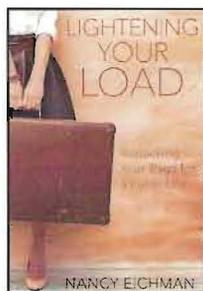


LIGHTENING YOUR LOAD

by Nancy Eichman, 21st Century Christian, 2016, 153 pages, paperback, T89234, \$10.99.

Lightening Your Load is the latest in a long line of ladies class books by Nancy Eichman. Many are familiar with her other contributions on a wide range of topics that have been well-received and lauded by women throughout our brotherhood.

As the title of this latest work suggests, the book is about overextending our priorities. It is written from the standpoint of one who recognizes the need to downsize and eliminate some of the “stuff” that so easily categorizes our lives. As readers, we can relate when she confesses to sometimes packing too many



priorities into an already busy life. We nod our heads mentally when she writes about schedules that become crammed with tasks that drain our energies and leave us

overwrought and overloaded. By repacking our spiritual bags, we can enjoy a richer and fuller life if we will but “lighten the load.”

Opening the cover, I read this quote by author Charles Dudley Warner: “Simplicity is making the journey of this life with just baggage enough.” Our sister then reminds us that this is a real challenge because often we find it hard to distinguish between the necessities and the things we can do without. And if we pack hurriedly, we are apt to forget something that is really important.

Thirteen chapters make this a good quarterly study, though each one is packed with enough meat and additional information to easily cover a couple of class periods. The travel theme runs throughout each chapter, serving as the lead-in to a particular incident in scripture worth revisiting. Modern-day applications are drawn followed by a checklist of things to remember. Ten discussion questions are included along with “Trip Tips,” practical suggestions for how to implement changes in our everyday lives. Readers will enjoy the “Baggage Claim” section that includes quotes worth remembering and a final “Bring It on Home” question that invites personal introspection.

For those who might not have access to a class study, this book is a quick read

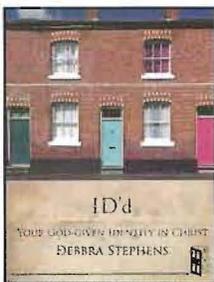
and one you will enjoy passing on to others. (Reviewed by Janie Craun, CW Editor)

ID'D: YOUR GOD-GIVEN

IDENTITY IN CHRIST by Debra Stephens, 21st Century Christian, 2016, 88 pages, paperback, T83416, \$10.99.

“We have taken on the name of Christ. Thankfully, a new identity comes with that name. With it also comes an expectation ... Taking on the name Christian is to reflect the Christ — as one who obeys His commands, abides in Him, serves others, and shows and shares His love in the here and now.” This wisdom comes from Debra Stephens’ latest book *ID'd: Your God-Given Identity in Christ*.

Whether we like to admit it or not, at some point in time, we have all struggled to find out who we are. We have allowed friends, family, media and other sources to define who we should be instead of going to the Ultimate Source to find out who God wants us to be. Stephens does a great job of walking us through this study. By examining the relationship that existed between God and the Israelites, His chosen people, she helps us to see how our own identity must be found in Christ. Stephens also reviews Israel’s history — both good and bad — and how every choice they made affected their relationship with God. She gives examples of how the people lost their sense of identity when they separated themselves from God and shows how we as Christians can do the same.



This leads to an even greater understanding of the topic at hand. While the book’s eight chapters make for a somewhat shorter study than a typical quarterly, it is overflowing with information on how to live life with a Christlike identity. This is the latest release in the “Ask, Seek, Knock” series started by Casandra Martin prior to her passing. It is now being continued by various writers to complete her vision.

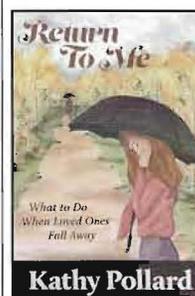
The book would be a great choice for women of all ages, either for personal study or for use in a class setting. It could

be especially fitting for teenage girls who are at an age when they are struggling to find out who they are and where they belong. (Reviewed by Hannah Lee, Old Hickory, Tennessee)

RETURN TO ME: WHAT TO DO WHEN LOVED ONES FALL AWAY

by Kathy Pollard, Fortify Your Faith, 2015, 160 pages, paperback, 51395, \$13.95.

I doubt that there is one among us who has not been personally and profoundly affected by the loss of faithfulness in one whom we dearly love. Our hearts hurt, and our souls long to see them return to the Lord. Kathy Pollard’s first book, *Return to Me: What to Do When*



Loved Ones Fall Away

gently and lovingly addresses our fears and concerns with wisdom, personal experiences, and deep study of Scripture. Part Bible-marking instruction, part interactive-workbook, part class study, her

words leave us comforted and encouraged with a renewed desire to search for and encourage those who have left their first love. While perfectly designed for a weekly women’s Bible study, the book is even more fitting for those of us who need reassurance to “let the Word do its powerful work.”

In one chapter, Kathy reminds us that in our many efforts to bring our loved one back to the Lord, we must also turn them over to God. While we hurt and suffer, the Lord promises that He will perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle us (1 Peter 5:10). Kathy’s words, “these are not just hopeful possibilities. They are promises,” have remained in my heart as a powerful reminder that the Lord loves my loved one even more than I do. She also says “if it seems impossible or improbable, remember that this ‘peace surpasses all understanding.’ It’s above our comprehension. But what we do know is that it’s a promise from One who always keeps His promises.” I highly recommend this book for any Christian who loves the Lord and wants heaven to be the destination for every soul. It will educate you, strengthen you, and reassure you as you seek to encourage those around you. (Reviewed by Carla Moore, Dripping Springs, Texas)