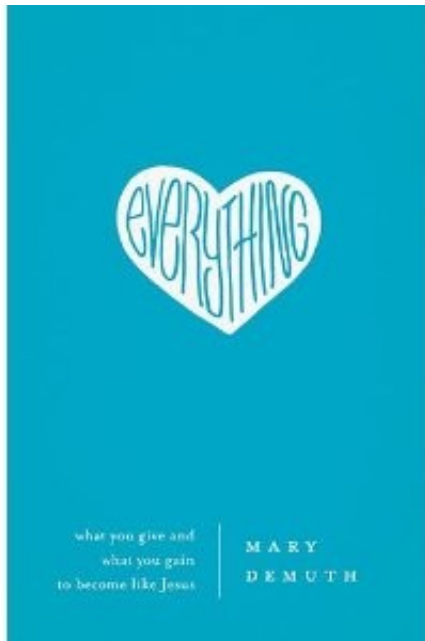


"Everything," by Mary DeMuth: A (Glowing) Review



good [go?od] + book [bo?ok]: any compilation that compels the reader to frantically paw for an ink pen to notate the margins... *while reading the introduction.*

I first became acquainted with [Mary DeMuth](#) in 2009 when I heard her speak at a writer's conference at Wheaton College.

I remember being profoundly impacted by [her message](#) then, and even now when I've had the privilege of learning from her -- either on paper, on the screen, or at a conference, **Mary always leaves me wanting more of Jesus.** She has a way of stripping away the polish and tearing the veneer until we see Him for who He is: *the Savior who loves us desperately.*

Her latest book, *Everything: what you give and what you gain to become like Jesus*, is no different.

Sometimes I forget, though, that He is everything, and everything is Him. I meander down me-first paths, hoping achievement or people or success will fill up every part of my heart. I chase unsatisfying ghosts, hints of fulfillment that dissipate the moment I reach them. I even despair, as I did in France. But Jesus keeps reminding me through His presence and His realness that He is everything. And I stumble back to Him. (xvi)

Everything is a book about relinquishing control. It's a book about letting go of worry and reconciling failures. It's a book about healing and throwing it all to the wind in order to follow Jesus.

***Everything* is a book about becoming less of ourselves and more of Him.**

How to become more of Christ

A good friend of mine once told me: "To see if you're truly living the Jesus life, you have to examine your fruit. You have to become a fruit inspector."

In *Everything*, Mary coaches our fruit inspection by guiding us as we examine all aspects of our lives. **She hangs words on the shadowy parts of our humanity with such gentle honesty that we realize we are not alone in our struggles:**

- do we count it *all* His? even--and especially--our money?
- are we diligent to keep in step with the Spirit?
- have we learned to give up control?
- are we infectious followers, drawing others to Christ with happy hearts and the joy we display?
- have we worked to heal the hurts that might otherwise fester into bitterness?
- do we trust him enough to lean into our brokenness?
- do we work to forgive, even when it's hard? rest, even when we don't want to?



She challenged me in more ways that I have space to convey in this post (see copious dog-eared pages to the right). She pushed me to sit on tough truths and wrestle-worthy concepts and do the hard work of evaluating self.

***Everything: what you give and what you gain to become like Jesus* reads like a modern-day creed.** It's the B-side to doctrine. It's the answer to the question, "Now what?"

[We should] so imbibe in the Holy Spirit within us that we dare to love others, live without walls, and become fully who God created us to be -- dependent, surprising, infectious followers of Jesus Christ. (94)

If you're ready to take your faith walk deeper into a radical life *exchange*, you're ready for

this book.

If you long for Jesus to become more to you than a Sunday morning ritual or the recipient of empty prayers, Mary DeMuth offers the encouragement we need to make Him our *Everything*.