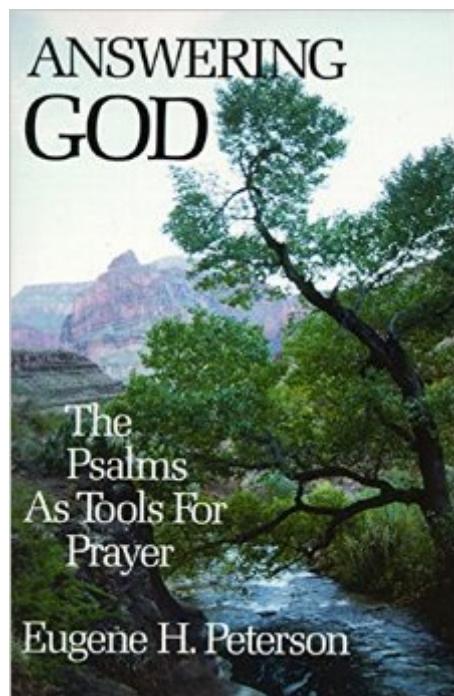


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Answering God: The Psalms As Tools For Prayer



Synopsis

Eugene H. Peterson speaks to Christians who realize the necessity for prayer and yearn for it but who find their prayer unconvincing and unsatisfying. Addressing the causes of this dissatisfaction, Answering God offers guidelines for using the Psalms as dynamic tools for prayer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This little book is not only one of the best books I have read on the subject of prayer, it is also one of the finest books on Christian spirituality. Though I have read other books by Peterson, this may be Peterson at his authorial best. With laser-focus, he etches into each chapter the contour of his thesis: that prayer is initiated by God's acting, speaking, revealing and that our prayers are responses, answers in a dialogue that lifts us to the realization of His purpose. The vocabulary of both initiation and response is found in the book of Psalms. Concise chapters focus on Psalms as text, way, language, story, etc., while within each chapter, individual psalms furnish sparse yet rich interaction with the biblical text. The goal is to reinforce the theme, not exposit the material, yet Peterson's brief interactions demonstrate exegetical precision and insight. Brief as this 151 page monograph may be (HarperCollins paperback, 1989), recognition of lament, complaint, imprecation, community (liturgy) and praise as dimensions of the Psalter are neither lacking nor trivial. In fact, each chapter provides the reader with intellectually substantive, soul-nourishing satisfaction. The plain language, aimed at a spiritually hungry reader rather than a specialist, masks the author's depth of study in his subject. Footnotes reveal the time spent in Gunkel, Mowinckel, Westermann,

Brueggemann, Luther, Calvin, Barth, and other theological giants. Insights from linguistic philosophy, psychology, literature and ordinary life-experience round out the mine from which the author effortlessly quarries gemstones and offers riches to the attentive, receptive reader. The material on metaphor is, in itself, a shining facet, valuable to any user of words.

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