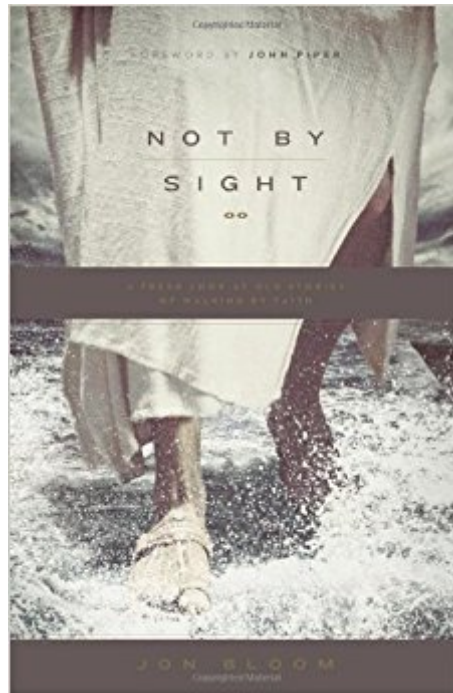




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Not By Sight: A Fresh Look At Old Stories Of Walking By Faith



Synopsis

Trusting Jesus is hard. It requires following the unseen into an unknown, and believing Jesus's words over and against the threats we see or the fears we feel. Through the imaginative retelling of 35 Bible stories, *Not by Sight* gives us glimpses of what it means to walk by faith, counsel for how to trust God's promises more than our perceptions, and the way to find rest in the faithfulness of God.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Vivid, nourishing sketches of Bible characters learning to live with their sometimes startling Lord." —J. I. Packer, Board of Governors' Professor of Theology, Regent College
"To live by faith is no small thing. Jon Bloom's *Not By Sight* provides brief readings — one per day would be ideal — to help us rethink our lives in the light of Christ's faithfulness. The audacity of this book is that it simply but thoughtfully takes Christ at his word. How rare, how powerful." —Raymond C. Ortlund Jr., Lead Pastor, Immanuel Church, Nashville, Tennessee
"Spurgeon said, 'My books are my tools.' And the book you hold in your hands is one wise match for the journey. Bloom's stories and insights ignite — ignite fire in bones, and ignite the old and best paths, and ignite glimpses of His glory that make us want to run this walk of faith!" —Ann Voskamp, New York Times best-selling author, *One Thousand Gifts*
"Jon Bloom is a Christ-centered, God-worshipping, kingdom-oriented guy. And since

not all writers are, those are good reasons to read this book! But it's more than that. Jon is a gifted writer of something we need more of—truth-telling nonfiction that's full of imagination. For years I have read Jon's Desiring God blogs and pondered them, saving some of them to quote from in future books. I love how Jon repeatedly takes me back to Scripture. God says his words won't return to him empty without accomplishing his purpose. He never says that about our words. That's why Not By Sight will endure beyond this world—it is infused with the life-giving Word of God that will never die.

—Randy Alcorn, Founder and Director, Eternal Perspective Ministries; author, Heaven, The Treasure Principle, and The Ishbane Conspiracy

“Not By Sight creatively and winsomely invites readers into the realities of the gospel accounts, enabling us to hear the rocks of the adulterous woman's accusers fall to the ground, feel the tingle of health rushing through the leper's body, see the panic in Peter's eyes as he begins to sink, smell the fragrance that has been poured on Jesus's feet, and taste the fish Jesus serves to the disciples for breakfast.

—Nancy Guthrie, Bible teacher; author, Hearing Jesus Speak into Your Sorrow

“Forgetfulness and familiarity. Faith is often plagued by these twin faults. We easily forget what we know about who God is and what he's done for us in Jesus Christ. When we turn to Scripture for help, our familiarity dulls the wonder in the splendid story of God's mercy to mere men. We need to be reminded of the old stories of Scripture, that they might irrigate our parched souls and ignite our faith. In Not By Sight, my friend Jon Bloom shatters our familiarity with the Bible by helping us see afresh how the drama of Scripture unfolds in the gritty reality of human experience and how those stories are infused with grace as they fit into the greatest story: God's plan to save sinners by his Son. Do you need to be reminded of what you already know? Do you need to be shaken from your familiarity? Jon's fresh tellings of the old tales will help you recover surprise and delight in the stories of Scripture.

—C. J. Mahaney, Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church, Louisville, Kentucky

“There is nothing quite like the gritty, grace-filled stories of Scripture to awaken our hearts to the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ. And there is hardly anyone I know more gifted or capable of bringing them to life and making poignant, and often painful, application of them than my good friend, Jon Bloom. This is a wonderfully insightful, powerfully edifying, and above all Christ-exalting book that I cannot recommend too highly.

—Sam Storms, lead pastor for preaching and vision, Bridgeway Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

“Do you, like me, feel the futility of straining to get hope from the things you can see? Using the voices of those who have gone before us, Jon Bloom describes the better way—walking by faith with Jesus,

our Blessed Hope. Not By Sight takes you on a walk through the cloud of witnesses whose testimony of God's always sufficient grace, echoes through the ages. I'm grateful for this meditation on the precious promise of God's provision to enable us to put one foot in front of the other by faith.

•Gloria Furman, author, The Pastor's Wife; Missional Motherhood; and Alive in Him

“What happens when we humbly and expectantly meditate on the stories of the Scriptures while wearing the lens of the gospel? Ask Jon Bloom, or better still, buy his new book, Not by Sight, and discover for yourself. This treasury of short devotionals is the nourishing fruit of a man smitten with Jesus and hungry for grace—a brother whose words make the gospel beautiful and believable, to believers and non-believers alike. This is a book you're going to want to give to a whole lot of friends, no matter where they are in their faith story.

•Scotty Smith, Teacher in Residence, West End Community Church, Nashville, Tennessee

“There are probably only two books I've read with a depth of discipleship untouched by the Church at large in America. Not By Sight by Jon Bloom is one of those. More than once, I found myself unable to continue reading as tears filled my eyes, my heart being so deeply moved and encouraged by Jon's soothing words about the surprising, but always trustworthy ways of God. More Christians need to understand these truths if they are to walk firmly into every good work God has prepared for them. If you only read one book this year, I strongly recommend it be this one.

•Matt Brown, Evangelist; author; Founder, Think Eternity

Jon Bloom (BA, Bethel University) is the cofounder and president of desiringGod.org, where he contributes regularly. He is also the author of several books. Bloom and his wife, Pam, live in Minneapolis with their five children. John Piper (DTheol, University of Munich) is the founder and teacher of desiringGod.org and the chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. He served for 33 years as the senior pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is the author of more than 50 books, including *Desiring God*; *Don't Waste Your Life*; *This Momentary Marriage*; *A Peculiar Glory*; and *Reading the Bible Supernaturally*.

This book is AWESOME. Every chapter is only three pages long (or so). So I like to read one every night before I turn out the light. If you ever struggle with doubt or faithlessness, this book will help. The accounts chosen are very relevant to our lives today and the points are made well. You won't have to think long and hard about the lessons you are to learn. They are obvious and instantly applicable. Plus, the writing is humorous at times and entertaining. I consider my nightly reading to

be a "treat." I look forward to my daily dose of faith booster!

A fresh re-imagining of several narratives from the Bible. Some are merely an attempt to put the reader in the vicinity of the story. Others go a bit further, adding imaginative details on the thoughts and words of those we read about in the Scriptures. For example, how and why did Thomas get separated from the eleven, so that he was missing in John 20:24, and how did the reaction of the other disciples affect him when he next met them? I adore this kind of imagination: thinking about things that might have happened, might have been said (always staying true to what's recorded in the text). It helps put even more flesh and blood on people who were eyewitnesses of the glory.

I love reading Jon Bloom's words and it surprises me it has taken so long to read this, his first book, even though it's been sitting on my bookshelf for a few years. Bloom takes stories from the Bible and writes a short imaginative vignette of the behind-the-scenes of what we don't get to read or "see" from the Bible. Whether it's Levi's surprise to being approached by Jesus to come "follow me", Peter walking on water, or Zacchaeus knocking on the door of someone whom he "repaid" what he'd taxed them, to mention three of the 35 stories, Bloom gives the reader a "fly on the wall" experience of the story. Each story is no more than three pages, all reflect a theme relevant to us today, and the learning is easy to discern but sufficiently powerful that the lesson lingers with you during your day. I recommend this book as it's easy and so enjoyable to read but stirs your heart to go deeper with Jesus.

Possibly the best book with daily reads to remind me of God's unfailing faithfulness. Each day begins with an incident/event from the Bible and expounds with points for us. What an assurance every day!

This book brought to life the stories and people of the Bible in ways I've never thought of before. I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to dig deeper into the lives of the people God used and changed for His glory and to be encouraged that He can do the same in our lives as well. Jon Bloom truly has a gift!

Compelling and unique perspectives on classic bible stories/events. This book tries to flesh out the stories and give a personal or deeper perspective. The author does his best to put you into each scene to see and feel what is going on the minds and lives of the biblical characters. Some liberties

were taken to bring each story to life but he never changes the biblical meaning and he stays true to scripture.

This book was incredible. Real simple, yet stirs your heart and affections for Jesus unlike any other. Probably because it's based on so much scripture. Definitely a faith builder

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Jon Bloom, in a very respectful, realistic and absorbing fashion, brings to life some of the most dramatic stories of the Bible, focusing on the human side of the characters and how God shaped their faith and hearts through the circumstances they were put through - all the while casting the spotlight on you, the reader: how does this speak to you about God's work in your own life? Short and easy to read, either in a few sessions (or even just one, if you're an avid reader), or, equally well, slowly by using each story as a devotional guide, you will find plenty of wisdom and spiritual gain from this book. God bless Jon and the entire staff of Desiring God!

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