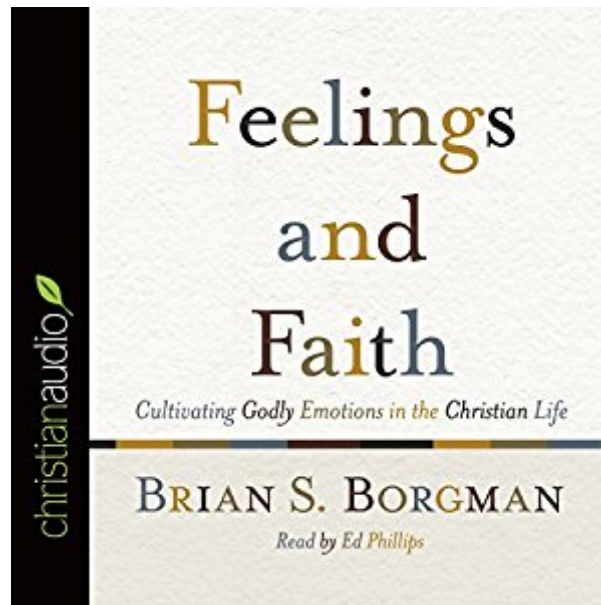


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# Feelings And Faith: Cultivating Godly Emotions In The Christian Life



## Synopsis

Weaves together biblical exposition and practical application to demonstrate how emotions relate to the Christian life. Emotions are a vital part of what it means to be a human being made in the image of God and redeemed in Jesus Christ. But often our emotions confuse and mislead us. So what is the proper place for emotions in a Christian's walk of faith? In *Feelings and Faith*, Brian Borgman draws from his extensive biblical knowledge and his pastoral experience to help listeners understand both divine and human emotions. After laying a biblical foundation, he moves on to practical application, focusing on how Christians can put to death ungodly emotional displays and cultivate godly emotions. This biblically informed, practical volume is helpful for pastors, counselors, and serious-minded Christians who wish to develop a full-orbed faith that encompasses their emotional life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Christians are confused about emotions. Some are convinced that we cannot help the way we feel. Others avoid emotions as dangerous gateways to excess, or simply view them as mere by-products of obedience. In "Feelings and Faith" Brian Borgman seeks to lift the fog of confusion and help the Christian understand God's perspective on the emotions. In Part 1 Borgman lays the theological foundations for understanding the emotions, arguing: (1) that God is an intensely emotional being; (2) that Jesus Christ, as the God-man, is an example to us of a perfect emotional life; (3) that the Word of God is written to stir us emotionally; (4) that the work of Christ involves redeeming the

whole man, which includes conforming us emotionally into the image of Jesus Christ himself. Part 2 examines sanctification and the emotions. Borgman argues convincingly that God commands us to have and display certain emotions while putting to death ungodly emotions. This is bound to challenge the prevailing view that it is impossible to control our emotions. Borgman argues, however, that since the emotions are intimately tied to our beliefs, values, and judgments, renewing one's mind is essential to emotional change. In Part 3 Borgman describes how to put to death ungodly emotions. He includes individual chapters on (1) sinful anger, (2) unforgiveness and bitterness, (3) fear, anxiety, and worry, and (4) depression. These chapters display unusual insight rooted in Borgman's many years of pastoral ministry. If you want to grow in your own sanctification and help others, these chapters are a goldmine. Finally, Part 4 details many practical ways that the Christian can cultivate godly emotions in their life. Brian Borgman has given a great and timely gift to the body of Christ.

We find ourselves in a culture that seems dominated by emotions. Most advertising is geared toward motivating emotions. We are often told to "follow our heart," which roughly means we should do what feels right to us. Unfortunately, there is little difference between the world and the church in this way. Many people choose churches based on how the service makes them feel. Christians often make decisions attributing their feelings to God with little or no thought given to applying God's already revealed Word to their lives. It's as though emotions are above being right or wrong. In *Feelings and Faith* Brian Borgman explains that emotions can have moral significance and he attempts to show how we can be filled with emotions that glorify God. After a brief introduction explaining and defining emotions, *Feelings and Faith: Cultivating Godly Emotions in the Christian Life* begins with the understanding that since we are made in God's image, we must look to the character of God as our guide for our character, including our emotions. Borgman takes the view that God does have emotions (contra the "divine impassibility" view that has been held by many theologians). He consequently explores God's emotions as revealed throughout the Bible and shows how the make-up of our emotions went astray due to the fall. Our status resulting from the fall naturally leads to who we are in Christ. Borgman progresses to show the necessity of God's authoritative truth for our complete sanctification. He contends that certain truths are essential to our transformation (he refers to them as "oxygen truths" as we cannot grow spiritually without them): the character of God, justification, and future glory.

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