



## **Invitations from God: Accepting God's Offer to Rest, Weep, Forgive, Wait, Remember and More**

*Adele Ahlberg Calhoun*

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Some invitations we desperately want: "Will you marry me?" "Would you consider a promotion?" Other invitations we never want to receive but must respond to all the same: "What treatment do you want for your tumor?" Invitations pound away at the coastlines of the soul with a transforming force. God is also sending invitations. Sometimes they seem less compelling than anything on my to-do list. Why would I want to say yes to the invitation to rest when I'm already so far behind? Why follow when I could lead? Why accept invitations to weep or to admit I am wrong or to wait? Saying yes might slow me down, sabotage my agenda and even undo who I think I am. Adele Calhoun, author of the popular *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, offers a book about invitations like these--divine invitations we miss or ignore because we've said yes to going with the cultural flow. While these invitations from God can sometimes be difficult to accept, they can heal and restore even as they shape where we go, what we do and who we become. What we say yes to, what we say no to forms the terrain of our future. Included in this book are reflection questions and exercises as well as overview charts with recommended disciplines to guide you through each theme. As you attend to the often hidden, quiet voice of the Great Inviter, you will find yourself as God created you to be.

## **Invitations from God: Accepting God's Offer to Rest, Weep, Forgive, Wait, Remember and More Details**

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## **From Reader Review Invitations from God: Accepting God's Offer to Rest, Weep, Forgive, Wait, Remember and More for online ebook**

### **Kelsey Ballard says**

Really good...really heavy.... prepare for this to take you months to read or read it a few times!

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### **C says**

A wonderful read that addresses many challenges familiar to believers, without the shallow association of pop culture and endless anecdotes most modern Christian writers feel the need to include.

Can be read on its own or incorporated into devotions or Bible Study.

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### **Michael Gehrling says**

This is one of the best contemporary book on spiritual formation that I've read. Calhoun does a beautiful job of weaving together biblical truths about God and ourselves, insights into our emotional and psychological realities, and practical 'how to's that will aid anyone in pursuing a deeper spirituality. There are some books like this that I would recommend specifically for "beginners" in pursuing the spiritual life. Other books are more advance. I could see this book being helpful for anyone, regardless of where they are on the journey.

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### **Jean says**

Amazing. Calhoun's exploration of the various invitations God offers to believers is comprehensive, personal, targeted, and well thought out. The format can drive an individual through self examination and map patterns to change. There is enough "I've been there, I know" to prevent the sense of judgment or excessive criticism. Her scripture support, lists, examples, and particularly her conversational tone can cause one to want to participate with God. A must read for believers who are willing to explore and to be explored. Its is especially useful for analytics, and for those who struggle with "how do I do that" when faced with a Jesus command to love, forgive, rest, wait and remember. Highly recommend this reading.

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### **Dorothy Greco says**

Calhoun's premise is that throughout our lives, perhaps every day of our lives, God is giving us invitations. Invitations to grow. To change. To become more like him. Some of them are obvious and impossible to miss while others are more subtle and require us to be still in order to even notice them. You will find some true gems in the book: Because rest is fundamental to God, it is fundamental to the well-being of all creation. A quick read.

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### **Amy Young says**

Thank you Kathleen for this book! Kathleen is friends with Adele and bought this to share with friends.

As a 3.5 to 3.75 the first thing that I really, really like is the cover. It looks so three dimensional that I kept touching it just to make sure that it couldn't be smooth. This looks at some of the invitations we receive in life -- both those we want and don't necessarily want. She looks at the invitation to: participate in your own healing, to follow, to practice the presence of people, to rest, to seek, to admit I might be wrong, to forgive, to wait, to pray, to remember, and to the most excellent way. Calhoun is honest about why we might not want some of these and yet the benefits if we will accept them. There are several passages I have copied out and I find that this book continues to challenge my thinking (in good ways) in areas. The chapter on following and admitting that I might be wrong were good nudges/kick in the pants.

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### **Chris Thompson says**

Wow! This was a fantastic read. I even re-read a couple of the chapters and will definitely revisit this one again and again!

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### **Anusha Atukorala says**

Good Book. Using it as my Quiet time material to explore God's work in my life in the past as I contemplate future ministry. Its insights and scripture are helping me remember God's goodness and are blessing me.

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### **Chris says**

A nice book about spiritual growth and Christian practices. It's well-written and thoughtful, but it covers ground covered by many other great books, so it gets a 3-star "liked it" rating. This could be a helpful book for a follower of Jesus looking for new ways to grow in their Christian walk.

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### **Lesa Engelthaler says**

Grace-filled. Beautifully written. Favorite sentence on healing, "To reflect the life of Jesus means that I gather up my desire, stop loitering around the pool of excuses and offer up my diseased life to his healing cure." Read it!

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### **Dawn Bodi says**

I loved this book and will be returning to the questions again and again. My Favorite from TC8-2 thus far.

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### **Amy Jacobsen says**

I enjoyed reading this book as part of my morning devotionals the past few months. The power of an invitation and the response can not be underestimated

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### **Amy Young says**

I'd read this book a year ago and decided that it would be the professional development book this academic year for the Member Care Specialists I work with. This has been a great book to read in community (glad that I have done it alone AND with a group of folks!). This has been one of the most helpful paradigm shifts in recent years -- the idea of invitation. And whatever I'm facing, whether good, bad, or ugly, can be seen as an invitation from God that can be used in the forming of my spirit/personhood.

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### **Kristine says**

Read as participant of a reading group selection. It is structured and flows into our bi-weekly schedule well. A simple read. The part I liked best are tables found in the beginning of each chapter. I used the content for introspection and reflection. My copy is well marked up with highlighters and comments. The content works well for group discussion.

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### **Nikole Hahn says**

#### Life Brings Invitations

Jesus knew his spiritual journey depended upon responsiveness to God's invitations. Although his job was the most crucial in human history, Jesus did not get compulsive, preoccupied or unable to practice the presence of God or people. In the midst of interruptions and overwhelming need, Jesus learned how to discern between invitations. – Pg. 18

Resisting the urge to grab my yellow highlighter, I opted instead to bookmark pages with pieces of paper. There were so many quotable paragraphs. At times, I even posted a few of those quotes from the book onto my Facebook account. The book hit me in both good and bad ways.

First of all, I didn't agree with what Miroslav Wolf said on page 123. She quotes him a lot in the book. I can only assume she agrees when he said, “You organize an act of terror, and we'll punish you.” It says, “You organize an act of terror and we'll use the overwhelming military force of a superpower to recast the political landscape of an entire region from whence you came.” In this paragraph, he very smartly talks about our reactions to wrong—our disproportionate use of revenge. She writes at the end of page 134, “It (justice mixed with mercy and forgiveness) can be real enough to remake the world.” Wolf was incorrect in the statement above obviously mocking America for it's invasion of Iraq.

I wonder what Iraq's people would say about that? They witnessed genocide, mass grave burials, and harsh dictatorship. Some parents there witnessed their children being killed. We lost about 2,000 of our own people in the attack of 9/11. I believe in forgiveness, but to maintain peace in a fallen world, war is at times necessary. Calhoun reveals her idealism in this chapter. God at times authorized war in the Old Testament.

It would be nice if in a perfect world everyone responded to each other Biblically, but as long as we have sin, the world will continue down this path until Jesus' return. Yet, I do agree with everything else in this book.

The attractive layout of this book, cut into eleven invitations, thoroughly explores how we can accept God's offer to rest, weep, forgive, wait, remember, and more. In fact, I wrote a blog on Chapter 3. Calhoun's book was like going to God's Spa. I found rest in her words as I submerged into scripture and the easy way in which she writes—like she is standing there having a conversation with one of her friends. Overall, I gave the book four stars.

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