



this week's creations to help you live a life of love  
chris altrock: creator/ curator

**Thursday, January 19, 2023**

*Sent about once a week, this resource aims to encourage you and equip you to live a life of love--for God and for neighbor.*

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**"I still believe that love is the most durable power in all the world ... [the cross] is an eternal reminder to a power-drunk generation that love is the most durable power in the world."**

This quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. in his sermon "Paul's Letter to American Christians" captures a core conviction necessary for living lives of love. The sermon is one of King's most stirring, one he preached some fifteen times. [Listen](#) to it and/ or [read](#) it this week.

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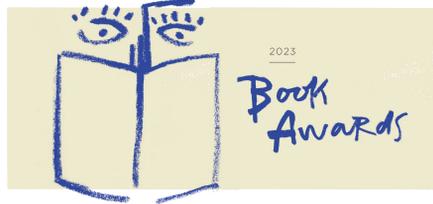
**"There is a true and real sense in which the sin of the world is the sin of 'othering' ... It is a sin that infects the entire world, and has since our very creation."**

This quote from my Sunday AM sermon on 1/15/23 reveals one of the, if not *the*, most prevalent barrier to love in the world--"othering." Watch/ listen to this 20 minute sermon [HERE](#).

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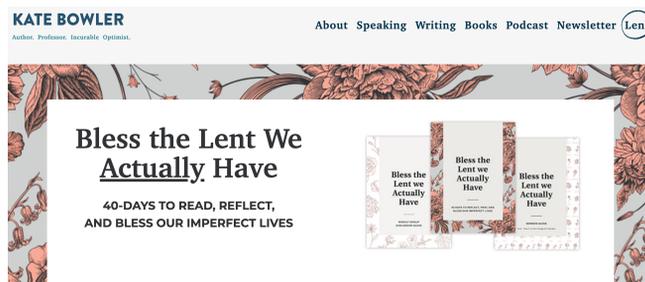
# Christianity Today's 2023 Book Awards

Our picks for the books most likely to shape evangelical life, thought, and culture.  
CT EDITORS | DECEMBER 13, 2022



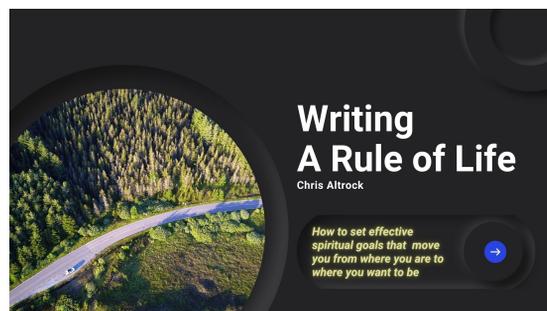
Each year *Christianity Today* highlights new books for their potential to influence thought and practice. [Their 2023 list has been released.](#) You might consider some of these, especially in the area of "Christian Living & Spiritual Formation" as books to pick up for 2023 (they include *Overcoming Apathy: Gospel Hope for Those Who Struggle to Care* by Uche Anizor; *Jesus and Gender: Living as Sisters and Brothers in Christ* by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Eric Schumacher; *Good and Beautiful and Kind: Becoming Whole in a Fractured World* by Rich Villodas; and *How to Inhabit Time: Understanding the Past, Facing the Future, Living Faithfully Now* by James K. A. Smith.)

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Kate Bowler, PhD is a New York Times bestselling author, podcast host, and a professor at Duke University. She's got a remarkable talent for creating content that helps us to be honest about some of the really tough stuff of life and to deal with it in ways that are healthy and that make use of the best spiritual practices. [Her recently released guide for Lent](#) promises to be one of the most helpful. Consider it as Lent draws near (Feb. 22-April 6, 2023).

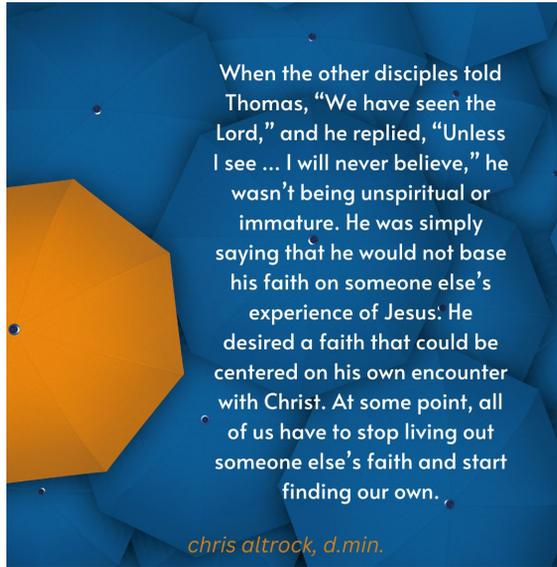
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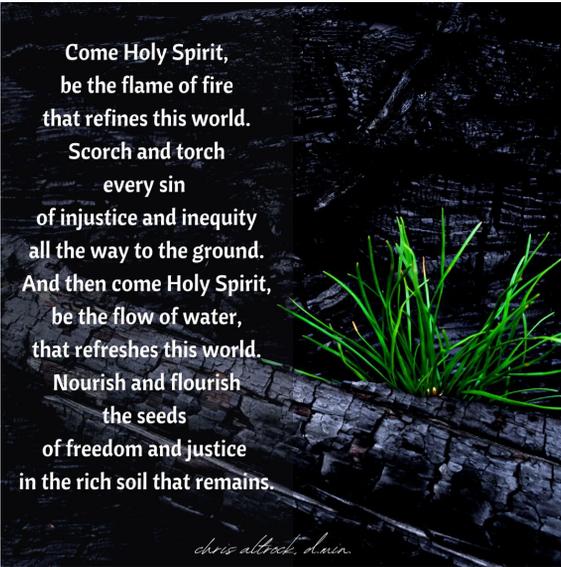


My four-part video series "Writing a Rule of Life" coaches you in how to write a Rule of Life for 2023. Free to Stamford Church of Christ members, \$25 for others, it helps you consider the Two Greatest Commandments, your "Spiritual Pathway" and your enneagram as you write a Rule. Email [chrisaltrock@gmail.com](mailto:chrisaltrock@gmail.com) (with payment confirmation if paying) and I'll give you the access code for the videos and worksheet. Access and pay [HERE](#).

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These images from my social media accounts over the past week may inspire and encourage you.





Come Holy Spirit,  
be the flame of fire  
that refines this world.  
Scorch and torch  
every sin  
of injustice and inequity  
all the way to the ground.  
And then come Holy Spirit,  
be the flow of water,  
that refreshes this world.  
Nourish and flourish  
the seeds  
of freedom and justice  
in the rich soil that remains.

*chris altrock, d.min.*

I love you

It's not hard to imagine that, playing like a loop in Peter's mind, are the three times he denied Jesus. Now, the Risen One asks a simple question three times: "Do you love me?" Jesus doesn't need to hear the answer. Peter needs to hear the answer. This is Jesus giving Peter space to counter his shame and self-hatred and to confess the core truth about himself: I love you, I love you, I love you.

"I do not know what you are talking about."

I love you

"I do not know the man."

I love you

"I do not know the man."

*chris altrock, d.min.*