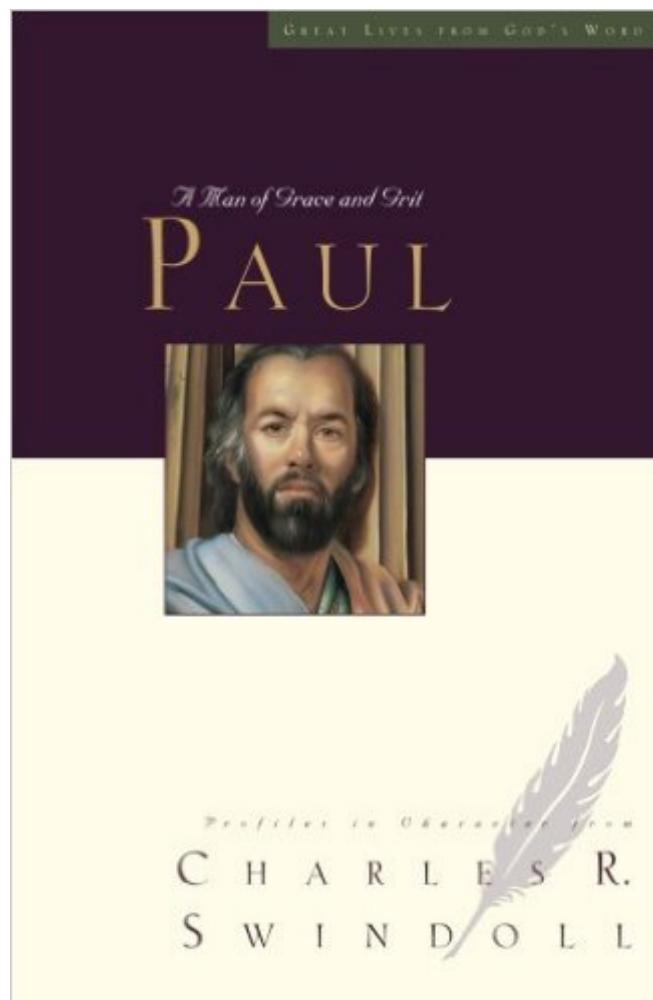


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Paul: A Man Of Grace And Grit (Great Lives Series)



Synopsis

The apostle Paul. The converted terrorist, inspired author, amazing teacher, and patient mentor. This colossal figure strode boldly onto the stage of the first-century world and left an indelible signature of greatness never to be forgotten. His life? Magnificent! And his ministry? Impressive. While assigned sainthood by some today, by his own description he was "the chief of all sinners." No other person in the Bible, aside from Christ Himself, had a more profound influence on his world and ours than Paul. He was a man of real grit, with a firmness of mind and spirit and unyielding courage in the face of personal hardship and danger. Tough, tenacious, and fiercely relentless, Paul pursued his divine mission with unflinching resolve. And God used him mightily to turn the world upside down for Christ in his generation. But Paul's message and his style were also marked by gentle grace. This man, who tormented and killed the saints of God, understood and explained grace better than any of his contemporaries. Why? Because he never got over his own gratitude as a recipient of it. God's super-abounding grace transformed this once-violent aggressor into a humble-but-powerful spokesman for Christ. A man with that much grit desperately needed that much grace. Perhaps that's why Paul's life is such a source of hope for us. If the chief of sinners can be forgiven and become God's chosen vessel, can He not forgive and use us as well? He can, if we too become people of both grace and grit. Paul is the sixth of a multi-volume series exploring Great Lives from God's Word and searching them to find the qualities that made them great. Join us for an exciting, in-depth look at this amazing life, as only Chuck Swindoll can describe it:Â Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charles Swindoll presents not just a biography of Paul, but also gives practical examples and applications of the principles that guided Paul's life so that the reader can also examine his or her own life, and apply these principles. Paul is introduced as a brutal persecutor and enemy of Christ. Yet by Grace he was redeemed and became the gentle apostle. This shows that no matter how dark our past is, how wretched we are, we are not outside the reach of God's wonderful and amazing grace. No one is beyond hope and no matter what you've done you can have a new beginning in Christ. Swindoll also tells of the seemingly insignificant people in Paul's life, the Ananias who was called to go to Paul while he was blinded, and the unnamed disciples who helped him escape Damascus in a basket, Aquila and Priscilla, two tentmakers who shared Paul's trade as he made his way on his journeys. Each of these people are part of the fabric of God's plan and purpose making a difference in someone else's life. God can use the most humble, broken vessels and do great things with them because it is His work and purpose. Therefore a lesson is that you never know whether the little act you did had a place in a much larger purpose, such as lowering Paul over a wall in the basket resulting in bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles and to the uttermost parts of the world. Be faithful in the little things and let God work the big picture. These and other examples, such as leadership, contentment, facing extreme circumstances, leaning on God's strength, etc., can all be gleaned out of Paul's life. Charles Swindoll does a wonderful job of weaving the biography with these insights. The best way to read this book is alongside your Bible.

Charles Swindoll's Paul: A man of grace and grit is a fascinating look at one of the New Testament's biggest contributors. Saul of Tarusus or better known as Paul the apostle is truly a man of grit. Born in a Jewish family. A devout follower of Judaism. A man devoted to Jewish law and persecuting Christians. Swindoll fleshes out Saul from the book of Acts in great detail. Saul persecuted Christians as Hitler persecuted Jews during the 1940's. Saul was a man who violently opposed to Christ, his teachings, and his followers. He hunted them down. Tried them, and stoned them. Odd that such a man would end up not only worshipping Jesus, but also writing some of the most beautiful words in the New Testament and spreading the gospel. How strange that such a man who spewed forth such hate toward Christians would turn around and write such a beautiful testament to love (Letter to Corinthians). Swindoll's Paul is presented in 22 chapters, that cover everything from

Paul's beginnings, meeting with Christ risen, to his ministry, and finally his death. Each chapter refers and reflects to appropriate bible passages, mostly those from Acts. What was surprising was that each chapter also ended in a reflection. For example, chapter 2: The violent capture of a rebel will, covers Saul's encounter with Christ. Here a violent man is converted into a spokes person for the very person Saul hates the most. Amazing really. Swindoll refers to this change as "Kicking against God's goads". "To kick against the goads" was a common expression found in both Greek and Latin literature, which rose from the practice of farmers goading their oxen in the fields. Goads were typically made from slender pieces of timber, blunt on one end and pointed on the other.

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