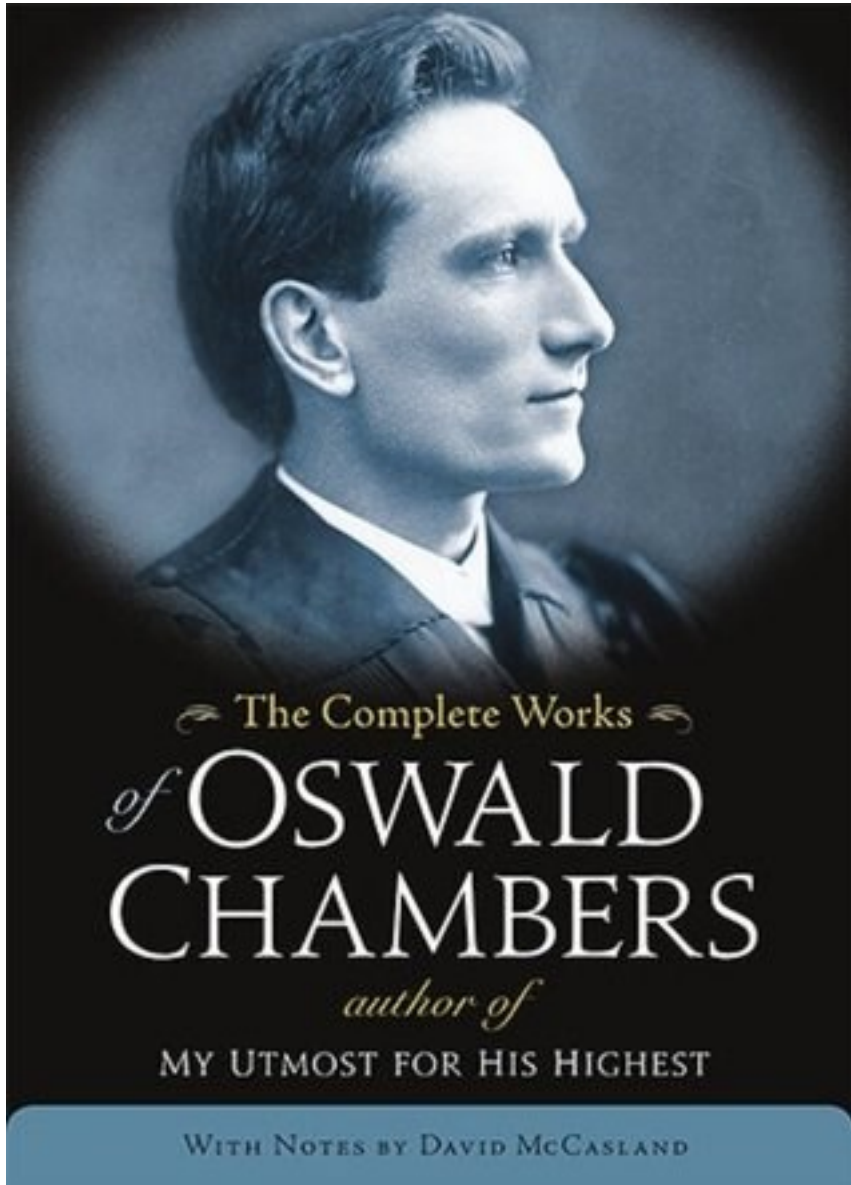


Christian Book Reports 2019

Christian Life Assembly The Journey Class

Jim Hoffman



My Utmost for His Highest Oswald Chambers

Who was Oswald Chambers?

- **Oswald Chambers (24 July 1874 – 15 November 1917) was an early twentieth-century Scottish Baptist and Holiness Movement evangelist and teacher, best known for the devotional My Utmost for His Highest. Chambers was influenced by Richard Reader Harris, a prominent barrister and founder of the Pentecostal League of Prayer. In 1911 Chambers founded and was principal of the Bible Training College in Clapham Common, Greater London. Chambers' widow transcribed and published books and articles edited from the notes she had taken in shorthand during the Bible College years and at Zeitoun. Most successful of the thirty books was My Utmost for His Highest (1924), a daily devotional composed of 365 selections of Chamber's talks, each of about 500 words. The work has never been out of print and has been translated into 39 languages.**

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“God always ignores the present perfection for the ultimate perfection.” Oswald Chambers**

Matt 6:8 “Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him”

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him”—this is the most sublime utterance of faith in the whole of the Bible.” Oswald Chambers**

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. NKJV

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“Beware of the pleasant view of the fatherhood of God: God is so kind and loving that of course He will forgive us. That thought, based solely on emotion, cannot be found anywhere in the New Testament. The only basis on which God can forgive us is the tremendous tragedy of the Cross of Christ.” Oswald Chambers**

Psalm 7:12 God is a just judge, powerful and patient, not exercising anger every day. 13 If one does not repent. God sharpens his sword, strings and readies the bow, 14 Prepares his deadly shafts, makes arrows blazing thunderbolts. NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“When prayer seems to be unanswered, beware of trying to place the blame on someone else. That is always a trap of Satan. When you seem to have no answer, there is always a reason—God uses these times to give you deep personal instruction, and it is not for anyone else but you.” Oswald Chambers**

“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” C.S. Lewis

My Utmost for His Highest

- “We imagine that whatever is unpleasant is our duty! Is that anything like the spirit of our Lord, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God.” Oswald Chambers

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“You have inherited the Divine nature, says Peter, now screw your attention down and form habits, give diligence, concentrate. 'Add' means all that character means. No man is born either naturally or supernaturally with character, he has to make character.” Oswald Chambers**

2nd Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My Utmost for His Highest

- “The most important aspect of Christianity is not the work we do, but the relationship we maintain and the surrounding influence and qualities produced by that relationship. That is all God asks us to give our attention to, and it is the one thing that is continually under attack.” Oswald Chambers

**Eph 5:1 So be imitators of God, as beloved children,
2 and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed
himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for
a fragrant aroma. NASB**

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“I delight in knowing that there is something in me which must fall prostrate before God when He reveals Himself to me, and also in knowing that if I am ever to be raised up it must be by the hand of God.” Oswald Chambers**

**Rev 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a
dead man. NASB**

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“The people who influence us most are not those who buttonhole us and talk to us, but those who live their lives like the stars in heaven and the lilies in the field, perfectly simply and unaffectedly. Those are the lives that mold” Oswald Chambers**

We love to hear the testimony where someone was saved by an “elevator speech”, but far more common is the story of how one came to Christ just by observing the Christians they knew.

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“We are not meant to be seen as God’s perfect, bright-shining examples, but to be seen as the everyday essence of ordinary life exhibiting the miracle of His grace.” Oswald Chambers**

2nd Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

My Utmost for His Highest

- “Jesus Christ became a curse for us by divine decree. Our part in realizing the tremendous meaning of His curse is the conviction of sin. Conviction is given to us as a gift of shame and repentance; it is the great mercy of God. Jesus Christ hates the sin in people, and Calvary is the measure of His hatred.” Oswald Chambers

Heb 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

My Utmost for His Highest

- “How long is it going to take God to free us from the unhealthy habit of thinking only about ourselves? We must get to the point of being sick to death of ourselves, until there is no longer any surprise at anything God might tell us about ourselves.”
Oswald Chambers

Rom 7:13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful. NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“The greatest characteristic a Christian can exhibit is this completely unveiled openness before God, which allows that person’s life to become a mirror for others. When the Spirit fills us, we are transformed, and by beholding God we become mirrors.” Oswald Chambers**

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“God did not direct His call to Isaiah— Isaiah overheard God saying, “. . . who will go for Us?” The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God’s call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.” Oswald Chambers**

God has made known to us the things we ought to do – we just need to see what needs done in our little corner of the world and attempt to meet the need.

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“The life of faith is not a life of mounting up with wings, but a life of walking and not fainting.” Oswald Chambers**

There may well be times of soaring, but far more common to us is the experience of just putting one foot in front of the other, - and sometimes with great effort.

Col 3:23 “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord.”

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“At times God puts us through the discipline of darkness to teach us to heed Him. Song birds are taught to sing in the dark, and we are put into the shadow of God’s hand until we learn to hear Him.” Oswald Chambers**

Matt 10:27 “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light”. As we know, our spiritual growth spurts often come while in the darkest of times.

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“God nowhere tells us to give up things for the sake of giving them up. He tells us to give them up for the sake of the only thing worth having, life with Himself. It is a question of loosening the bonds that hinder the life.”**
Oswald Chambers

Luke 14:26 “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“It is possible to know all about doctrine and yet not know Jesus. The soul is in danger when knowledge of doctrine outsteps intimate touch with Jesus.Have I a personal history with Jesus Christ? The one sign of discipleship is intimate connection with Him, a knowledge of Jesus Christ that nothing can shake.” Oswald Chambers**

John 21:15 Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“If we were never depressed we should not be alive; it is the nature of a crystal never to be depressed.” Oswald Chambers**

1st Kings 19:3 Elijah was afraid and fled for his life, going to Beer-sheba of Judah. He left his servant there **4** and went a day's journey into the wilderness, until he came to a solitary broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death: **“Enough, Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.”** **5** He lay down and fell asleep under the solitary broom tree, but suddenly a messenger touched him and said, **“Get up and eat!”**. NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“When someone thinks that to develop a holy life he must always be alone with God, he is no longer of any use to others.” Oswald Chambers**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“Are you seeking great things for yourself, instead of seeking to be a great person? God wants you to be in a much closer relationship with Himself than simply receiving His gifts—He wants you to get to know Him.”**
Oswald Chambers

Jer 45:5 “But you, are you seeking great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I am going to bring disaster on all flesh,’ declares the Lord, ‘but I will give your life to you as booty in all the places where you may go.’” NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“Learn to associate ideas worthy of God with all that happens in Nature—the sunrises and the sunsets, the sun and the stars, the changing seasons, and your imagination will never be at the mercy of your impulses, but will always be at the service of God.” Oswald Chambers**

2nd Cor 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“Get an inner chamber in which to pray where no one knows you are praying, shut the door and talk to God in secret. Have no other motive than to know your Father in heaven. It is impossible to conduct your life as a disciple without definite times of secret prayer.” Oswald Chambers**

James 4:2b “You do not possess because you do not ask.”

NASB

My Utmost for His Highest

- **“Beware of any work for God that causes or allows you to avoid concentrating on Him. A great number of Christian workers worship their work. The only concern of Christian workers should be their concentration on God.” Oswald Chambers**

A real temptation for some is that our ministry becomes our worship. A far better circumstance would be that our worship became our ministry.

Questions