

## Some Excellent Books

We all have books and stories that awaken and/or stimulate aspects of who we are. *Fiction* may enliven your imagination. Others are excited to read the latest *pop culture* or *political* book. Some enjoy *historical* novels that put together specifics of some of the things we have had bouncing around our brain for years, and such books may bring clarity for our world view. Still others are motivated hearing a *personal story* of someone from recent or past history.

Since we are speaking about the **Kingdom** in this season of podcasts, we would like to recommend several books which may add to your pursuit of this incredibly important subject. These are from recent years and each one has helped us grow more deeply in our understanding of the *essence of the Kingdom*.

While “up north” fishing this year I decided to take on Jordan Peterson’s “*We Who Wrestle With God*.” Deep. Excellent for the seeker sorting through science, philosophy, and faith. I truly enjoyed it but it tested my intellectual and processing metal. The following recommended books are less broad - more succinct - yet very spot on.

✓ *Kingdom: Finding Your True Self* by Dave Nadler

The Kingdom is mentioned over 100 times in the Gospels while church only three times. Why do you think this is? Here we jump into what Matthew recorded about principles of the Kingdom - things he heard firsthand from the Master. A great transitional conversation for any “scribe of the Kingdom.”

✓ *Blessed Are the Misfits* by Brant Hansen

Fitting in with the mainstream, while required by the mainstream, is not at all how Jesus lived and taught. Brant expands upon the idea that there are those who don’t go with the flow - and that this may be a good thing! Helpful for the person who feels like a square peg in a round hole and intuitively knows it is time to try something principled and different.

✓ *Forgiveness* by Rodney Hogue

Forgiveness helpfully discusses the most powerful soul asset Jesus brought to mankind. A brief and direct read for any who wish to understand the depths of our Creator’s view of forgiveness.

✓ *Living Fearless* by Jamie Winship

Through story Jamie explores the amazing road to becoming a fearless warrior in the Kingdom. He addresses deep aspects of our identity in Jesus and freshly contextualizes it into our journey.

✓ *The Unseen Realm* by Michael S. Heiser

Heiser brings the reality of spiritual warfare into a place where we can get a handle on where we fit within the battle. He expands the sometimes limited view we have of the three heavens.

*Return of the Gods* by Jonathan Cahn

This book lays a foundation for understanding *why* things are the way they are. We are part of an epic story - we often are quite unaware of what is happening all around us.

*Organic Church* by Neil Cole

Neil discusses how a person may live more consistent with the life and teachings of Jesus over and above mere religion. He consults the words and actions of Jesus above the pronouncements of mere men.

*A Story About A King* by Dave Nadler

Dave tells a composite story to help us see our everyday connection with God’s work in the world.

Each of these books help you dive more deeply into *King First - then Kingdom - then Church*. This was the pattern of the teaching of Jesus to His disciples - and so it is for us as well! Brief previews for each book are found on [Fourthstream.com](http://Fourthstream.com).