

The Complete Works
of
Oswald Chambers



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Discovery House Publishers

Books, music, and videos that feed the soul with the Word of God

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Introduction



The Complete Works of Oswald Chambers

Contents

For the first time, all the published books of Oswald Chambers have been collected in one volume. Also included are notes on Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel previously unpublished in book form.

Each book is prefaced by a brief introduction, noting the time and place when the lectures were given and a history of their publication.

The text of the books in this volume is taken from the editions published in the United Kingdom by the Oswald Chambers Publications Association. British spelling has been retained throughout.

Footnotes

Oswald Chambers urged his students at the Bible Training College to read and study with a dictionary at hand. "Never intend to look up a word," he said. "*Do it now.*"

In the spirit of Chambers and his philosophy of education, we have not robbed the reader of the opportunity to learn by personal effort.

If a name, word, or term appears in *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition, it is not footnoted. In some cases, a person not fully identified in the text has been footnoted.

Scripture Index

Using the CD ROM that accompanies this volume, readers may trace any verse or passage of Scripture throughout the teaching of Chambers. The CD ROM is located in the envelope at the back of the book and uses the popular Logos software.

Poetry and Other Quotations

Many of the quotations from poetry and other writings were not identified in the original text. The editors have not provided any identification of sources that did not appear in the books as originally published by Mrs. Chambers.

General Index

A general index of people, places, and terms is provided for those wishing to locate specific information contained in this volume.

The editors have not attempted to reference every appearance of words such as Holy Spirit, obedience, prayer, sanctification, and so on. That would require a concordance almost as large as the book itself! Those readers possessing the CD ROM version of this volume can easily locate all occurrences of words in Chambers' books by using their computer's search function.

Bibliography

This complete list of the books in this volume, with a brief summary of content, will aid readers in searching for Chambers' teaching on various themes such as prayer, sanctification, ethics, and others.

Publication Information

In the years before tape recording, it was common for sermons and speeches to be taken down in shorthand by stenographers, then published in newspapers and magazines. Chambers' early messages in Britain and the U.S. would have been recorded in this way. After his marriage in 1910, virtually all of his lectures and sermons were recorded in shorthand and transcribed for publication by his wife, Bidley.

The following periodicals are mentioned throughout this volume:

- *God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate*, published by God's Bible School, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA (1900–present). This publication was originally called *The Revivalist* and published by Martin Wells Knapp prior to his founding of God's Bible School in 1900.

For information on this publication, contact God's Bible School, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45210, USA.

- *Tongues of Fire*, published by the Pentecostal League of Prayer. In 1916, the magazine changed its name to *Spiritual Life*.

Tongues of Fire, numbers 1–300, January 1891–December 1915

Spiritual Life, numbers 301–692, January 1916–December 1950

A complete set of this publication is held in the British Newspaper Library, Colindale, London.

- *The Bible Training Course* (B.T.C.) *Monthly Journal* (April 1932–March 1952)

Published by Mrs. Chambers as “A Journal for the continuance of the teaching given by Oswald Chambers, as Principal of the Bible Training College, Clapham, London, 1911–1915; and in the Y.M.C.A. Huts Zeitoun, etc., Egypt, 1915–1917.”

Mrs. Chambers saw this publication primarily as a means of keeping in touch with the hundreds of people whose lives had been touched during their ministry, many of whom were serving as missionaries overseas. It began as a monthly publication, but wartime restrictions and paper shortages caused the change to a bimonthly and finally quarterly journal. Although subscriptions were sold, Mrs. Chambers generously provided scores of complimentary copies.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, many of the Oswald Chambers works first appeared in article form and upon completion of the series were published as books. Since the Bible Training College ceased to exist in 1916, Mrs. Chambers used the familiar initials B.T.C., simply changing the last word to reflect the new phase of continuing her husband’s teaching in this way.

A complete set of this publication is held in the British Library, St. Pancras, London.

A WORD ABOUT OSWALD CHAMBERS



Oswald Chambers was not famous during his lifetime. At the time of his death in 1917 at the age of forty-three, only three books bearing his name had been published. Among a relatively small circle of Christians in Britain and the U.S., Chambers was much appreciated as a teacher of rare insight and expression, but he was not widely known.

Chambers was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1874, the youngest son of a Baptist minister. He spent his boyhood years in Perth, then his family moved to London when Oswald was fifteen. Shortly after the move to London, Oswald made his public profession of faith in Christ and became a member of Rye Lane Baptist Church. This marked a period of rapid spiritual growth, along with an intense struggle to find God's will and way for his life.

A gifted artist and musician, Chambers trained at London's Royal Academy of Art, sensing God's direction to be an ambassador for Christ in the world of art and aesthetics. While studying at the University of Edinburgh (1895–96), he decided, after an agonizing internal battle, to study for the ministry. He left the university and entered Dunoon College, near Glasgow, where he remained as a student, then a tutor for nine years.

In 1906, he traveled to the United States, spending six months teaching at God's Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio. From there, he went to Japan, visiting the Tokyo Bible School, founded by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cowman. This journey around the world in 1906–07 marked his transition from Dunoon College to full-time work with the Pentecostal League of Prayer.

During the last decade of his life, Chambers served as:

- Traveling speaker and representative of the League of Prayer, 1907–10
- Principal and main teacher of the Bible Training College, London, 1911–15

- Y.M.C.A. chaplain to British Commonwealth soldiers in Egypt, 1915–17

He died in Cairo on November 15, 1917, of complications following an emergency appendectomy. The complete story of his life is told in *Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God* (1993), available from Discovery House Publishers, Box 3566, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

During the seven years of their marriage, his wife, Gertrude (Biddy) Hobbs, took verbatim shorthand notes of nearly all his lectures and sermons. After his death, she spent the rest of her life publishing her husband's spoken words. His best-known book, *My Utmost for His Highest*, has been continuously in print since it was first published in 1927.

From the earliest days of publication following World War I, Mrs. Chambers was advised and assisted by a small group of personal friends. In later years, this group became known as the Oswald Chambers Publications Association, which was incorporated in 1942, and exists today as a Registered British Charity. It oversees the publication and distribution of Oswald Chambers' material around the world.

Through the years, one of the Association's goals has been to keep all of Oswald Chambers' books in print. This has often meant the amalgamation of smaller books and booklets into single volumes for greater cost efficiency. The publication of this volume fulfills a goal held by Mrs. Chambers and the Association. By presenting the Complete Works in a single volume, it is hoped to preserve Chambers' words for future generations.

We commend this work to the reader with the prayer that you will be spiritually strengthened and encouraged as you encounter the person of Jesus Christ through the words of His servant, Oswald Chambers.