

1/19/2017

At one of the listening sessions, one request was for recommended devotional materials. As I thought about what to recommend, I found myself thinking about more than just devotionals. The following suggestions are those that rose to the top when I thought of recommendations to pass along. This list gives a glimpse into some things that I enjoy, have appreciated, been shaped by, and to which I continue to return. If you choose to pursue any of them, I pray God may use them to his glory and your blessing.

*In Christ,  
Pastor George*



## DAILY DEVOTIONALS

- *The Bible* – I just had to put this at the top!
- *Near Unto God* (Abraham Kuyper) – I like both the original translated into English and the update by James Schaap. I received James Schaap’s update when I made profession of faith, and it is one of the devotionals I have come back to most often. It is much abbreviated and has updated illustrations from the original.
- *Stilling the Storm* (Paul David Tripp)

## CHILDREN / YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONALS

- *Comforting Hearts, Teaching Minds* (Starr Meade) – a family devotional that goes through the Heidelberg Catechism in a year.
- *Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing* (Sally Lloyd-Jones)
- *The Jesus Storybook* (Sally Lloyd-Jones)
- *The Big Picture Story Bible* (David Helm)
- *The Gospel Story Bible* (Marty Machowski)
- *At Your Baptism* (Carrie Steenwyk and John Witvliet)

## DEVOTIONAL READING

- *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society* (Eugene Peterson) – reflections on the Psalms of Ascent (120-134) by an author whose other writings have helped me think in a grounded and God-glorifying manner about ministry.
- *The Pastor* (Eugene Peterson) – A memoir on life as a pastor, well worth reading, good stories interspersed with theological reflections.
- *The Good News We Almost Forgot* (Kevin DeYoung) – fresh reflections on each Lord’s Day of the Heidelberg Catechism
- *Just Do Something* (Kevin DeYoung) – a short helpful read on discerning God’s will in your life.

## RECOMMENDED MAGAZINE

- *Modern Reformation* – published quarterly by Whitehorse Inn

## RECOMMENDED PODCASTS

- *Whitehorse Inn* – a group of pastors and theologians, headed by Michael Horton from Westminster Seminary California, reflect on the gospel, theology and life.
- *Dead Reckoning* – an occasional podcast dealing with current events from a reformed Christian perspective. From their website: *Dead Reckoning features intelligent, entertaining and relevant Christian conversations on religion, economics, lifestyle, politics, art, and culture. FOX, CNN and other outlets don't find God, the Bible, or faith very interesting or important for understanding the times. Dead Reckoning disagrees.*

## THEOLOGY / BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE

- *Delighting in the Trinity* (Michael Reeves)
- *Rejoicing in Christ* (Michael Reeves)
- *You Are What You Love* (James K. A. Smith)
- *The Meaning of Marriage* (Timothy Keller)
- *The Prodigal God* (Timothy Keller)
- *Prayer* (Timothy Keller)
- *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* (Timothy Keller)
- *Sacred Marriage* (Gary Thomas)
- *Married for God: Making Your Marriage the Best It Can Be* (Christopher Ash)

## NOVELISTS

I love to read novels; they help give me insights into human nature and experiences I have never had myself. Novels provide a holiday, letting me escape into a different world for a short time, and they let me see the world through a different set of eyes than my own. The following authors are ones I find myself coming back to and rereading again and again because of the blessing I receive through their imaginative “secondary creations” as Tolkien described the task of creating a world in a story. In particular, I find I enjoy reading fantasy because a good fantasy author helps me see and reflect on issues in a completely different setting so that I can come to them with fresh eyes rather than thinking of them in my default mindset.

- J.R.R. Tolkien
- C.S. Lewis
- Stephen Lawhead – historical fiction/fantasy
- Brandon Sanderson – fantasy/science fiction
- J.K. Rowling – Harry Potter series

## MUSICIANS

- Andrew Peterson: *Behold the Lamb* – This is one of my favorite Christmas albums. It tells the story of salvation centered on Jesus’ birth. I highly recommend most everything he has recorded.
- Keith and Kristen Getty: *Songs for the Christian Life* – This album is full of songs reflecting on living life well to God’s glory in every aspect of life.
- Gregory Wilbur: *My Cry Ascends* – a wonderful collection of psalms and old hymns. I especially enjoy listening to this Sunday mornings before going to church.
- Praise Baby Collections: well done settings of classic hymns and newer songs, not just for babies as the title implies.

## GAMES

(Hint: If you like playing these games and are looking for someone to play with, call us. If you have never heard of these games before and are interested in learning, call us. We enjoy playing games.)

- Ticket to Ride board game – Richarla and I like the Europe version best but like to play any map you have
- Quiddler – a short-word card game
- Qwerkle – a strategic tile game involving matching colors and shapes