



Good Books to Read in 2026

A Free Book List from Selah International Counseling Ministries

Here are some of the most helpful books that have influenced my life and ministry. The following list includes books that have impacted me personally. Most are classics that I strive to reread often, but I've also added a few that were published in 2025 that are already shaping my thinking and how I live. I pray they will be a blessing and challenge to you!

- Chris Phillips

Rethink Yourself, by Trevin Wax

This is a foundational work on biblical identity, helping us replace self-focus with gospel-shaped truth. Trevin exposes how our distorted views of self fuel anxiety, comparison, and fear. This is also a wonderful resource for parents of teens or a study for older teens and young adults.

Renovation of the Heart, by Dallas Willard

This book impacted my life deeply a few years ago in the area of spiritual formation, and I refer to it often in my personal walk and in counseling. The author emphasizes that true change flows from the inner person, not external behavior alone. Willard has a unique way of helping the reader see how God transforms our thoughts, desires, and will through loving submission to Christ.

Side by Side, by Ed Welch

Welch effectively appeals to the need for biblical soul care in community, reminding us that God uses ordinary Christ-followers in the local church to bring hope and healing to fellow believers. The emphasis is on listening well, speaking wisely, and walking patiently with others through Scripture. Many pastors have experienced change in the culture of their church by following these biblical principles.

The Calvary Road, by Roy Hession

In this classic, Hession points us to the cross and shows us that humility and repentance are the pathway to revival and healing. For over half a century, this small book has effectively called believers to abandon pride and self-reliance and to surrender daily before Christ. Every believer should read this book at least once.

Lies My Therapist Told Me, by Dr. Greg Gifford

The ACBC book of the year for 2025 challenges the common cultural belief that healing comes primarily from self-focus, self-esteem, and self-expression. Gifford helps expose how many modern therapeutic messages subtly contradict Scripture by minimizing sin, responsibility, and the need for repentance. Gifford compassionately redirects readers to the sufficiency of Christ and God's Word as the true source of hope, change, and lasting healing.

Made for Friendship, by Drew Hunter

I recently came across this book and was pleased and challenged with Hunter's premise that spiritual growth and faithfulness are best formed through intentional, Christ-centered relationships. It is an excellent resource for those who are seeking transparency and mutual encouragement through spiritual friendships.

Mission to the Headhunters, by Frank and Marie Drown

We were honored to be in a missions conference with the Drowns years ago and observe their humble, firm faith in the Lord through remarkable hardship. They were friends of Jim and Elizabeth Elliot, and Frank had the horrible job of pulling Jim and the other four missionaries out of the water after they were martyred. Their story will remind you that God is at work in suffering.

Resolving Conflict, by Lou Priolo

This book is a resource that we use often at Selah International Counseling Ministries. It is the most helpful and practical book on resolving personal conflict in relationships that I have read. Priolo does not focus on merely changing behavior, but rather on pursuing reconciliation through repentance, forgiveness, and obedience to Scripture. I have personally seen marriages, families, and churches find healing by following the biblical principles Priolo lays out.

The Clay Pot Conspiracy, by Dave Harvey

Harvey's transparent and powerful message calls ministry leaders out of isolation to transforming grace through honest dependence upon God and the body of Christ. You will identify with his journey and gain hope through God's Word for whatever you have faced or will face in the year to come.

Hudson Taylor: The Growth of a Soul and Hudson Taylor: The Growth of a Work of God, by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor

Few biographies have inspired me like this extensive work by Hudson Taylor's son and daughter-in-law. In this two-volume biography, they recount the history and miracles accomplished through God's working in Hudson Taylor's life and in the China Inland Mission. It will inspire you and remind you to trust God's promises even when circumstances feel overwhelming.

Family Worship, by Donald Whitney

Whitney reminds us that discipleship begins in the home through faithful rhythms of Scripture, prayer, and singing. This small book has been used in the lives of pastors and missionaries to establish simple changes for any lifestyle. Small changes can have an eternal impact.

The Discipline of Grace, by Jerry Bridges

Used often in Selah's counseling ministry, this book by Bridges speaks to the balance of grace and the pursuit of holiness in the Christian life. It reassures us that sanctification flows from resting in Christ while faithfully pursuing obedience. A must-read for those who are wrestling with a performance mindset in ministry and the Christian life.