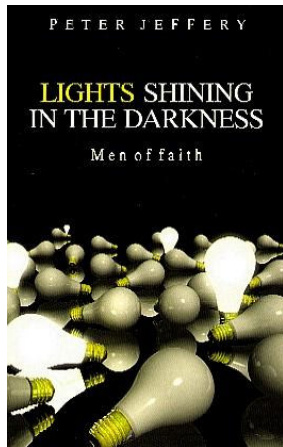


# Read 'Em and Reap!

Evangelical Christian Book Reviews

Hebrews 5:14



## Lights Shining in the Darkness – Peter Jeffrey

There are many great biographies written about the men of faith who have impacted the Church throughout her history. Most of them are detailed, sometimes laborious and usually extensive. As a result some of the most influential figures in Christian history remain a nebulous name without significant meaning to a vast majority of believers! On top of that, the problem arises of where to start in a study of the men of faith of the past.

Peter Jeffrey's little book (110 pages) offers a glimpse into the lives of 11 of the most influential people of Church History. I'm sure that Jeffrey had a hard time choosing which ones to include in this book, but the ones he chose are outstanding choices. They include: Athanasius, who stood strong against the heresy of

Arianism; Augustine of Hippo; John Wycliffe, the first to translate the entire Bible into the English of his day using as his translation the Latin Vulgate; Martin Luther, author of the 95 Thesis and father of the Reformation; William Tyndale, the first to translate the Bible into English from the original Greek and Hebrew languages; Oliver Cromwell, the politician turned war hero turned politician of whom C.H Firth says, "...no English ruler did more to shape the future of the land he governed"(Charles Firth *Cromwell* Putman 1935 p.486).

Also included are: Daniel Rowland, a little know country preacher from Wales that J.C. Ryle describes as one of the spiritual giants of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; Jonathan Edwards, America's greatest theologian and father of the Great Awakening, and George Whitfield, the great preacher of the Great Awakening.

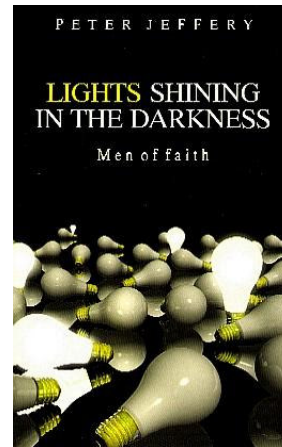
The last chapter interestingly compares the preaching of two men: Asahel Nettleton and Charles Finney. Here is what someone said about Nettleton: "to be converted under the ministry of Nettleton was to become Calvinistic in theology. Such ideas as total depravity, the necessity of regeneration, justification through Christ alone, and the Sovereignty of God in salvation, were not only believed but felt."(J.F. Thornberry *God Sent Revival* EP 1977, p.23). And of course, Charles Finney is the father of the invitation system and getting a physical response at conversion. I'm not really sure how Finney fits as a Light shining in the Darkness, for I believe his methods have done harm to the Church. Nevertheless, this book is a great place to start for those looking to learn about great men of faith who have impacted the Church throughout her 2000 year history. *Read 'em & Reap!*

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