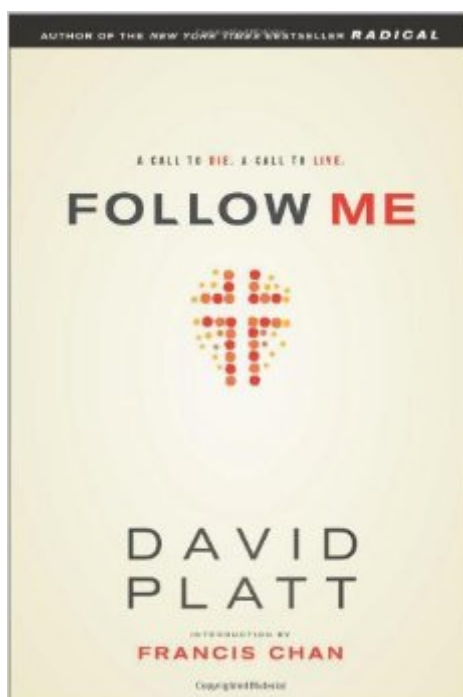


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# Follow Me: A Call To Die. A Call To Live.



## Synopsis

2014 Christian Retailing's Best award winner! What did Jesus really mean when he said, Follow Me? In this new book, David Platt, author of the New York Times bestselling book, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*, contends that multitudes of people around the world culturally think they are Christians yet biblically are not followers of Christ. Scores of men, women, and children have been told that becoming a follower of Jesus simply involves believing certain truths or saying certain words. As a result, churches today are filled with people who believe they are Christians . . . but aren't. We want to be disciples as long as doing so does not intrude on our lifestyles, our preferences, our comforts, and even our religion. Revealing a biblical picture of what it means to truly be a Christian, explores the gravity of what we must forsake in this world, as well as the indescribable joy and deep satisfaction to be found when we live for Christ. The call to follow Jesus is not simply an invitation to pray a prayer; it's a summons to lose your life and to find new life in him. This book will show you what such life actually looks like.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Platt's *Radical* was one of those rare books that catapults a first-time author straight to top of the charts. For two years it was a fixture on the lists of bestsellers and even today it remains a top seller in the Christian ranks. *Radical* was a call for Christians to escape the doldrums of the American dream and to live for something better, something that counts for far more. Books with this message are hardly a rarity today, but what set this one apart was its grounding in the good

news of the gospel. Almost three years later Platt brings us his follow-up, *Follow Me*. Where in *Radical* he exposed cultural values and ideas that are opposed to the gospel, his purpose in *Follow Me* is "to move from what we let go of to whom he hold on to. I want to explore not only the gravity of what we must forsake in this world, but also the greatness of the one we follow in this world. I want to expose what it means to die to ourselves and to live in Christ." He says I am convinced that when we take a serious look at what Jesus really meant when he said, "Follow me," we will discover that there is far more pleasure to be experienced in him, indescribably greater power to be realized with him, and a much higher purpose to be accomplished for him than anything else this world has to offer. And as a result, we will all--every single Christian--eagerly, willingly, and gladly lose our lives to know and proclaim Christ, for this is simply what it means to follow him. The fact is that there are multitudes of people who profess faith in Jesus Christ but who are not truly his followers. Platt wants his readers to be radical in their Christian commitment, but he wants them to ensure they have left behind the trappings of superficial religion for the joy of supernatural regeneration.

*Follow Me* by David Platt [Book Review] Initial Questions: What is it about David Platt's writing that allows him to turn, the "Pick up your cross and follow me," of Jesus' teachings into a national best seller? (I'm suspicious...) Or, to play the cynic, does he lure people in with an intriguing, difficult message and then deflate the call to follow, or completely toss the message aside? Kudos to David Platt for sparking a healthy critique of the church; moderate examination is always a sign of health. One thing *Follow Me* strongly accomplished was encouraging the question, "Is my experience of Christianity the full picture of what Jesus brings?" *Follow Me* amplifies this healthy critique from Platt's earlier nationally resonant book, *Radical*. In *Follow Me*, Platt writes to reveal the who and how of "radical" Christian living. In my reading, I discovered three healthy things and four unhealthy things from *Follow Me*. *Follow Me* brings the question: "Isn't there supposed to be more than reading my Bible, going to church, and talking to people about Jesus? Jesus seems to ask more..." Platt spells out the reality and origin of God causing new life to take root within us (p. 18); he illustrates that people who come face to face with Jesus *do* experience change and their lives are called into something different from their surroundings. This is the sanctifying work of grace. *Follow Me* spells out the necessity of repentance and grace in our world (p.20), even though I think he missed the mark that God isn't out to do something impressive or worthy of glory, but rather that it's simply God's nature to dive head-first into the brokenness (theology of Glory vs theology of the cross).

This is the best book I've read on basic Christianity in years. For a pastor to write what he has written (and what Francis Chan wrote in the Foreword) heartens me in my deep. I believe every elder of every church and every trustee of every Christian school should read this book--and heed its message. Given that I've spent most of my adult life working as a seminary professor, I couldn't wait to find out if David Platt went to seminary himself. Lo and behold, he did. He has an earned Ph.D from a seminary, and it shows. His theology is excellent. He does not promote a works righteousness theology; he promotes what the apostle Paul promotes--the obedience of faith. He is so truthful that he even tells his readers that if their pastors aren't teaching AND modeling biblical Christianity, then their pastors lack legitimate authority. That's not a Baptist thing to say, that's a Christian thing to say. Few are the professing Christians who will admit that authority isn't legitimized by virtue of a person's position in an organization. Authority in Christ is a totally different thing than positional authority in a religious organization that claims to be Christian but whose top leaders do not model repentance. It's one thing to admit sin in a political way and a whole different ballgame to repent from sin in humility by making restitution. The gospel calls for repentance, even though our repentance is not what saves us. We're saved by grace. We're saved by the blood of Jesus. Platt says it well in his remark that many have exchanged the blood of Christ for the "Kool Aid" that people drink when they go with the flow of the politics and take the easy way out and just keep on sinning as if grace issues us a license to sin without genuine remorse.

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