

YOUR GOD IS  
*TOO*  
*GLORIOUS*

|| FINDING GOD *in*  
|| *the* MOST UNEXPECTED PLACES

CHAD BIRD

# NOTES

## Chapter 1 God Hiding in Plain Sight

1. In his excellent book *Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World*, Michael Horton devotes chapter 5 to discussing how ambition went from being a vice to a virtue (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014), 87–103.
2. Brennan Manning, *Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2015), preface to the 2002 edition, xvii.
3. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, vol. 23 of *Great Books of the Western World*, ed. Robert M. Hutchins (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1952), 85.
4. Manning, *Abba's Child*, xvii.

## Chapter 2 Friends in Low Places

1. For this insight I am indebted to A. J. Swoboda, who discusses Jesus's amazement in *A Glorious Dark: Finding God in the Tension between Belief and Experience* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015), 177.

## Chapter 3 Godforsaken Hangouts

1. Robert Capon, *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment: Paradox, Outrage, and Vindication in the Parables of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002), 452.
2. Tikhon Shevkunov, *Everyday Saints and Other Stories*, trans. Julian H. Lowenfeld (Dallas: Pokrov Publications: 2012), chapter on "Father Gabriel."
3. Ibid.

## Chapter 4 Unorthodox Headhunter

1. Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* (New York: Convergent Books: 2015), 39.
2. John Kleinig, *Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2008), 63–64.

## Chapter 5 Bringing a Knife to a Gunfight

1. As quoted by Jean Danielou, S. J., *The Bible and the Liturgy* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1956), 41.

2. There are, of course, a variety of teachings about baptism in the church. Some understand this verse to refer to spiritual baptism, others to water baptism. Rather than an either/or, a both/and fits well here. Water baptism is the baptism of the Spirit. He is active in the water with his Word to unite us to Christ and his saving work.

3. William H. C. Propp calls the staffs of Moses and Aaron the “projections onto the terrestrial plane of Yahweh’s incorporeal arm” in his commentary, *Exodus 1–18: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 2 of *The Anchor Bible* (New York: Doubleday, 1998), 229.

4. R. J. Grunewald, *Reading Romans with Luther* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2016), 35.

5. Tish Harrison Warren, *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2016), 19.

## Chapter 6 Saints John and Jane Doe

1. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* (New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2002), 33.

## Chapter 7 Unsexy Church

1. English translations render the phrase as “a man, the LORD,” as “a man with the help of the LORD” (ESV), or as “with the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man” (NIV). The Hebrew particle *eth*, which is placed before “the LORD,” can either mark the definite accusative or mean “with” or “together with.” OT scholar Walter C. Kaiser Jr. writes, “Perhaps Eve thought Cain was [that male descendant promised in Gen 3:15]. She named her son Cain saying that she had ‘gotten a man, even the Lord’ (Gen. 4:1); at least, that is one way of rendering this enigmatic phrase.” *Toward an Old Testament Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978), 79.

2. C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters* (New York: Macmillan, 1961), 116.

3. *Ibid.*, 119.

4. Jen Pollock Michel, *Teach Us to Want: Longing, Ambition and the Life of Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2014), 64.

5. James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2016), 67.

6. *Ibid.*, 23.

7. Michael Horton, *Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014), 35.

8. Kate Hankey, William G. Fischer, “I Love to Tell the Story,” 1866, 1869.

9. Martin Luther, *Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 6–14*, vol. 2 of *Luther’s Works*, American edition (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960), 334.

10. *Ibid.*

## Chapter 8 Learning about God in the Devil's Classroom

1. "Love Comes from the Other Side of Town," *Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind*, MCA Records, 1984.
2. As quoted by John Kleinig in "Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio: What Makes a Theologian?" *Concordia Theological Quarterly* 66/2 (2002), 255–67, emphasis mine.
3. Chad Bird, *Night Driving: Notes from a Prodigal Soul* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).
4. Johnson Oatman Jr., "Count Your Blessings," 1897.
5. C. S. Lewis, "Answers to Questions on Christianity," *God in the Dock* (New York: HarperOne, 2014), 58.

## Chapter 9 Life in the Blood

1. Eugene H. Peterson, *The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction*, vol. 17 in *The Leadership Library* (Carol Stream, IL: Word Publishing, 1989), 77.
2. Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* (New York: Harper and Row, 1973), 43.
3. For an in-depth treatment of the meaning and origin of the phrase *incurvatus in se*, along with its popular manifestations in modern life, see Heather Choate Davis, *Man Turned In On Himself: Understanding Sin in 21st-Century America* (Icktank Press, 2014).
4. John Kleinig, *Leviticus*, vol. 2 in *Concordia Commentary* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2003), 365.
5. For the quotes and background about Gerecke, I am indebted to Tim Townsend, who documents the story in *Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis* (New York: HarperCollins, 2014), 105. See also F. T. Grossmith, *The Cross and the Swastika* (Boise, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1984).
6. Townsend, *Mission at Nuremberg*, 11.
7. *Ibid.*, 181.
8. *Ibid.*, 174.
9. *Ibid.*, 271.
10. *Ibid.*, 272.

## Chapter 10 Doing Nothing to the Glory of God

1. Nahum Sarna, *Genesis*, vol. 1 of *The JPS Torah Commentary* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989), 15.
2. Edward Mote, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less," 1834.
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York: Collier Books, 1963), 99.
4. Hayim N. Bialik and Yehoshua H. Ravnitzky, eds., *The Book of Legends*, trans. William G. Braude (New York: Schocken Books, 1992), 73.