

I Will: Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian

Thom S. Rainer

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Could you be the answer to the problems you see?

Every day we are faced with the needs of those around us. Emotional. Physical. Spiritual. What are we to do about it? Are these problems for our pastors to address or is there a way for the church member to make an impact that will last?

Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer answers these questions by offering nine simple traits that you can incorporate into your life no matter your background, stage of life, or sense of capability.

You can do it. Now it's time to just stand up and say you will!

I Will: Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian Details


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From Reader Review I Will: Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian for online ebook

Marcus Goncalves says

This is a short book dealing with a important topic: church membership. The author describes traits that are necessary for a church and its members to be healthy. I would recommend this book to anyone who is thinking about leaving a church over preference (note, I don't suggest staying in a church with doctrine issues, not following, or skipping passages, of the Bible) issues. You will never find the perfect church ... because it doesn't exist. Because of this we need to manage our expectations. We do this by: staying, being committed, finding a place to serve, and praying for elders and leaders. God will honor and bless that kind of commitment.

Dave Weiss says

I just read a fantastic little book by church researcher, Thom Rainer, called I Will. The book is meant as a call to action to church members. Specifically it challenges us on nine major topics, such as, worship, study, growth, evangelism, etc. In typical Rainer fashion, the book is challenging, helping church members to see what it means to faithfully serve Christ. I am thinking of starting a new small group at my church. This book is a strong contender for our first study text.

David Carroll says

Phenomenal! A convicting read to say the least! Having been disenchanted by churches myself, this book boldly challenged me to reevaluate myself and my relationship with the local church, even at the risk of losing me as a reader! If you have found yourself experiencing one distasteful church after another, I strongly encourage you to read this book and really take a look under the hood to find out the source of the problem!

Josh Miller says

A succinct follow-up to his previous book, I Am A Church Member. I love the two words that Rainer uses throughout the book - "I will." They are the two words that the church needs to hear on a more frequent basis.

Love that the nine "I Will" statements are stated at the end of the book along with a place for signature.

Amber Yager says

Absolutely incredible book, full of God's word and His promises! This book truly makes you self-evaluate

and is the perfect mix of encouragement and blunt (much needed) truth. Each chapter concludes with "points to ponder" which allow you to dive even deeper into the scriptures and the application to yourself specifically. Throughout the book, the reader is supplied with specific real-life examples that we can relate to, as well as applicable scripture references. I can't say enough about this book. One of my favorite parts is the appendix, where there is a statement by statement commitment for the reader, complete with a "Sign and date" line. My only regret is that I purchased this on my Nook and do not have the ability to make notes and highlight specific areas. I can promise you I will be getting a hard copy of this one!

Lou says

A very interesting point of view about church members!
I'm not really into non-fiction books but I did enjoy this one. Is a quick read and definitely recommended!

Mark says

This is a good motivational book about being a vital part of the body of Christ. Filled with stories, verses, and ideas to help do that. Short but inspirational. This is a quick read and I would recommend it.

Patrick Chester says

"I will" is a relatively short book outlining in progressive steps nine traits of a more effective Christian. These nine traits all center around being a contributing member in a church body. Rainer claims that many Christians are stuck in a me-first, country club church kind of attitude, and that this sort of behavior has been contributing to the overall decline of the church in America. Rainer doesn't simply accuse and bemoan, however. He presents a strategy for helping Christians who are stuck in this way of thinking through a set of progressively more involved steps. The book is challenging and doesn't let any excuses slide, but at the same time it is encouraging to make a change and to help one more closely become aligned with the mission of the kingdom of God through the local church.

Cheryl Durham says

A very quick read that will make you look at yourself. I am a God fearing believer who knows I can do better. Instead of talking about what others are not doing....the search light needs to be turned inward. I must and will do and be a better version of me....a better version of what MY God expects.

Rev. Linda says

Our pastor encouraged our congregation to read this one, and it has some really good points about what being a Christian can look like in a church ---From the Publisher: Now is the time to stand up and say, 'I Will!' Could you be the answer to the problems you see' Every day we are faced with the needs of those

around us. Emotional. Physical. Spiritual. What are we to do about it? Are these problems for our pastors to address or is there a way for the church member to make an impact that will last? Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer answers these questions by offering nine simple traits that you can incorporate into your life no matter your background, stage of life, or sense of capability

Kathleen says

I WILL:NINE TRAITS OF THE OUTWARDLY FOCUSED CHRISTIAN by Thom S. Rainer is a book about "...a believer in Christ and a church member. It is about learning how to have complete joy in your service through your church. It is about becoming a fully functioning member of the body...of Christ.

It is about saying, "I will" instead of focusing inward on our wants and desires.

Philippians 2:1-11

The nine traits are:

1. I will move from "I am" to "I will"
2. I will worship with others
3. I will grow together with others
4. I will serve
5. I will go
6. I will give generously
7. I will not be a church dropout
8. I will avoid the traps of churchianity
9. I will make a difference

I recommend this little inspirational book to all church members. At the end of each chapter there are 4 'points to ponder'. It would be suitable for a small group study.

4.5 stars

Daniel Ligon says

A very helpful resource by Thom Rainer! "I Will" is basically the sequel to his earlier book, "I am a Church Member." In the earlier book, Rainer examined the attitudes and motivations of church members; in this book he focuses more on our actions in a church setting. Of the two, I found this book to be more helpful to me. In some very practical ways, Rainer compares the expectations that we often have for church to what church life should really look like. Along the way, he has some healthy criticism for "churchianity," the real culture of church tradition that is all too often lived out in our congregations in the place of true Christianity.

Rainer's chapter headings are pretty convicting on their own:

I will move from "I am" to "I will."

I will worship with others.

I will grow together with others.

I will serve.

I will go.

I will give.

I will not be a church dropout.

I will avoid the traps of churchianity.

I will make a difference.

Rainer brings to the table a wide knowledge of church surveys and statistics, an engaging writing style, and most of all, a passion for the institution of the local church. Any church member would benefit from reading this book.

I received a digital copy of this book for free from the publisher and was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I express in this review are entirely my own.

Debbie says

I wish every church member, every Christian would read this book!

David Steele says

“I want hymns in the worship service.” “I want sermons that are practical and tug on my emotional apron strings.” “I want a slick youth program.” “I want the worship team to dress up.” “I want a quarterly business meeting.” “I want, I want, I want.” This is the lament of many twenty-first century Christians. It is a cry that has been informed by our consumer-based culture. It is an inward cry that makes a plea on the basis of personal preference.

That is the subject of Thom Rainer’s excellent little book, *I Will: Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian*. Rainer contrasts the inward pleas above with a response that is outward. Instead of “I want,” he urges Christians to begin with “I will.” “It is about learning how to have complete joy in your service through your church,” Rainer writes. “It is about becoming a fully functioning member of the body.

The author argues that right attitudes (“I am”) lead to right actions (“I will”). “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:3-4, ESV). Readers are therefore encouraged to commit to the following right actions:

1. I Will Move From “I Am” to “I Will”
2. I Will Worship With Others
3. I Will Grow With Others
4. I Will Serve
5. I Will Go
6. I Will Give Generously
7. I Will Not Be a Church Dropout
8. I Will Avoid the Traps of Churchianity
9. I Will Make a Difference

There is nothing original here - just biblical admonition for Christ-followers who desire to make a maximum impact with their lives to the glory of God. Readers who are troubled by Rainer’s challenges should look deeply at their own motives and their commitment to the local church.

Personally, I was deeply encouraged by Rainer’s timely book. *I Will* is a reminder that a self-focused approach to Christianity will only do harm and discourage the household of faith. The nine traits that Rainer

advances will serve the church well and prompt spiritual growth among the faithful flock of God.

I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review.

Ken Grant says

Received this for free, but it would have been worth paying for. Short, yet focused and filled with a practical approach for making the church an entity that will bring real change in the world. Encourages the individual church member to commit to acting in a way that will influence those inside and outside the church. Helpful for church leaders who are seeking to galvanize those who attend to a higher commitment based not on legalism, but on a true zeal that is rooted in individual gifting.
