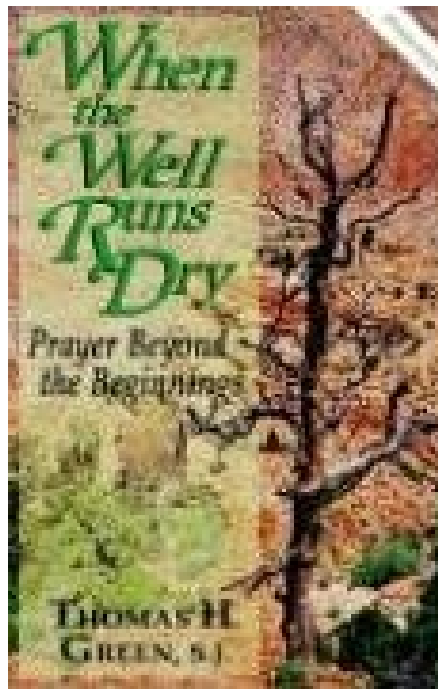




When the Well Runs Dry: Prayer Beyond the Beginnings

Thomas H. Green

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For twenty years When the Well Runs Dry has been a source of wisdom and guidance for people serious about prayer. Now a revised edition makes Thomas Green's classic work available to a new generation seeking guidance in prayer beyond the beginnings.

When the Well Runs Dry: Prayer Beyond the Beginnings Details

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From Reader Review When the Well Runs Dry: Prayer Beyond the Beginnings for online ebook

P.S. Winn says

Although I am not much for organized religion, I do believe in the power of prayer. This book gives guidance into finding hope and using prayer to get through when life feels unbearable.

Eileen says

?1979. Excellent book on the place of dark night of the soul in Christian prayer. Cites the classic sources (Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, et al.) and interprets them in a way understandable to modern people. A hopeful and positive view of a very difficult experience.

Jeremy Rios says

A good book on spiritual dryness with some really insightful moments (especially those drawn from Teresa of Avila). Green is an easygoing author (and individual--I've had the pleasure of meeting him), and that makes his prose readable and not too dry. However, I was troubled by his belief that, in the end, spiritual dryness is actually the order of the day for the Christian life. That felt a little too much like throwing in the towel on the complexity of the soul. 3.5 stars.

Colette Hinton says

Unfortunately, whilst reading this book we did major renovations in our house and it has been mislaid. I cannot therefore say I have finished it, but I will read it again once I have been able to locate it.

Arthur Sumual says

fantastic book, it goes deeper than I originally thought. it answers my very question about spiritual dryness on why it is necessary to experience it. before reading the heavy stuff on the subject of prayer and prayer life such as "dark night of the soul" by St. John of Cross, or "way to perfection" by St. Theress Avila, I recommend reading this book.

surely i'll read this book again in the future.

Bernice says

even though i am still reading this book, i really like it! it's basically teresa of avila and st. john of the cross

for dummies. he talks about prayer in a way that makes sense of how i am praying these days. more to come as i keep reading...

ok, i've now finished the book. i would recommend it to anyone who finds himself or herself in a "dark night of the soul," the wilderness, dryness, any imagery that is stark, barren, bad. i appreciated that he articulated things i felt and made me feel less crazy. he also really likes images, so if you are an image appreciative person, you'll like him. clouds, gardens, wells, night, floating - all images he alludes to.

at times, i thought it was a bit slow and dense to read, but i bet i will find myself going back to it and re-reading passages.

John English says

Seems good. Will help in the spiritual life.

Robert says

A very good book on prayer that uses the analogy of floating.

booklady says

A wonderful book on prayer weaving together the Carmelite and Jesuit traditions with insights from the author's own experiences. A good reference book to keep on hand.

Frank says

This is one of the best books I have read on contemplative prayer. The author clearly writes from experience; his own and groups he has led. He combines and explains the meanings from some of the masters of contemplative prayer such as St. John of the Cross and the Cloud of Unknowing in a way I have not read elsewhere. Even if you have read the works of St. John of the Cross, The Cloud of Unknowing, St. Teresa, etc this book will place all those writings in perspective and understandable. So if you find St. John of the Cross a little hard to understand at times and also find the well you draw from for prayer runs dry at times you need to read this book. A real gem on prayer.

Brad says

Nice view of the prayer life. It is always strange to read the catholic "prayer guru's". Very often it just seems like warmed over buddhism (statements about destroying the will abound). Other times it seemed very tender and sweet. The common thread that I see in all of this type of literature is the belief that prayer is the one necessary step to the process of Christian maturity. This seems silly and one sided to me. There are so many important parts to becoming a mature Christian such as the Bible, fellowship (this one really burns the

community fearing contemplatives), faith, obedience. They seem consumed by this idea of an experience that is wholly other, unworldly and strange, but it always seems to lead back to the simple and quiet thing they always knew. Imagine a marriage book that suggested that the best way to grow in your marriage was to sit silently together for extended periods of time, talking, walking, meeting with friends, and learning together are to be discouraged in favor of staring blankly into each other's faces. Rediculous! God wants a relationship with us! He wants us to speak to Him and hear His words, share His love with others and grow closer to us each day. Why the need for this exclusive "few really get here" club of people who need to feel more specially selected?

Those criticisms being recognized Green comes to a great conclusion that most Catholics are not capable of coming to because of their dogma - God has done everything in Jesus Christ. It is not for us to DO something, but to rest in His great love and provision. He writes beautifully and tenderly. I don't doubt his heart for one moment, however he is so steeped in anti-Biblical teachings (i.e. continually returnig to the need for purgatory!) that I wouldn't reccomend the book to anyone who wasn't already well informed about the subject and it's common (often univeralist) pitfalls.
