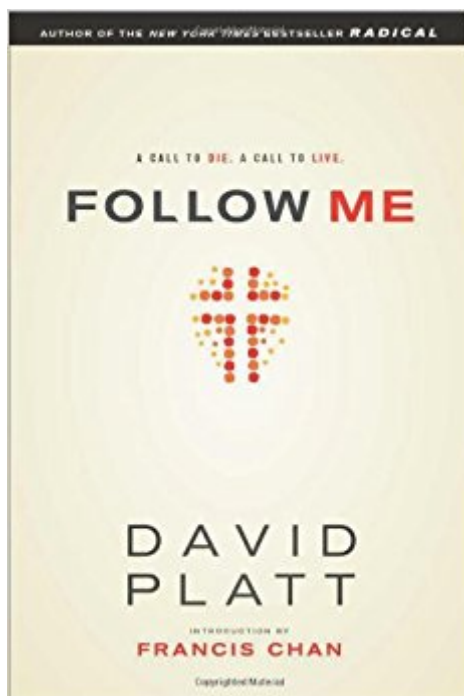


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# Follow Me: A Call To Die. A Call To Live.



## Synopsis

2014 "Christian Retailing" Best award finalist! What did Jesus really mean when he said, "Follow Me"? In this new book, David Platt, author of the New York Times bestselling book, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*, contends that multitudes of people around the world culturally think they are Christians yet biblically are not followers of Christ. Scores of men, women, and children have been told that becoming a follower of Jesus simply involves believing certain truths or saying certain words. As a result, churches today are filled with people who believe they are Christians . . . but aren't. We want to be disciples as long as doing so does not intrude on our lifestyles, our preferences, our comforts, and even our religion. Revealing a biblical picture of what it means to truly be a Christian, *Follow Me* explores the gravity of what we must forsake in this world, as well as the indescribable joy and deep satisfaction to be found when we live for Christ. The call to follow Jesus is not simply an invitation to pray a prayer; it's a summons to lose your life and to find new life in him. This book will show you what such life actually looks like.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What did Jesus really mean when He said, "Follow me"? Is it possible for people to say they believe in Jesus but not truly be born again? Is it possible for people to claim they have accepted Christ into their hearts yet not actually be Christians? Not only is it possible, but according to Pastor David Platt, it's also highly probable. The author of the bestselling book *Radical*

is convinced that many people in our churches today are misled as to what it truly means to be a follower of Christ. Western culture has drained the lifeblood out of Christianity and replaced it with a watered-down version of the gospel that is so palatable it isn't even real anymore.

“Follow me,” Jesus calls. Two simple words that change everything. You will never be bored. You will always have purpose. You will never lack joy. But it will cost you. This call is not an invitation to pray a prayer. It is a summons to lose your life. a call to die. a call to live. Have you answered that call?

David Platt is pastor of the Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama. He holds a Ph.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and is the author of the best-selling book, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Francis Chan is the best-selling author of *Crazy Love* and the host of the BASIC series. Francis is the founding pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, California and the founder of Eternity Bible College. He also sits on the board of directors of Children's Hunger Fund and World Impact. Francis now lives in Northern California with his wife, Lisa, and their four daughters and one son. **SPANISH BIO:** Francis Chan es pastor principal de la Iglesia Cornerstone en Simi Valley, California. Es el fundador del Eternity Bible College y pertenece a la junta de la organizacion Children's Hunger Fund. Su primer libro, *Loco Amor*, vendio mas de 175,000 copias su primer ano. Francis y su familia residen en el sur de California.

David Platt's *Radical* was one of those rare books that catapults a first-time author straight to top of the charts. For two years it was a fixture on the lists of bestsellers and even today it remains a top seller in the Christian ranks. *Radical* was a call for Christians to escape the doldrums of the American dream and to live for something better, something that counts for far more. Books with this message are hardly a rarity today, but what set this one apart was its grounding in the good news of the gospel. Almost three years later Platt brings us his follow-up, *Follow Me*. Where in *Radical* he exposed cultural values and ideas that are opposed to the gospel, his purpose in *Follow Me* is "to move from what we let go of to whom he hold on to. I want to explore not only the gravity of what we must forsake in this world, but also the greatness of the one we follow in this world. I want to expose what it means to die to ourselves and to live in Christ." He says I am convinced that when we take a serious look at what Jesus really meant when he said, "Follow me," we will discover that there is far more pleasure to be experienced in him, indescribably greater power to be realized with him, and a much higher purpose to be accomplished for him than anything else this world has

to offer. And as a result, we will all--every single Christian--eagerly, willingly, and gladly lose our lives to know and proclaim Christ, for this is simply what it means to follow him. The fact is that there are multitudes of people who profess faith in Jesus Christ but who are not truly his followers. Platt wants his readers to be radical in their Christian commitment, but he wants them to ensure they have left behind the trappings of superficial religion for the joy of supernatural regeneration. He wants his readers to know that as we follow Christ, "he transforms our minds, our desires, our wills, our relationships, and our ultimate reason for living." Once Christians have been transformed, they will inevitably begin to multiply, to make more disciples, both in their local context and across the planet. As with *Radical*, Platt's particular concern is that North American Christians shake off their apathy and desire for comfort and take the gospel to the far corners of the earth. The call to follow Christ is a call to go wherever the gospel has not yet been preached. *Follow Me* is essentially a brief theology of Christian living and mission, extending from the response to the gospel's call to being the one to then extend that call to others. So many books of this kind come from outside of our theological stream, and it is almost as if we need to translate or contextualize them. Platt's, though, is consistently biblical and gospel-centered in the best sense of that term. He does not introduce anything new or, dare I say it, radical to the equation (which I say as praise, not critique). He does not try to be clever or witty or original. He just teaches what the Bible teaches. The book concludes with a "Personal Disciple-Making Plan." Using a question and answer format Platt leads the reader to consider a plan to grow as a Christian and to make disciples. Here he addresses one of the critiques that came in the wake of *Radical*, that he had not given sufficient emphasis to the centrality of the local church in the Christian's life. He has the reader ask: How will I fill my mind with truth? How will I fuel my affections for God? How will I share God's love as a witness in the world? How will I show God's love as a member of a church? How will I spread God's glory among all peoples? How will I make disciple makers among a few people? He expands upon each of these questions and in doing so provides a helpful grid for living this life in a way that honors the Lord. It sometimes seems as if books on a particular topic arrive in waves, and I suppose this is probably just the case. One bestseller may expose a lack of writing on a topic and many other authors respond. There have been several recent books that have a good measure of overlap with this one, emphasizing true conversion over cultural Christianity and emphasizing the importance of discipleship (Francis Chan's *Multiply* comes to mind, as does J.D. Greear's *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart*). Still, this one is worth reading and worth handing out. Though I would suggest that *Follow Me* is an objectively better book than *Radical*, my guess is that it will not sell as well. There is something about the call to be radical that appeals to us more than the call to simply follow. Yet this

is the one I would prefer to hand out and the one I would prefer to have people read. It may not hold out the excitement and anticipation of doing something radical, but it does something far better and far more lasting than that--it calls us to follow Christ, to lose our lives for his sake. As Platt says, it is a call to die and a call to live. It is a call to die in order to really live.

I think that David Platt is one of the few pastors out there today who are actually living the right way. Many today are wolves in sheep's clothing. So far I have found nothing that David has written that is against what I believe. I think that God has really given him a vision to live for Him and help others now how to as well. It amazes me how many people really don't know what the Bible or God has said on how to live and really, truly follow him. This book is challenging, scripture based, and incredibly inspirational and motivating. There was no way I could read this book and walk away unhappy.

My life has been changed by the writings of David Platt. As I write this review, I am sitting in my apartment in a RAN in east Asia. My wife and I embraced the Radical Experiment presented in the final chapter of "Radical" and are nearing the two-year anniversary of living on the other side of the world. "Follow Me" has been a helpful follow-up to "Radical". I have had the privilege of reading this book on a weekly basis with a group of men, most of whom are also living away from home. Platt's writings seem to be especially targeted toward Americans. That being said, it has been interesting to watch others in my small group (one from Canada, Kenya, and one native) interact with this material. We have been convicted and challenged as we have considered what it means to be a follower of JC and how we are doing in this relationship. In one of our weekly meetings, I described Platt as a provocative writer. By this, I didn't mean strange, but that he often puts things in a way that really provokes you to think. "Follow Me" is full of such things and has caused me to question my own commitment to the work every believer has been called to. I am most thankful for Platt's commitment to Scripture. He is a pastor before he is an author and this comes across in his writing. I rarely feel preached at, but more often find myself feeling as though I am being invited into the very challenges the author is facing. I am grateful for the resources men like David Platt are making available for believers today. I am even more grateful for the transparency with which such resources are being written. I pray that God will bless these resources and use them to further His Name among the nations!

David Platt has blessed us with a wonderful expression of personal faith, and a Call to discipleship.

This is not a "how-to" book; not a book that claims, "If you do it as I do ...

Helped me follow Him more closely. Difficult topic and challenging study by David Platt. Great study guide with questions that make you actually THINK about your walk. I definitely recommend.

This book is repetitive. I feel like his main points are primarily made in the first few chapters and then he belabors his points throughout the remainder of the book.

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