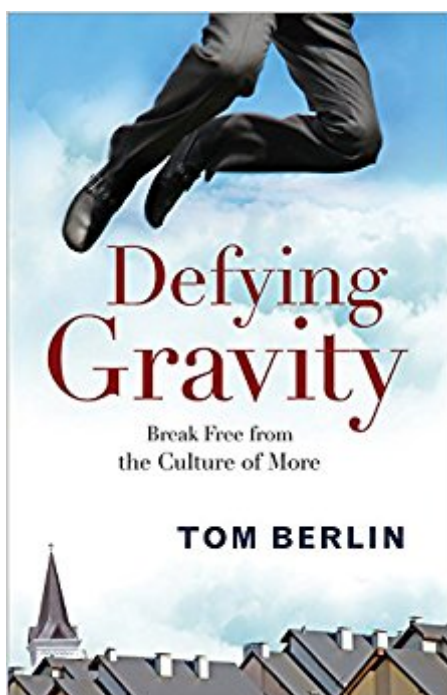


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Defying Gravity: Break Free From The Culture Of More



Synopsis

Our possessions can create unbearable weight and affect our ability to serve and thrive. How do we defy gravity and find freedom? In this 4-week small group study and stewardship campaign, pastor and author Tom Berlin explores what is required to sustain a vibrant life, what we need versus what we want, and what we can do to avoid being pulled into the orbit of materialism.

Book Information

Series: Defying Gravity

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Customer Reviews

Tom Berlin is Senior Pastor of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, Virginia. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Tom is author of *Defying Gravity: Break Free from the Culture of More*, *6 Decisions That Will Change Your Life*, *6 Things We Should Know About God*, and *6 Ways We Encounter God*. He is coauthor (with Lovett Weems) of *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results*; *Overflow: Increase Worship Attendance & Bear More Fruit*; and *High Yield: Seven Disciplines of the Fruitful Leader*.

“This orientation toward God’s kingdom is life-altering. It creates an identity founded in generosity.” (from *Defying Gravity*) If you are sincerely interested in becoming a Christian or deepening your faith as a Christian then at some part of your journey you must make critical decisions about how you manage your resources. Tom Berlin through *Defying Gravity* shares his personal path toward generosity that includes many intense struggles as well as deeply satisfying stories of lives changed through his giving. The end result has

helped shape Tom's leadership and Floris UMC, the church he pastors into one of the more mission minded and generous churches in our area dramatically impacting lives in their community and throughout the world.

He had some really good views but I felt like it was more a ploy for tithing then anything else. I did love the scripture references and his biblical knowledge was great but I just couldn't get past overall theme of tithing. I had a very hard time finishing the book which is very unusual for me but unfortunately once it lost my attention it was hard to get it back.

Very readable and articulate in sharing out of our abundance rather than focusing on what we don't have. God gave his all for us, how can we do less for Him?

Just what I needed

Really enjoy the insights. Well prepped series.

Exactly what I expected.

great

Defying Gravity: Breaking Free from the Culture of More by Tom Berlin is an easy read and talks about how how to leave the "Kingdom of Self" and enter the Kingdom of God. The premise is that many of us today are materialistic and so focused on what we will lose by following God that we never consider what we gain. The more we try to hold on to this world, the more we will find ourselves bound by gravity, the second we begin to follow God and truly serve him, that is where we begin to defy gravity. I first chose to read this book because I kept hearing the song "Defying Gravity" in my head. Also, I thought the cover seemed pretty interesting. I am glad that I took the chance to read Defying Gravity because the Kingdom of Self is something I struggle with a lot. Berlin presents the idea that the Kingdom of Self is like a black hole as it radiates a degree of gravity so strong that many people cannot break free from it. So how can we break free from the culture of 'more' that seems to bind us to the Earth? The answer is by deliberately choosing to be a generous steward of your possessions. By choosing to be a participant in God's Kingdom, not just a recipient. If you enjoy self-help books, Defying Gravity will be a book you enjoy. It is full of helpful

examples, which make the writing easy to relate to. At the end of the day, being a Christian is serving as a steward to others. You have the choice in who you will be. Will you be an:* Ostrich that can run and receive God's grace but lacks the devotion to every fly and defy gravity* Chicken that responds to God's grace through occasional acts of charity or devotion but is unable to sustain flight for long periods of time* Eagle/Dove/Swallow that is fully free in God, putting their whole being (time, ability, strength, resources) into serving God. These are the ones who know that they do not have to be chained by the gravity of this world. They know that there is freedom in serving Jesus. Defying Gravity is a journey towards embracing our life and the stuff inside it as a gift from God, a gift that we should use for His glory rather than our own. The only thing that made me lower my review was that I felt the book could have been a little longer. Either way, I am giving Defying Gravity 4/5 stars for good book with a strong message that many of us need to hear today. I received this book for free from the Publisher through NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

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