

SF770 Soul Care
Spring 2023
Priscilla Wong
Book Report #4 - Let Go

How This Book Helped Form My Theology

The French author provided spiritual insights to royal Christians during the rule of Louis XIV by writing letters to them. The main theme of his letters is to let go of our old self and surrender ourselves completely to God.

Main Ideas

There are many good points from this book, the three main ideas that stir my heart the most are as follows: 1) let go of our old self completely before God; 2) bear with others; 3) how to help others to do the same.

The author repeatedly mentioned in his letters that as Jesus's followers, we need to let go of our old self. The scripture from Romans 6:6 came to my mind : "For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." When the old self is still living in us, we are burdened, always struggling in pain. But when we let go of the old self and nail it to the cross, live out what Jesus has accomplished on the cross for us, the new life begins. I have seen how Christians around me struggle so badly with their old self, even many church leaders and pastors, in my family, and in myself, how we struggle when our old self is still alive. Many in our church long for a revival, but I feel like revival is not likely to happen

when we do not let go of our old self and surrender completely to God. When the old is not gone, the new cannot come. We need to make room for the new to take place. I am eagerly waiting for a revival, that people would repent from sins and return to God. I want to be where it happens.

The author talked about bearing with others.¹ that we must bear each other's burdens, based on Galatians 6:2. The world is broken, so are the people living in it. It is unavoidable that we are affected by brokenness. I am at times weighed down by other's brokenness, when I see how the family I was born in is broken, when I see how my mom and my sisters suffer in brokenness, sometimes the burden is so heavy that I feel like I want and need to do something about their brokenness so they can get out of it. But then I realized how I cannot change them, because I am not their savior. I have to also let go, and let them deal with their own brokenness before God. They also have to take up their cross to follow Jesus. But in the meantime, I will listen to God how should I act to deal with their brokenness. I don't want to be affected negatively by it. I am still not in full-time ministry, but I could see how God wants to use the situations I am in right now to teach me how to bear with the brokenness of others. When I minister to broken people, how should my heart be like? How should I actually not agree with brokenness, but at the same time, bear with the people and love them like how God does.

Lastly, Fenelon at times could sound somewhat merciless and harsh, almost like he was condemning the royalty, when he tried to advise them to abandon self-love.² I

¹Fenelon. *Let Go*. Amberson, PA: Scroll Publishing CO., 2007. 34.

²Fenelon. *Let Go*. 21.

understand how the royalty might be more arrogant and it was hard for them to humble themselves since they had all the wealth and power. I feel like condemning and judging need to be exercised with caution. When the moment is right, it can be powerful and people actually feel convicted and charged to repent and turn back to God. But people might also feel shamed, that no matter how hard they tried, they were never good enough. Shame and guilt pushed them further away from God. It is God's kindness that leads people to repentance. When we minister to people, we need to use discernment and also need to speak and carry the heart of God, we need to be reminded that God does not always accuse, but he draws us close with love and grace like no other, and it is not because our good deeds that we are saved and loved, God is love and died for us even when we are covered in sins, this is the God that we trust in.

Bibliography

Fenelon. *Let Go*. Amberson, PA: Scroll Publishing CO., 2007.

With integrity, I have read this book:

Thoroughly and Entirely 100%

Quickly but Completely___%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely ___%

Quickly and NOT Completely___%

Not at all___%