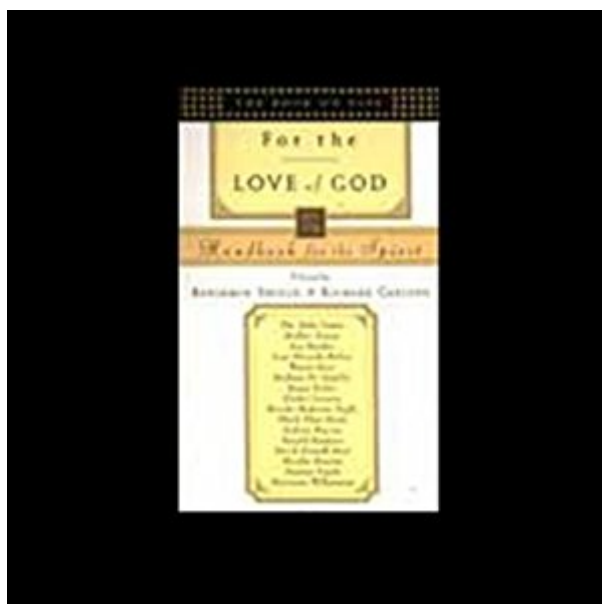


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# For The Love Of God



## Synopsis

' --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Abridged

Publisher: New World Library

Audible.com Release Date: December 16, 1999

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## Customer Reviews

This book was the key I had been looking for in reaching a mid-40's spiritual plateau. It is a book of answers and methods. From things as simple as focussing on the thoughts "In" and "Out" while breathing during meditation to the conflict between egoism and spiritualism. It is the kind of book one will keep on hand in times of crises to read over again. The format of brief 4-5 page essays is perfect for those with short attention spans.

Joseph Campbell said it well - and says it again in this new collection: "An intense experience of mystery is what one has to regard as the ultimate religious experience." If that's where you are in your own spiritual journey - then this book is for you. "Handbook for the Spirit" is a Who's Who of "old friends" in the spiritual field - too many names to list here. But the co-editors Dr. Richard Carlson and Dr. Benjamin Shield are old hands at sharing insights into the healing and happiness that can surprise us in our spiritual journeys. They've collected here some new, and some old, thoughts specifically about a person's relationship to the divine - to God or to other higher realms of spiritual truth. What I love about this particular collection is that, while it does share some speculative approaches to spirituality, the community of voices here also is rooted in traditional faiths as well. So, for example, we've got a great piece here by Sue Bender, author of the memoir, "Plain and Simple," about life among the Amish. Writing with her characteristic clarity, she gives us an 8-page reflection

on what she's learned from the Amish -- and from her experience of writing about the Amish. Rabbi Harold Kushner appears in this collection, too. For so many readers, his voice is like an old friend returning to share a few thoughts. As in most of these inspirational pieces, there's nothing here that's stunningly new to longtime readers. But it's like coming to a family reunion in which Kushner leans back and reminds us of various things, including the importance of Martin Buber's teachings. And, every now and then, there's a flash of awareness, for example: I enjoyed finding, toward the end of Kushner's chapter, this little gem: "When people ask me, 'Where is God?' I tell them I would rather rephrase the question to, 'When is God?'" Now, truth be told, I've heard this great question from a number of rabbis through the years. It's a brilliant reframing of our windows toward God. Nevertheless, as I finished Kushner's chapter, seeing the question afresh in that context - was like a little ray of light. That's how the very best "readers" in this genre are supposed to work. A huge "Bravo!" to Shield and Carlson and the whole circle of old friends who assembled this wonderful little gift.

I loved "For the Love of God" and, as the title claims, it is a "handbook for the Spirit". The essays range from Mother Teresa to the Dalai Lama, so as credentials go, it doesn't get better. This book works on the level of poetry - food for the soul. The only comparable book I can think of that achieves this same level of impact, is the divine and truly inspired "The Autobiography of Jesus of Nazareth and the Missing Years" by Richard G. Patton. The accumulated wisdom that is in "For the Love of God" becomes manifest in the profoundly moving "The Autobiography.." and for the first time I can believe Jesus as being a REAL human being. Either I am getting older or the authors of today are getting better at portraying our aspirations towards God. - I hope it's just them getting better. This is an excellent book, go for it!

This is a beautiful and inspiring book-for people of all faiths or those without. I have given it to friends and family and keep copies in my waiting room that never last long - they are intended to be taken. Everyone comments positively including teens. It does not proselytize a religion but provides beauty for the spirit.

The author speaks of the all-important need to attend to the needs of our soul and spiritual side. The Greek word "Kairos" depicts a person so absorbed in activity or contemplation that he/she loses a concept of time. Dr. Bernie Siegel MD urges us to find the true path. Dass urges us to have personal awareness of ourselves, the soul and incarnation afterward. Meditation and self-reflection are

important personal activities leading to self-actualization. The author criticizes society because it does not encourage us to explore the spiritual side. He explores the long journey taken by the soul into an endless eternity. In addition, the author describes the continuum of the earth and its extension into Divinity. Ultimately, the book points toward ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The book is well worth reading for an exploration on the spiritual side of life. Much of what we do in our daily lives tends toward the analytical and we rarely explore the intuitive/spiritual side of our existence.

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