

# The ELN Top 30 Book List

Have you ever heard the saying, "leaders read and readers lead"? It's true. Leaders tend to fuel their spirits, minds and imaginations with compelling material. This compilation of great books, each written to infuse and accelerate the growth of disciples and leaders, was developed with the help of many leaders throughout the nation. Crafted to include a variety of viewpoints and leadership perspectives, this list also includes books for readers at different reading levels. You'll find a mix of both classic and contemporary work, organized by the author's last name. A few things before you begin exploring...

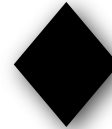
**The Rating System:** If you've ever been skiing or snowboarding, you know there is work involved whether you are a pro or just trying to get down the mountain in one piece! Confidence and expertise will move you from the bunny hill to a black diamond run if you're willing to do the work. This list is no different. Some books, especially the classics, will provide you with a more challenging read. But our promise is that every book listed (even those that are easier to read) will inspire you and dare you to grow as a follower of Christ! Look for the following symbols to gauge which "slope" will fit you best.



**All Access**



**Moderate Terrain**



**Challenging Terrain**

## Wanting more?

The reality of surveying so many leaders is this list is only the tip of the iceberg. If you're wanting more ideas of what to read, please visit the ELN Shelf on Shelfari to browse over 130 titles. Visit [www.shelfari.com/o1514567756/shelf](http://www.shelfari.com/o1514567756/shelf) to see the ELN Shelfari Shelf.

## Wondering where to start?

If the idea of even 30 books is sending you into a tail spin, we suggest the following starters. Think of it as your "ski school".



### 1. **Red Moon Rising** :: **Pete Greig**

Pete Greig's encounter at the edge of Europe, during a post-university backpacking trip on the Cliffs of Cape St. Vincent in Portugal, left him indelibly marked by a vision of faceless people rising up from the nations of the world, ready to engage in a profound movement of prayer in this modern age. The story of the 24-7 Prayer Movement weaves together engaging first hand encounters from Pete's life and amazing accounts of the courageous hearts within the "army of normal individuals...now simultaneously praying night and day around the world." Look to this book to shatter your heart, shatter your perceptions of prayer, and stir your spirit to bold desires.



### 2. **The Barbarian Ways** :: **Erwin McManus**

"McManus calls you to return to the ancient, primal, and dangerous faith of Jesus and his early disciples. Let go of the sanitized Christianity and get back to the powerful, raw, and ancient faith that chooses revolution over compromise, peril over safety, and passion over lukewarm and watered-down religion." (Book Cover)



### 3. **Mere Christianity** :: **C.S. Lewis**

A classic work. "Rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity's many denominations, C.S. Lewis provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith." (Book Cover)



**Victory Over the Darkness :: Neil T. Anderson**

“The powers of darkness attack us daily. But, as Dr. Neil Anderson shows in *Victory Over the Darkness*, you can have the power to conquer them by knowing who you are in Christ.” (Book Cover)



**Velvet Elvis :: Rob Bell**

Velvet Elvis is for anyone fascinated by the remarkable Jesus who jumps off the pages of the New Testament—but who aren't always as excited by the way some elements of the Church have packaged Him.



**The Cost of Discipleship :: Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

A highly influential book. Dietrich understood the cost of being a follower of Christ very well and gives key insight to the sacrifices it takes to be one. A classic work.



**Orthodoxy :: G.K. Chesterton**

Orthodoxy is subtitled "The Romance of Faith," because Chesterton—who deeply influenced C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien—makes a case that it is romance, mystery and fairy tales that best enable us to connect to the eternal. A classic work.



**Irresistible Revolution :: Shane Claiborne**

“Claiborne invites you into a movement of the Spirit that begins in the heart and extends through out hands into a broken world... challenging you to live out an authentic Christian faith. This book will comfort the disturbed, disturb the comfortable, and invite believers to change the world with Christ's radical love.” (Book Cover)



**Off Road Disciplines :: Earl Creps**

Earl Creps gives a sweeping overview of discipleship in the 21st century. His writing style gives the reader a helpful engagement of life with Christ through the realities of struggle.



**Introduction to the Devout Life :: Francis De Sales**

“Devotion is spiritual agility and vivacity” and De Sales offers a map to guide the reader in understanding how to lead such a life. He presents this map to all “...because all are called to the devout life. True devotion to God adorns every vocation.” (Book Cover)



**A Tale of Three Kings :: Gene Edwards**

Gene Edwards uses the story of David's struggle under King Saul as a metaphor for leading today. A classic.



**Christianity and Culture :: T.S. Eliot**

“One of our most prized essayists take a poignant look at two major elements that shape society—religion and culture. Originally published as two separate essays, both explore the very foundations on which modern-day societies are built.” (Book Cover)



**Organic God :: Margaret Feinberg**

“Through personal stories and scriptural insights, Margaret Feinberg shares glimpses of God's character - bighearted, kind, beautiful, mysterious - that point you to an authentic and naturally spiritual relationship with him, allowing you to truly discover God in a healthy, refreshing new way.” (Book Cover)



**Celebration of Discipline :: Richard Foster**

“*Celebration of Discipline* will help motivate Christians everywhere to embark on a journey of prayer and spiritual growth.” (Book Cover)





**Red Moon Rising :: Pete Greig**

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**Rees Howells, Intercessor :: Norman Grubbs**

"Rees Howells was a man peculiarly taught of God; one who learned the Bible as the Spirit made him live it. Every chapter of this biography is full of drama and light, showing how he faced the implications of an entire surrender, found the key to prevailing prayer, became the channel of a mighty revival in Africa, was taught the principles of divine healing, and progressed even further in faith until world events were affected by his prayers." (Book Cover)



**Celtic Ways of Evangelism :: George G. Hunter III**

Using the lens of the Celtic Christianity existing between the fifth and tenth centuries, Hunter emphasizes community, practical witness and sensitivity to God's creation as he shows how ancient practices are still applicable in our modern world and in fact, might better reach society than other efforts of evangelism.



**Imitation of Christ :: Thomas A. Kempis**

Possibly the most influential Christian text ever written. Kempis offered the medieval church a model for spirituality in a dark and difficult time and his work is still feeding people.



**Restoration: Returning the Torah of God to the Disciples of Jesus :: D. Thomas Lancaster**

Biblical Christianity was originally a sect of Judaism that believed in Jesus and revered the Torah as the core of her scriptures. Restoration is a riveting argument for the value of understanding and re-connecting to that original biblical expression of faith in Jesus.



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**The Great Divorce :: C.S. Lewis**

Using a variety of characters and stories set in the context of a visit via bus ride from hell to heaven, Lewis explores the various hang-ups that keep people from letting go and accepting God's love and forgiveness. A classic.



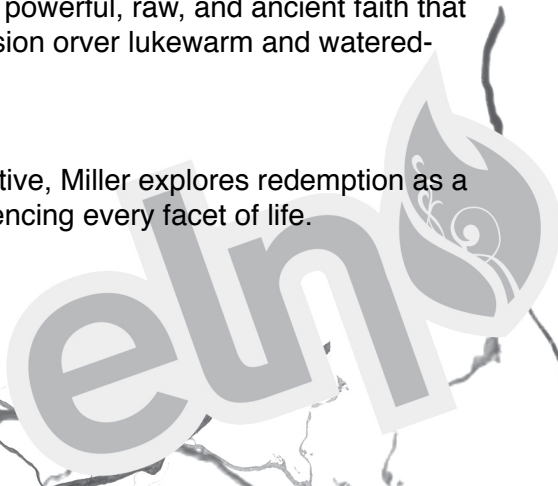
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**Searching for God Knows What :: Donald Miller**

Through a personal narrative that is both endearing and provocative, Miller explores redemption as a universal desire fulfilled only completely through Christ and influencing every facet of life.





**Humility :: Andrew Murray**

Murray speaks of humility not as an unattainable virtue or an add on to life but as a defining characteristic of a life devoted to God. A classic.



**In the Name of Jesus :: Henri Nouwen**

“Henri Nouwen undertakes to talk about Christian leadership and provides a profile in stark contrast to worldly values. His ideal leader is a praying leader, a vulnerable leader, a trusting leader, one who voluntarily chooses a life of downward mobility.” (Book Cover)



**A Long Obedience in the Same Direction :: Eugene Peterson**

With the back drop of the Psalms of Assent, Peterson artfully and firmly discusses the reality of obedience- it is not instant nor is it negotiable if we are to grow in Christ.



**Emotionally Healthy Spirituality :: Pete Scazzaro**

Scazzaro does not just consider the integration of emotional health and contemplative spirituality. Rather he delves into the importance of practicing vital rhythms of rest and contemplation, looking closely at the familial foundation a life has been built on, and owning limitations, and invites the reader to do the same. For those who want to deeply grow, a must read.



**The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life :: Hannah W. Smith**

“The secret of happiness is to be wholly consecrated to God.” From a Quaker background, Smith takes the reader through a journey of what it means to be consecrated to God, seeing Him in every situation and committing to following Him.



**Too Christian, Too Pagan :: Dick Staub**

“Staub calls us to communicate the Gospel in the most risky, satisfying, and compelling way possible: by living unpretentious faith amid the perils and promise of our society... It’s about following Christ out of our comfort zones into places we’d never expect, getting as close to sinners and their lives as Jesus Himself wants to get.” (Book Cover)



**A Simple Path :: Mother Teresa**

“We have all been created for greater things -- to love and to be loved. Love is love -- to love a person without any conditions, without any expectations. Works of love are works of peace and purity” (Mother Teresa).



**The Pursuit of God :: A.W. Tozer**

“This book is a modest attempt to aid God’s hungry children so to find Him. Nothing here is new except in the sense that it is a discovery which my own heart has made of spiritual realities most delightful and wonderful to me. Others before me have gone much farther into these holy mysteries than I have done, but if my fire is not large it is yet real, and there may be those who can light their candle at its flame” (A. W. Tozer).



**Exclusion and Embrace :: Miroslav Volf**

“A theological exploration of identity, otherness, and reconciliation”, *Exclusion and Embrace* is Volf’s theology in response to the brutal civil war that happened in his country. It is a fantastic perspective on who Jesus was, and how we are to live despite a place where evil is still around.



**The Spirit of the Disciplines :: Dallas Willard**

“Willard... Presents a way of living that enables men and women to enjoy the fruit of the Christian life. He reveals how the key to self-transformation resides in the practice of the spiritual disciplines, and how their practice affirms human life to the fullest.” (Book Cover)