



Spiritual Direction and the Care of Souls : A Guide to Christian Approaches and Practices

By GARY W. MOON, DAVID G. BENNER

Intervarsity Pr April 2004, 2004. Paper Back. Condition: New. This anthology offers clergy, laity, and professional counselors alike a multi-faceted, multi-denominational introduction to the purpose and process of spiritual direction. Despite its modern, 'faddish' ring, the practice enjoys a long and time-honored place in the Christian tradition, with roots in scripture and in the earliest history of the church. Editors Moon and Benner represent both this history and the proliferation of approaches in recent years by including chapters penned by experts from seven faith traditions: Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Reformed, Wesleyan-Holiness, social justice (United Church of Christ), and Pentecostal. To help readers better compare approaches, each contributor addresses set topics (definitions, role of the spiritual director, hallmarks of spiritual maturity, etc.) and provides a short bibliography. This imposed template produces some uneven results, but a deep yearning for healing, spiritual transformation and, ultimately, union with God shines through each selection. Additional chapters help distinguish spiritual direction from psychotherapy and pastoral counseling. The editors deserve commendation for offering an overview both comprehensive and concise, and for their fine introduction, which stresses common ground (spiritual direction as a process of healing, sustaining, reconciling, and guiding) without glossing over the differences between Christian...



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