecure is tempered, rendered human and Christian and even enjoyable through meetings of love and of tenderness, which heal us, liberate us, give us strength and new life." (Jean Vanier, founder of the communities of L'Arche)

From the Author

Why did you write Simple Spirituality?

"The book is a reflection of my own spiritual journey. I wrote it to remember the simple touch points that have helped cultivate my faith. It's a confession that I have not arrived at but am still working towards. It's a prayer for courage to not lose hope and give up, especially in a world where there's reason for such hopelessness. It's also a testament to the central role that community has played in my spiritual formation as it's been lived out vocationally. And it's the story of God opening my eyes to the surprising gifts among pain and suffering in some of the most unlikely places in the world."

How is simplicity a spiritual discipline?

"Rather than trying to fit our spirituality into complex religious practices, we can look to Christ. He kept it simple. He taught lessons even children could understand. And He used everyday illustrations to explain the mysteries and secrets of the kingdom of God--which we tend to complicate and reserve for the religiously astute."

What can this book say to the church?

This book laments how trendy Christianity has insulated and isolated itself far from those who are poor. This book offers an alternative expression of Christian formation, one that is drawn from Scripture and lessons God has enlivened for me through many friendships around the world."

What is the one thing you'd want readers to come away with?

"My hope is that the reader would feel like spirituality is something accessible to everybody. You don't have to be a mystic or an aesthetic to be spiritual. But that you could find, in the everyday, ways to practice your

faith."

#### About the Author

Christopher L. Heuertz is founding partner of Gravity, a Center for Contemplative Activism, which exists to nurture the integral connection between Christian spirituality and activism. He and his wife Phileena Heuertz spent nearly twenty years traveling to over seventy countries working for women and children victimized by human traffickers in the commercial sex industry with Word Made Flesh, an organization that serves Jesus among the poorest of the world's poor and for which Chris served as International Director. Heuertz began his journey with social justice ministry in 1993, when he volunteered for several months in Kolkata, India, with Mother Theresa and the Missionaries of Charity. Heuertz married Phileena in 1996 they moved from India to Omaha, Nebraska, the headquarters of WMF where they now live. They then founded Gravity in 2012 to support the development of Christian consciousness by making contemplative practice accessible to individuals, communities and organizations who engage the challenging social justice perils of our time. Heuertz has shared his knowledge and experience with Christian culture at large through his books *Simple Spirituality and Friendship at the Margins*, coauthored with Christine Pohl. He has also been asked to speak at numerous conferences including Catalyst, Urban Youth Workers Institute, Passion, and Faith, Film and Justice. He has participated with Lausanne, Urbana, and To Write Love on Her Arms. Heuertz has written articles for *Christianity Today*, *The Other Journal*, and *Lausanne World Pulse*. In addition to his public speaking and writing, Heuertz is an ordained minister through the Association of Evangelical Churches and Ministries and an adjunct professor at Lakeview Seminary in Chennai.

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Chris Heuertz believes that any true path to spiritual sight ought to be simple. While he's not a contemplative and hardly a mystic, Chris has found, in the Bible and in his work with impoverished people, evidence of a simple spirituality. This way of humility, community, simplicity, submission and brokenness will help you see--no matter how dark things get.

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- Published on: 2008-07-02
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- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .50" w x 5.50" l, .46 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

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Why did you write *Simple Spirituality*?

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Simple, yet profound

By Jody Wiley Fernando

In spite of the popularity of the term "simplicity", it seems that not much is simple these days. "Real Simple" magazine gives guidance on decorating your table for a five course meal or coordinating your living room curtains with your TV remote control. Stores sell wall plaques declaring "Simplicity" for \$19.99 to add pizzazz to your home ambience.

To further complicate matters, we live in an information saturated society with the ability to access incredible amounts of knowledge in rapid fire succession. At times, this excessive knowledge spills over into spiritual lives, leaving us with piles of books, concordances, and commentaries with which to understand our spirituality. Sometimes the tools are useful, and sometimes, the weight of it all can be slightly overwhelming.

The attempt to sort through such complexities first drew me to a little book entitled *Simple Spirituality*. Written by Chris Heuertz, director of Word Made Flesh, an organization which serves among the poorest of the poor, *Simple Spirituality* stays true to its title by exploring five simple yet profound commitments:

- \* Humility
- \* Community
- \* Simplicity
- \* Submission

## \* Brokenness

In exploring these "lifestyle celebrations", Heuertz uses stories of his relationships with the poor around the world to illustrate the depth of spirituality he has learned from the poor. He examines what the wealthy western church misses from its lack of connection to the poor. "I believe that God is using the cries of our friends who suffer in poverty today to call the church out of its sound-proof sanctuaries," he writes. "God is challenging the church to respond to a world in need. Too often, however, the church has isolated itself and failed to listen, and thus contributed to the suffering. God is calling us to establish communities that offer the prophetic presence of Christ in today's world."

Heuertz addresses the temptation to use personal geography to justify disengaging from the difficulties of the rest of the world. His conclusion that "those who go without the basic necessities of life, regardless of their geographical location or proximity, are nevertheless counted as our family: fellow believers in the Sudan or Sri Lanka or Peru are as much an intrinsic part of the body of Christ as are the Methodists, Presbyterians, or Catholics down the street." He asserts that it is simplicity that helps us to remember such family obligations.

With deep gentleness, Heuertz uses the brokenness of the world as a springboard for spiritual vitality. Using what he calls the "Five Stones of Brokenness" - humility, community, simplicity, submission, and brokenness - he challenges those of us who live in plenty to seek a fuller faith by reconsidering how we might "live more simply so others may simply live" (Mother Theresa).

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Review of

By Daniel Morehead

Review: Simple Spirituality: Learning to See God in a Broken World  
by Christopher Heuertz

What a delightful little book!

It seems part memoir, though from someone too young to write a memoir, part theological reflection, though simple in its aims, and part guide, though not from someone who has arrived.

I had the good fortune of meeting Chris while he and his wife Phileena were on a sabbatical from their work with Word Made Flesh [...], an organization that feels called by Jesus to birth communities which practice the presence and proclamation of the Kingdom of God among the poorest of the poor.

As the title suggests, this is a book about seeing God. With a fair measure of humility, it discusses both where to look and what it takes to see. Heuertz uses stories, his own and his friends, to make his points. It's a personal book, a book designed to be approachable in its writing and tone, and a book where Heuertz argues that spirituality is often made too difficult.

There is much to commend in Heuertz' book. He discusses five spiritual disciplines that he sees as essential to shaping the Christian life: humility, community, simplicity, submission, and brokenness. His life, work and stories continually point to those who are poor, marginalized, and exploited in society. This is the strength of the book. He is right to suggest that Christianity errs when it insulates and isolates itself from those who are poor, because in so doing it insulates and isolates itself from Jesus. The book gives snapshots of a life transformed by eschewing such isolation and it speaks to some of the pitfalls of our lives: our pride, individualism and independence, lives of excess, desire to be in control and be on the winning team. These pitfalls warp our lives and our churches making Christianity far from compelling.

Heuertz' book weighs in at a mere 150 pages (with afterword, epilogue, and acknowledgments and the print isn't small). Published by a wing of IVP, Likewise Books seeks to publish books that support a practicable, active faith. Heuertz' book fits in this vein, but possesses a wisdom which outstrips its simple and conversational writing. Part of this comes from hard won experience, part from relying heavily on some great thinkers and Christian practitioners (though they aren't necessarily ones with which everyone will be familiar). The reflections are wide-ranging:

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"Humility is a principle and virtue that flows from love in its purest form."

[about MySpace and Facebook] "I wonder if this virtual environment is actually damaging the spirit of true community because they're actually more closely related to role playing games."

"Our view of poverty [unfortunately] becomes defined not by access to resources or opportunity but by possessions."

"...if we are unable to give something away, then we do not possess it, rather it possesses us."

"On one hand, we assumed that giving to someone begging encourages a lifestyle of pathetic dependency. They all seem to have the same needs, but many of them fabricate stories to prey on the emotions of rich foreigners. It is also a challenge to determine whether the man, woman or child is being forced to beg. Black markets (informal economic endeavors) around the world have been known to kidnap children and intentionally mutilate them, gouge out their eyes, or otherwise maim them, then place them in strategic locations to earn money for their handlers. On the other hand, the man, woman, or child begging from you may literally be dying before your eyes. How, then, can you not give? Scripture says, 'Give to the one who asks you' (Matthew 5:42). But does that mean giving exactly what they ask?"

"When we don't submit our lives to God and our possessions to people in need, when we mistake our financial and material blessings as personal provision rather than as resources with potential for kingdom development -- have we perpetuated an unjust imbalance between us and our neighbors?"

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It's Heuertz' stories, however, that hold the chapters together. Getting to meet his friends through the stories he tells is worth the price of the book.

The only contention I had with the book is that in his effort to show that spirituality can and does have connections to the everyday activities of our lives, Heuertz seemingly harbors an implicit anti-institutional stance toward Christian practice. His desire to show us Jesus in the lives of those who happen to be poor is commendable, but that doesn't necessitate his worry about trying to fit our spirituality into complex religious practices. While religious practices can become corrupted or lose the purpose for which they created, all practices need institutions to sustain them. In a way, Heuertz knows this insofar as he works for the WMF organization. We need to police our institutions and keep them from becoming parasitic on the practices which they sustain and we need to make sure that they evolve with the evolution of our practices. However, while Heuertz is right to refresh us by returning our gaze to Jesus in and through those who might be considered least, the book could do more to think through God's creation and use of institutions for God's redemptive plans. Do our practices of baptism, eucharist, and ministry make connections to humility, community, simplicity, submission, and brokenness? Do they drive us to seek Jesus in the poor? This a

criticism of what he does not say rather than what he says and in that sense perhaps the book (or his view of spirituality) is refreshing but too simple.

This is only Heuertz' first book, and what he does say I highly recommend. I promise you'll gain something from his discussion of humility, community, simplicity, submission, and brokenness. For a welterweight book, *Simple Spirituality* occasionally throws a cruiserweight punch.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Christianity that makes a difference!

By John M. Hanna

As the International Director of Word Made Flesh, an organization that serves Jesus among the poorest of the poor, in slums, sewers, refugee camps, and red light districts, Christopher Heuertz sees the logical application of holiness and the redemptive work of sanctification as compassion. Part memoir, part theological reflection, *Simple Spirituality* is a call to imitate the ministry of Christ through humility, community, simplicity, submission, and brokenness. Recalling great men of the faith such as John Wesley and Saint Francis of Assisi, this is a much needed book to help break North American believers out of the complacency we've been for quite some time. The forward by Shane Claiborne is in itself nearly worth the price of the book. This is an important book.

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# **SIMPLE SPIRITUALITY: LEARNING TO SEE GOD IN A BROKEN WORLD BY CHRISTOPHER L. HEUERTZ PDF**

Guides Simple Spirituality: Learning To See God In A Broken World By Christopher L. Heuertz, from easy to difficult one will certainly be a really beneficial operates that you can require to change your life. It will not give you negative declaration unless you do not get the meaning. This is undoubtedly to do in checking out a book to get rid of the definition. Commonly, this book entitled Simple Spirituality: Learning To See God In A Broken World By Christopher L. Heuertz is read considering that you actually similar to this sort of book. So, you can get simpler to recognize the impression and meaning. Again to always keep in mind is by reading this book **Simple Spirituality: Learning To See God In A Broken World By Christopher L. Heuertz**, you can satisfy hat your curiosity begin by finishing this reading e-book.

## Review

This is the book I have been searching for. I will read it, absorb it, and then send a copy to all of our member care people. It is not a "how to" book on spiritual disciplines, but it gets to the heart of spirituality. It will become a central text for our spiritual formation conferences. (Jonathan B. Edwards, EMQ, July 2009)

Huertz leaves no luxury in this brief but powerful volume - what he is proposing is nothing short of a lifestyle transformation by way of loving and serving the poor and marginalized. If Huertz is successful at anything with this book, it's the gaping hole he puts in the tendency for Christians to have a merely devotional relationship with God and an ideological relationship with the world outside our comfort zones. I recommend it to anyone who is, in the words of Shane Claiborne in his endorsement, "ready to see." (John O'Hara ([www.oharaville.com](http://www.oharaville.com)), January 10, 2009)

Don't read Simple Spirituality if you don't want to be convicted. Being a Christian, according to Heuertz, is about ministry to the broken; not merely to a broken world, but to those who are hurting, vulnerable and broken in the world. Simple Spirituality will make us uncomfortable with our materialistic Christian ways. (Frank Mills, Borderlands Reviews, ([frankamills.com](http://frankamills.com)), October 2008)

Heuertz is simply an amazing guy with amazing stories about his life. (Dustin Nelson, The Journal of Student Ministries, September/October 2008)

Heuertz wrote a vulnerable book, one that puts his heart on display, and I couldn't help but want to let his words do work on my soul--but that takes more time. Heuertz doesn't claim to offer any secrets to spiritual success. Instead, he shares what God is teaching him through his friends, who happen to be the poorest of the poor. (Young Anabaptist Radicals, July 8, 2008)

Heuertz has an intimate knowledge of serving the poor and a deep hinger for spiritual asceticism, and his work provides a needed guide for the next generation of Christians who desire full service toward the work of God in both the immanent and transcendent realms. (Chris Keller, TheOtherJournal.com, July 22, 2008)

Chris understandable resists a formulaic, step-by-step spiritual formation in his presentation. Instead, his probing questions and personal stories are more like signposts on a lifelong journey; they let us know which direction on the path to take. Chris outlines a way of following Jesus that is paradoxically self-annihilating and liberating, impossible yet within reach. (all the small things blog, July 13, 2008)

With deep gentleness, Heuertz uses the brokenness of the world as a springboard for spiritual vitality. Using what he calls the "Five Stones of Brokenness," he challenges those of us who live in plenty to seek a fuller faith by reconsidering how we might "live more simply so others may simply live." (Ghandi) (The Link Between, July 27, 2008)

"Simple Spirituality ambushed me through stories about Chris Heuertz's vulnerable friends--harsh vignettes that reduced me to tears. They caused me to reflect upon the consecration of my own spiritual journey and my readiness to enter into deeper relationships with those who Jesus wants to love so intensely through the church." (Mark Petersen, Executive Director, Bridgeway Foundation, Toronto, Canada)

"Chris offers a compelling invitation to a spirituality centered in the life, teaching and person of Jesus--an invitation that is both threatening and liberating, challenging and invigorating; and one that, in the end, is difficult to dismiss by anyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus." (Stuart Erny, director of campus ministries and codirector of AU--East Africa, Anderson University)

"Through his personal vulnerability, tender insights and unflinching truthfulness, Chris Heuertz invites readers to see, love and live more fully. Simple Spirituality is a compelling book with an important message." (Christine D. Pohl, professor of social ethics, Asbury Theological Seminary)

"Chris Heuertz has written a thoughtful, compelling invitation to think, trust and act more deeply in faith. He is aware of the enormous challenges we face and of the thickness of anxiety that can undermine faith. In the midst of that, he keeps his head clear, his heart focused and his words accessible. This book will be a source of strength and encouragement among those who are serious about 'following.'" (Walter Brueggemann, Professor Emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary)

"I have had my fill of spiritual devotional books and had pretty much decided not to pick up another one. Too many clones filled with formulas and occasionally sprinkled with quotes from the Bible. Most of the authors seem to be groping for a five-minute magical escape from life in the contemporary world. But Simple Spirituality caught my attention and drew me in. Instead of prescribing answers, Chris tells us about his deepest struggles and how God gives him release and victory through the disciplines of humility, community, simplicity, submission and brokenness. His narrative is seasoned with poignant stories about his friends, and his wholehearted obedience to God authenticates his message." (Norman G. Wilson, Ph.D., coordinator of intercultural studies, Indiana Wesleyan University)

"When Chris Heuertz speaks, I always listen carefully." (Roger Parrott, president, Belhaven College)

"Simple Spirituality brings together three critical transforming themes--simplicity, spirituality and a broken world--and captures the profoundness of them through very simple real-life narratives. The book not only meets a critical need in the mission world but raises critical questions for those working among the poor and the oppressed to grapple with. Chris and his wife, Phileena, have been a blessing--people of passion and simplicity. I am sure readers would be blessed." (Jayakumar Christian, National Director, World Vision India)

"Chris Heuertz's ability to weave real-life stories with scriptural and theological reflection makes this a very engaging and refreshing book. At a time when the gap between the poor and rich continues to grow, Chris reminds us that what the gospel commands us to do is not so much to do things for the poor, but to become friends, indeed sit at the same table, with the poor. What makes such a duty possible, even delightful, are such gifts as humility, community, simplicity, submission and brokenness--simple spirituality, he calls it!" (Emmanuel Katongole, Associate Research Professor of Theology and World Christianity, and codirector of



the Center for Reconciliation, Duke Divinity School)

"For those of us in the affluent West, spirituality has become muddled by materialism and complicated by our frenetic pace of life. Chris Heuertz helps to unwind the suffocating insulation that cocoons us and stunts our spiritual growth. From his amazing array of experiences among the poor, Chris has been educated in the seminary of the slums. In this deep but accessible work, he draws us alongside the prostitutes, the dying, the disabled and the beggars to help us learn what he has learned--that sitting so close to the heart of God, the poor have the proximity and perspective to teach us the art of simple spirituality." (Scott A. Bessenecker, director, InterVarsity Global Projects)

"There's no doubt about it: Chris Heuertz has found Jesus among the poorest of the poor--a Jesus who calls us to humility, community, simplicity, submission and brokenness. Throughout *Simple Spirituality*, as he shares his experiences from around the globe, he challenges and inspires us all to seek Jesus and follow him with renewed passion and integrity. Read it and be transformed." (Stephen A. Seamands, professor of Christian doctrine, Asbury Theological Seminary)

"This is a challenging and appealing book. It reveals the part of love to Jesus and of Jesus--presence to the poor, the broken and the vulnerable. Chris has a gentle and realistic way of showing that this path which can appear as austere, suffering and insecure is tempered, rendered human and Christian and even enjoyable through meetings of love and of tenderness, which heal us, liberate us, give us strength and new life." (Jean Vanier, founder of the communities of L'Arche)

From the Author

Why did you write *Simple Spirituality*?

"The book is a reflection of my own spiritual journey. I wrote it to remember the simple touch points that have helped cultivate my faith. It's a confession that I have not arrived at but am still working towards. It's a prayer for courage to not lose hope and give up, especially in a world where there's reason for such hopelessness. It's also a testament to the central role that community has played in my spiritual formation as it's been lived out vocationally. And it's the story of God opening my eyes to the surprising gifts among pain and suffering in some of the most unlikely places in the world."

How is simplicity a spiritual discipline?

"Rather than trying to fit our spirituality into complex religious practices, we can look to Christ. He kept it simple. He taught lessons even children could understand. And He used everyday illustrations to explain the mysteries and secrets of the kingdom of God--which we tend to complicate and reserve for the religiously astute."

What can this book say to the church?

This book laments how trendy Christianity has insulated and isolated itself far from those who are poor. This book offers an alternative expression of Christian formation, one that is drawn from Scripture and lessons God has enlivened for me through many friendships around the world."

What is the one thing you'd want readers to come away with?

"My hope is that the reader would feel like spirituality is something accessible to everybody. You don't have to be a mystic or an aesthetic to be spiritual. But that you could find, in the everyday, ways to practice your faith."

About the Author

Christopher L. Heuertz is founding partner of Gravity, a Center for Contemplative Activism, which exists to nurture the integral connection between Christian spirituality and activism. He and his wife Phileena Heuertz

spent nearly twenty years traveling to over seventy countries working for women and children victimized by human traffickers in the commercial sex industry with Word Made Flesh, an organization that serves Jesus among the poorest of the world's poor and for which Chris served as International Director. Heuertz began his journey with social justice ministry in 1993, when he volunteered for several months in Kolkata, India, with Mother Theresa and the Missionaries of Charity. Heuertz married Phileena in 1996 they moved from India to Omaha, Nebraska, the headquarters of WMF where they now live. They then founded Gravity in 2012 to support the development of Christian consciousness by making contemplative practice accessible to individuals, communities and organizations who engage the challenging social justice perils of our time. Heuertz has shared his knowledge and experience with Christian culture at large through his books *Simple Spirituality* and *Friendship at the Margins*, coauthored with Christine Pohl. He has also been asked to speak at numerous conferences including Catalyst, Urban Youth Workers Institute, Passion, and Faith, Film and Justice. He has participated with Lausanne, Urbana, and To Write Love on Her Arms. Heuertz has written articles for *Christianity Today*, *The Other Journal*, and *Lausanne World Pulse*. In addition to his public speaking and writing, Heuertz is an ordained minister through the Association of Evangelical Churches and Ministries and an adjunct professor at Lakeview Seminary in Chennai.

Shane Claiborne is a preacher, writer and lover of Jesus. He attended Eastern University, where he studied sociology and youth ministry. Claiborne is cofounder of The Simple Way and is currently a part of The Alternative Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He serves on the board of the Christian Community Development Association. He is the author of *The Irresistible Revolution* and coauthor of *Jesus for President*. Catch up with him at [thesimpleway.org](http://thesimpleway.org).

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