

# Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream

By David Platt, Multnomah Books, May 4, 2010

*Review by Cindy Buntin*

Does your life look different than those around you who don't know Christ? Do you feel like your life lacks purpose and significance? Do you want to make a difference in the world, but have no idea where to start or what to do? Do you feel there should be more to the Christian faith than attending church every Sunday?

David Platt's *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* addresses the church today in America. When he became a pastor of a mega church in Alabama, he became uneasy with the way the church operates today. He compared it to Jesus' ministry on earth and the beginning of the church. He says that while Jesus drew big crowds, at the end of the day, there were twelve men left who followed Him. It seems that Jesus wasn't interested in marketing Himself to the masses as we are today. Jesus primarily poured His life into these twelve men. He didn't define success with bigger crowds, bigger budgets, and bigger buildings as we do today. The author describes these twelve men as leaving everything they had ever known to follow Jesus. And today, Jesus calls us to do the same.

On a trip to Asia, the author saw first-hand what it means to take up your cross and follow Jesus. Every day, Christians in Asia risk their lives, and the lives of their families to teach others about Christ. The author says Americans have made the church "all about me." We go to church on Sunday because it makes us feel better about ourselves. Then we live the rest of the week for ourselves, without making any significant difference in the lives of those around us. Platt points out that the church is not about us, it is about Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus commands us to reach those who have never heard about Him, and to make them into His disciples. There are currently 1.5 billion people in the world today who have not heard about Jesus. It is the job of the church to reach these people and disciple them.

The author challenges the church to take on the Radical Experiment. He asks us to do five things over the course of the next year, and explains each of these things in detail. He invites us to "see if radical obedience to the commands of Christ is more meaningful, more fulfilling, and more gratifying than the American dream." He guarantees that "if you complete the experiment, you will possess an insatiable desire to spend the rest of your life in radical abandonment to Christ for His glory in all the world."

David Platt's *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* is a book that speaks the truth. It will motivate you to change your life, to make a difference in the world, and to live more like Christ! It is just what the church needs today! I highly recommend this book to everyone!