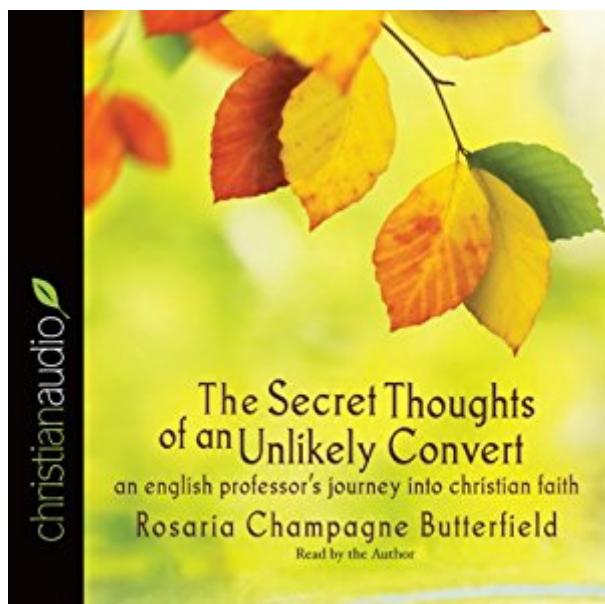


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The Secret Thoughts Of An Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey Into Christian Faith



Synopsis

Rosaria, by the standards of many, was living a very good life. She had a tenured position at a large university in a field for which she cared deeply. She owned two homes with her partner, in which they provided hospitality to students and activists that were looking to make a difference in the world. In the community, Rosaria was involved in volunteer work. At the university, she was a respected advisor of students and her department's curriculum. Then, in her late 30's, Rosaria encountered something that turned her world upside down - the idea that Christianity, a religion she had regarded as problematic and sometimes downright damaging, might be right about who God was. That idea seemed to fly in the face of the people and causes that she most loved. What follows is a story of what she describes as a train wreck at the hand of the supernatural. These are her secret thoughts about those events, written as only a reflective English professor could.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was referred to be by a dear Christian sister. At the age of 18, I decided that I was gay....being brought up in the Catholic faith, I always 'suspected' that homosexuality was wrong; when I became involved with a woman, I went to a priest for council and he informed me that 'there was no hope for me'....armed with that statement and convinced that God didn't like people like me, I proceeded to live as a lesbian for the next 22 years....Little did I know that God used those 22 years to bring me back to Him....as Dr Butterfield, I was an activist in the gay lifestyle as well...Like Dr Butterfield, I had a few Christian people sprinkled in my life throughout those 22 years who

became my friends and shared and allowed me into their lives 'with no strings attached'. My journey is similar to Dr Butterfield's in so many ways and some of the questions she asks in her book could have (and did) come from my lips. I also experienced a train wreck as well, although mine was due to the fact that at the time of my conversion, I was very much still involved with a woman and the gay lifestyle and I left both cold turkey. I read this book in one sitting because I had never come across someone like me who had come out of a lesbian life like I did to claim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Her story very much interested me in how she coped with the 'break' from her homosexual past. As someone who has 'lived' her story with my journey, it brought back a lot of the feelings and issues I dealt with in my own healing and how God's grace and mercy can cover a multitude of sins. Although I got bogged down in her theocracy of the RP church (I ascribe to the teachings and philosophy of the General Baptist Conference), I found it quite inspiring that she shared how God can truly change someone from the 'inside out'. He did that to me as well and I am not ashamed of my past. God has used my story, and I would have to believe hers as well, as a powerful message to many Christians and non Christians alike that He is a changer of lives and hearts and souls for anyone willing to take that first step of, 'What if'...? Today, I also live with the freedom of who I am in Christ and even though life has its ups and downs, I have truly and fully been cleansed by the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ.. Way to go, Dr Butterfield!!!!

I have read many "coming to Christ" books and love to hear how people came to know Him, however, this book by far was the BEST one I have ever read. Not only because of the absolute miracle of how Jesus got a hold of Rosaria's heart but because it was highly convicting and made me think about how I portray my Christian faith to others! My walk with Jesus is already changed because of Rosaria's testimony. It's the kind of book that I want to buy cases full and hand them out to all Christians and all who are NOT saved! I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK!!!

This book (and others like Mere Christianity) changed my life. I am and always have been a straight male. Now in my late 50s, Rosaria's story has once and finally helped drop the Holy Spirit from my head (where it has been stuck for years) to my heart. As she says of herself in her story, the Bible and Christ have become bigger than myself. I saw that if a woman of Rosaria's background can be that honest with herself and be brave enough to lose everything but the dog by coming to Christ, what have I or anyone else to fear by dying to ourselves and being born again in Christ?

I really enjoyed the author's candid and personal story, as well as, the additional writings and

perspectives included from her friends. I got a little distracted on her child-rearing/adoption chapter because it was off topic (maybe better saved for another book?) Still, a very solid, Christian read that was very helpful with how and how not to approach and witness to our lgbt friends and family. This book gave me a little hope and peace.

God's grace: applied, magnified with Christ glorified! I know, I know...it's a cut and paste of the title. Why? Because it's true! With the story-telling skill I'd expect from an English Lit. major, Rosaria relates her encounter with the living GOD and the change it brought to her life. A magnificent story of restoration; through the pain of lost identity, worldview and relationships (and job too, I think!) With her cynicism displayed on her cuff as she dove into an analysis of the Bible, it wasn't long until nagging questions (ably handled by a humble man of God) began to surface and be answered. This caused consternation of conternations! Maybe she was wrong! Her training, her philosophy, her relationships! All wrong! Soon she found herself at the foot of the cross of Christ, changed by his sacrifice, now following a Christ ethic and making choices which honored her Lord and Saviour.

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