

PREFACE TO THIS EDITION

Why The Do-Over?

The substance of this book was published a few years ago under another name, but friends encouraged me to issue a new edition. For starters, it needed a title that was a bit more “user friendly.”¹ Other changes include footnotes which will allow readers to track down my sources (most of these old books can be found in their entirety on websites like archive.org, openlibrary.org, or guttenberg.org). I also updated information on friends mentioned in the book. A lot of wonderful things have happened since the first edition (see testimonies at the "Refuge Narratives" channel on YouTube).

To those who *want more*, the views of the old schoolers (born-again Christians from about 1720-1920) may seem strange, but please listen to them with an open mind and heart. If these supercharged saints—like D.L. Moody, George Müller, or Amy Carmichael—were still here, they would be the first to tell you that they experienced the power and glory of God because of these "strange" views. I mention this up front because so many young Christians want to see what the old schoolers saw but then refuse to budge when challenged on things like prayer, the Holy

¹ The book was formerly titled, *Discipleship Basics: With Help from the Old School*, ©2019.

Spirit, or spiritual warfare. The point of this book is to encourage you, reader, to rediscover the lost keys, pick them up, and use them. *To be as clear as I can, the "strange" views of the old schoolers are the lost keys we so desperately need if God is going to move again in power in His Church!*

In addition to the changes mentioned above, my wife suggested I give some book recommendations for those interested in getting better acquainted with the old schoolers—those incredible Christians from the not-so-distant past who fill the coming pages. I could recommend hundreds of books, but what follows is a sampling.

1. R.A. Torrey. *Why God used D.L. Moody*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1923. Moody (1837-99) is one of my all-time favorite old schoolers, and not just because he led one million people to Christ (yes, you read that right). Every page of this short little work is like an arrow to the heart. It was written by Moody's protégé and close friend R.A. Torrey, who himself was a world-shaker (and penned over 40 books). These pages emphasize keys that will revolutionize the hungry disciple's life—like complete surrender, believing prayer, and the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Torrey says in no uncertain terms that these are the things that explain Moody's astonishing life.

God does not give His power arbitrarily. It is true that He gives it to whomsoever He will, but He wills to give it on certain conditions, which are clearly revealed in His Word, and D.L. Moody met those conditions and God made him the most wonderful preacher of his generation; yes, I think the most wonderful man of his generation. (page 7)

2. Andrew Murray. *The Ministry of Intercession*. London: James Nisbet & Co., 1898. Murray (1828-1917) was a highly respected Dutch Reformed minister in South Africa who also wrote over 40 books. This work is the follow-up to his classic, *With Christ in the School of Prayer* (1885). Murray's views may be a shock to the system for the uninitiated, but they are pretty typical of the old schoolers. They all prayed, expecting God to move ... and God moved! Murray explains,

I was led to show how prayer can be used to enter into the mind of God ... and bring down to earth what without prayer would not have been given. It is the highest proof of ... having been made in the likeness of God's Son. (page 2)

3. John MacNeil. *The Spirit-Filled Life*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1896. MacNeil (1854-96) was a powerful minister in Australia who died relatively young. This book received high praise from influential leaders in his day like Moody and Murray. This is a great example of the old schoolers' dynamic understanding of the Holy Spirit, and further proof of how different their views were from today's version of "born-again, Bible-believing" Christianity. MacNeil says,

So many of God's dear children are living on the wrong side of Pentecost, living on the same plane as that on which the disciples were living before they "were filled with the Holy Ghost," and thus by their lives practically making the sad confession, "We did not so much as hear ... whether there be any Holy Ghost." (page 9)

4. Amy Carmichael. *From Sunrise Land*. London: Marshall Brothers, 1895. Carmichael (1867-1951) was simply amazing—fearless, on fire for Jesus, and a brilliant writer (she also published almost 40 books). She is best known for her ministry in India, rescuing little girls from temple service and prostitution. Her mission continues on today. This book covers her early endeavors in Japan and is a classic example of a (young) old schooler living it out—praying in faith, full of the Holy Spirit, battling the devil, and expecting great things from God. Below she recounts a season when she and her co-workers experienced a fresh touch from heaven.

Soon after we arrived here, we found that some were longing for a fuller consecration than they had known as yet, while others were seeking the filling of the Holy Spirit. The little meetings held morning by morning in our lodgings were very solemn, as one after another confessed failure and claimed His cleansing and deliverance. All week He kept us at the point of full surrender, but yesterday evening, a time some of us will never forget was given when He drew near, and to some extent, was given a fresh, deep sense of the gift of Pentecost. (page 49)

5. A.T. Pierson. *George Müller of Bristol*. New York: The Baker and Taylor Company, 1899. No list of the old schoolers would be complete without a reference to George Müller. All the great Christians of his era, like Moody, Murray, MacNeil, and Carmichael, greatly admired him. This work, written by another huge hitter and close friend of Müller, emphasizes the sort of mountain-moving faith that drove this man of God. Müller claimed that he

intentionally put his life on display for the whole world to see so that everyone would be clear on what is possible for the surrendered, obedient, faith-filled Christian.

To the one who asked him the secret of his service, he said: "There was a day when I died, utterly died," and, as he spoke, he bent lower and lower until he almost touched the floor—"died to George Müller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will—died to the world, its approval or censure—died to the approval or blame, even of my brethren and friends—and since then, I have studied only to show myself approved unto God." (page 367)

My prayer is that God would raise up an army that rediscovers the keys these old schoolers lived and died by, and that this army would pick them up and use them.

—Tad Trapp, January 2022