

# **Growing in Faith While in College**

## **A Short Bibliography**

**By Danny Hays  
Ouachita Baptist University**

*College Bound: What Christian Parents Need to Know About Helping Their Kids Choose a College.* By Thomas A. Shaw. Moody Press, 2005.

Parents of teenagers in mid to late high school will appreciate this resource as they wade through myriad details concerning college applications, financial aid applications and admissions procedures. Tom Shaw, as a parent of college-bound teens, and as a seasoned educator and Christian college administrator, helps anxious or simply interested parents guide their teens to making the best choice for their college experience. Tom helps parents answer questions like: Is college the right choice for my teen? Would my teen thrive best in a secular or Christian environment? What are the differences between private, liberal arts and big state schools? How do I get involved without appearing controlling or overbearing? Written from the perspective of a Christian parent, this book places particular emphasis on the parent's role as nurturer and shepherd of their children's spiritual future. This resource would also be excellent for youth leaders and mentors of high school students nearing graduation. (summary from Amazon.com)

*Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living.* By Cornelius Plantinga. Eerdmans, 2002.

Plantinga (former dean, Calvin Coll. Chapel; Not the Way It's Supposed To Be) has written a sage, mature, and avuncular, even paternal guide to the essentials of the Christian life for the college student. Most valuable, perhaps, is the final section, where he holds forth a vision of how a student should use "knowledge, skills, and virtues" in the service of God. (summary from Amazon.com)

*Fish Out of Water: Surviving and Thriving as a Christian on a Secular Campus.* By Abby Nye. New Leaf Press, 2005.

Many Christian students find their faith tested upon entering secular universities. Today's colleges are rife with professors who are not only unbelievers, but who actively mock religion and morality. With fresh classroom experience, college student Abby Nye details the loss of academic and religious freedoms. Includes tips for dealing with hostile professors, maintaining strong faith and honoring the Lord in one's academic career. Perfect for anyone curious as to what's happening on the college scene today, including high school graduates headed to college, their parents, and college students already swimming in the strong current of campus liberalism. (summary from Amazon.com)

*The Guidance Manual for the Christian Home School: A Parent's Guide for Preparing Home School Students for College or Career.* By David and Laurie Callihan. Career Press, 2000.

Here at last is the Christian home-school family's comprehensive manual to preparing for life after home schooling. The home school equivalent of a traditional school's guidance counselor, the book gives home schooling parents the information they need to successfully mentor their children in grades 7 through 12 toward adulthood. Authors Laurie and David Callihan tell you how to obtain the necessary tests taken by traditional school students, how to give them, and how to evaluate their results. The Guidance Manual for the Christian Home School also goes beyond the normal subjects like math and science and gives hints for equipping students with basic life skills such as cooking, caring for the home, and managing money. (summary from Amazon.com)

*How to Stay Christian in College.* By J. Budziszewski. ThinkBooks (NavPress), 2004.

Going away to college can be exciting, scary, wild, or all of the above. And don't think Christian colleges are always a failsafe alternative. As students trade home life for dorm life, they leave behind their church, their friends, their families--their major networks of support. What should they expect when they arrive on campus? *How to Stay Christian in College* is an interactive guide that lets students know what to expect and reassures them that they can attend school and still maintain their faith. Filled with anecdotes, resources, and much more, it prepares, equips, and encourages high school and college students to meet the challenge of living out their faith at school. It examines different worldviews and myths that students encounter at college, giving them the tools they need to meet the challenges ahead. (summary from Amazon.com)

*Light on the Path: A Christian Perspective on College Success.* By John A. Beck and Marmy A. Clason. Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.

*Light on the Path* offers you advice and encouragement designed to foster greater happiness and success. John Beck and Marmy Clason blend time-tested instruction with insights drawn from God's Word, allowing Christian students like you to grow spiritually as you become comfortable with your new learning environment. This first-year success textbook distinguishes itself from others by adding the Bible's beacon of light to the traditional direction and encouragement offered to first-year college students. (summary from Amazon.com)

*Lost in Transition: Becoming Spiritually Prepared for College.* By Tommy McGregor. Tate Publishing, 2007. (no summary available)

*The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness: A Guide for Students.* By Donald Optiz and Derek Melleby. Brazos Press, 2007.

Most Christian college students separate their academic life from church attendance, Bible study, and prayer. Too often discipleship of the mind is overlooked if not ignored altogether. However, authors Donald Optiz and Derek Melleby issue a clarion call to students to integrate their faith and learning in *The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness*. Written for a narrative generation, this guide extracts illustrations from the Book of Daniel, *The Lord of the Rings*, the experiences of real students, and more. This book is an excellent gift for college-bound seniors in high school. It's an essential text for first-year college students, too. *The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness* will also benefit professors, pastors, and parents. (summary from Amazon.com)

*Own Your Faith: The Adventure of Following Christ in College.* By Mark Tabb. ThinkBooks (NavPress), 2007.

Part of leaving childhood behind is sorting through the things you've accumulated over the first eighteen years of your life and deciding what to keep and what to throw out. The same thing is true for making choices about your relationship with God. How can you learn to think for yourself and make your faith your own--not the faith of your parents, youth leaders, or pastor? This insightful yet humorous guide will lead you through the process of grappling with and living out your convictions in a postmodern world. The "faith of your fathers" will become a "faith of your own" through four key sections: THINK - Wrestle with the big questions of life and think through the issues KNOW - Move from duty to desire in your relationship with God and find a more mature faith that goes beyond emotional experiences CONNECT - Know you are not alone by getting connected with others who share your passion SERVE - Make your faith real with words and actions Find out whose Jesus you have, and make your faith your own. (summary from the back cover)

*Street-Smart Advice to Christian College Students: From a Professor's Point of View.* By Michael J. Bozack. VMI Publishers, 2008.

Are you a prospective Christian college student who: Is anxious about attending college? Wants a high GPA? Is undecided about what college to attend? Wonders whether you can cut it academically? Is clueless about what to do with your life? Is unsure about living in a secular college environment? Worries that you will abandon Christian values in college? Is already in college but barely making it? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this book is for you. My audience is primarily prospective and current Christian college students and the people who mentor them. I'm betting that your parents will spend a few dollars for a book written by a seasoned college professor who knows the ropes to success. My unique selling proposition is that, if Christian students in the target market read this book, then they will find invaluable information about: Reasons why most high school students aren't ready for college prime time; characteristics of the current generation of college students; the unique situation of Christian college students in a secular university; seven effective strategies for guaranteed academic success; the most common bad habits and mistakes made by college students; what major college professors do besides teach college students; how to manage student life outside the college classroom; and how to effectively live the Christian life as a college student in a major university. (summary from Amazon.com)

*University of Destruction: Your Game Plan for Spiritual Victory on Campus.* By David Wheaton. Bethany House, 2005.

The statistic is staggering: As many as 50 percent of Christian students say they have lost their faith after four years in college. For far too many students, the transition from home life to campus life is traumatic--what begins as a University of Instruction often ends up being a University of Destruction...with long-lasting negative effects and no guarantee of return. Relating his own experiences at Stanford, David Wheaton describes the three Pillars of Peril you will face in college--sex, drugs/alcohol, and humanism--and presents a game plan for victory over these pitfalls based on raising your spiritual GPA. You will also receive practical advice on dating, friends, choosing the right college, and how to get back on course if you have gone astray. Headed to college? Already there? Let University of Destruction show you how to be an Overcomer. (summary from Amazon.com)

*Welcome to College: A Christ-Follower's Guide for the Journey.* By Jonathan Morrow. Kregel, 2008.

"Wow! What a book! Quite frankly, this is the book I've been waiting for the last forty years to give to college students. It is the single best volume I have ever read for preparing students for how to follow Jesus and flourish as his disciple in college." --J.P. Moreland, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University. (endorsement from the back cover)

*Why College Matters to God.* By Rick Ostrander. Abilene Christian University Press, 2009.

At last, a brief, readable introduction to the unique purpose and value of a Christian college education. This book draws on the insights of a wide range of Christian philosophers, historians, scientists, and theologians, but communicates key concepts in straightforward language and analogies that will connect with today's college students. Brief enough to be paired with other 'first-year' texts, it is an ideal introduction to the Christian college experience for students, faculty, and staff.