

F+BC TODAY

U N L E A S H I N G T H E G O S P E L

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Full-Brained Christianity



F+BC

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MAIN SERVICE
| Physical & Youtube |
Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

YOUTH SERVICE
| Physical |
Sundays 8:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL
For Ages 3 to 12
(Preschool to std 6)
Physical Classes
8:45am / 11:15am

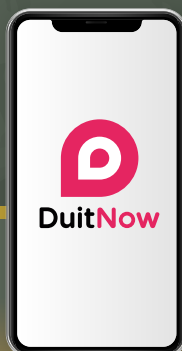
What does it feel like to sit at the feet of Jesus? What does it look like to walk beside Him daily? Oftentimes, we as Christ's church, engage Him with our mind but forget our heart

We seek to know about Him without building a personal relationship with Him. This can cause spiritl

disciplines such as prayer, scripture reading and meditation to seem more like a duty than a delight often resulting in spiritual stagnation. In The Other Half of the Church, Jim Wilder and Michel Hendericks explain how the brain is divided into two halves: the left and the right. We use the left-side of our brain for problem solving and logical reasoning while the right-side of the brain is used to engage in



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relationships and drives character change. To grow in our relationship with God and others, we have to practice “full-brained Christianity”.

How many times have we been told what to do and not do, yet not shown how? Jesus sets the best model for discipleship as He had a close relationship with His disciples which resulted in their obedience to Him. As we use the right-side of the brain to develop our relationship to Christ and to others, we are cultivating rich soil to plant, grow and produce good fruit. The soil Hendericks describes is God’s enduring, steadfast love, or *hesed* in Hebrew. This is our relational attachment to God. Yet, we must open our hearts to receive the love God freely gives to build a strong attachment to Him.

It is not enough to consciously know God’s love but to experience it through a relationship with Him. A strong illustration of relational attachment to God is found in John 15 when Jesus describes Himself as the vine and we, His disciples, are the branches. Jesus is our attachment to God, the vine-dresser, and in Him we have the ability to receive His love. Once we receive His *hesed* love, it flows into our relationships with others, thus creating a loving and growing community.



Personally, the ideas raised in this book opened my eyes, or should I say my heart, to evaluate how I engage a relationship with God with my full brain.

Jesus said to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” The heart, soul and mind are all interconnected, yet I often separate the three in my own life. My mind might be able to understand the idea of a loving God but to consider the ways He has personally shown His love, my heart and soul must also engage Him. In my personal relationship with God, I recount the specific ways he has shown His love, faithfulness and goodness to me in my day-to-day life. When I read through the Gospels and see Jesus meeting the lost wherever they were at, I imagine Him meeting with me right where I am at. This requires me to still and quiet my mind, heart and soul. Being aware of His presence may not always come as naturally as I would like, but it is an ongoing practice.

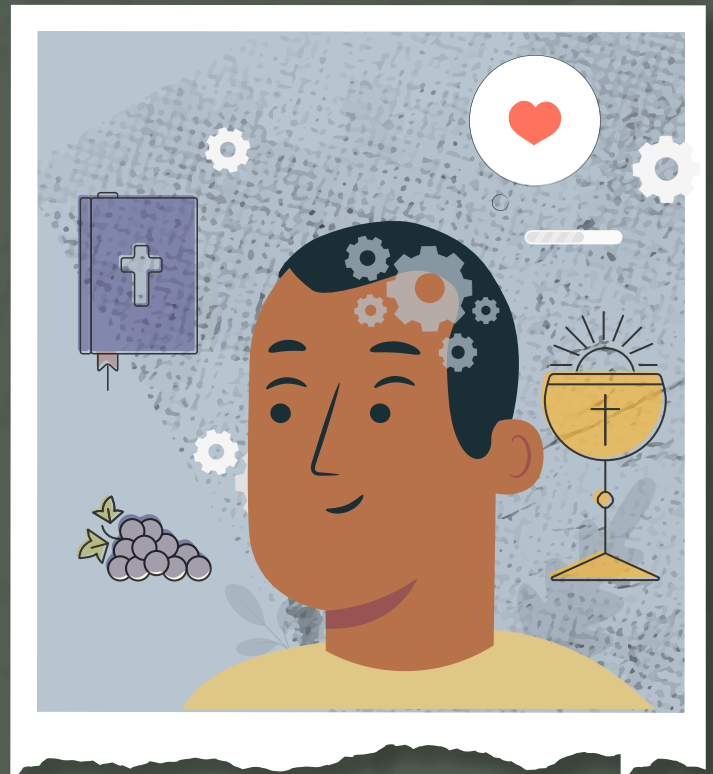
Knowing and experiencing his pursuing love causes me to see myself as a lamb who so often strays away from the fold but is picked up and carried back in the loving arms of my Father. My relationship is not rooted in my actions to pursue Him through spiritual disciplines but established in his steadfast love that anchors me deep. When I read in Romans 8 that nothing can separate me from His enduring love, I think of the idols and distractions in my life that hinder me from setting my eyes and my heart on Jesus. It’s idolatry of the heart that prevents me from receiving and abiding in his *hesed* love. The heart will chase after what it desires and when dwelling with Christ is not my highest desire, I am unaware of His presence.


No amount of bible reading or prayer or fasting or giving will be enough to draw me back to Him. It is when my heart, mind and soul are attached to His unconditional love that I can again experience the joy of my salvation. I am learning to be aware of His loving presence in solitude, stillness and silence. When I study a passage of scripture, I not only engage my mind but consider how my heart is responding to the word of God. How does it speak to my heart? Does it lead me to confess and repent of bitterness, jealousy or envy? Does it lead me to forgiving the wrong of another and seeking reconciliation? Does it cause me to worship and magnify Him more for who He is? Additionally, being a part of a strong Christian community where we walk through life together encourages and reminds me of the ways God pursues His children. We need our brothers and sisters in Christ to point us back to the cross daily.

I highly recommend this book to church leaders and anyone who feels apathetic to building church community or stagnant in their walk with Christ. The author unpacks the characteristics of a healthy church community and how to restore our attachment to God and one another. Spiritual disciplines and discipleship strategies are tools in and of themselves that serve a purpose of leading us to recognize and abide in the pursuing love of God. Looking to Christ's ultimate example of fellowship with the Father and compassion for others, the church can experience His deep love and everlasting joy.



The Other Half of Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation
<https://www.amazon.com/Other-Half-Church-Overcoming-Stagnation/dp/0802419631>



 **by Sarah Searle**
 Sarah is the Life Group leader for Gospel Group (GG)

PrayerSpotlight

Prayer for Fathers

- May this month that is dedicated to honor all fathers be also a month of quiet reflection & humbling recognition of our weaknesses & shortcomings as a father. We err in our responsibilities, we failed to live up to a good father figure.

Lord, we ask for Your forgiveness & seek Your strength to renew our commitment to be better fathers for our families.

- Our sins may appear to have disqualified us from knowing God's forgiveness, but because our Father in Heaven is gracious, we can be changed and set free. As fathers who are held in bondage with guilt, inadequacies & neglect, we acknowledged that our Lord Jesus can break every chain. We pray that Lord, you will enable fathers to seek your life-changing grace to steer away from irresponsibility and be empowered to be faithful fathers instead.
- Thank you Lord that You are our Abba Father, the Alpha & Omega, the Beginning & the End. We may or may not have our earthly father still but we are grateful to have You as our Heavenly Father.

Regardless we can develop this intimate close relationship of a father and his children. May this blessed assurance stir us to strive to be more like our Abba Father, perfect in all His ways.

- Lord Jesus, we pray for Your sacrificial love to be exemplified by all fathers to their families. May we as God's children too, be blessed with righteous love from our Heavenly Father above.
- Pray such meaningful implications will cause fathers in our midst be able to catch a glimpse of God's own nurture & protection; enabling all fathers to imitate God's goodness in all their pursuits to His likeness and holiness.

