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Ferguson's "Still wrestling: Faith renewed through brokenness" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Ferguson Jr., L. (2018). *Still wrestling: Faith renewed through brokenness*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood Publishers. 222 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9781684260508

Your son and wife are murdered. Can you imagine keeping your faith despite this? Yet, this true story is all about the author's faith journey through tragedy, and how it was renewed through the brokenness he experienced. The author outlines his humbling account as a father, husband, and Church of Christ minister, and how he challenged God after his wife and special-needs son were brutally killed by a church member out on bond who had been charged with molesting their son. Through humor and transparency, he outlines his own shortcomings as he recovers from this traumatic experience, embracing his humanity along the way. Incorporating biblical examples of characters we can relate to, He claims that just as they were shaped by life's letdowns, we too can be transformed in our weakness, as God allows us to wrestle with him, finding triumph over tragedy.

Anyone who has suffered in life, witnessed affliction, or simply doubts God due to hardships should read this book. It is a wonderful testimony to surrendering control, and trusting God despite all the heartaches and questions that an unpredictable life in this world brings. It also reveals hope found through a new marriage and pastoral role. Exemplified is that it is okay to wrestle with God, whether through inquisitiveness, or by expressing emotions. The author admits he turned from God, but God never turned away from him. It is a good reminder that though God may allow us to experience heartaches, we can still hope in Him (Job 13:15).

Still Wrestling would function well in a small group Bible study. Because it is more devotional in nature, it is best suited for a church library, with questions listed at the end of each chapter for individual or group exercises based on Scripture. It does not contain bibliographic references, although it does have biblical ones. While it is not academic in nature, it could inspire any Bible college or seminary student aspiring to be in the ministry, preparing them for what reality might bring.

Reviewer

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