The Cry of the Teacher's Soul

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There are many books for Christians about theology and many books for teachers about educational theory and practice, but this book is like neither of those. This is one for teachers that is not about teaching, one for Christians that is not about biblical exegesis. This is a perceptive and sympathetic ‘letter’ from a Christian teacher, to Christian teachers about their own spiritual and professional health and how these are intrinsically connected.

Each chapter starts with a true story: a case study of an authentic Christian teacher struggling with their chosen vocation, and seriously considering a change of direction. Why has it happened? What external and internal stresses have caused it? In what ways has their belief system and their Christian experience contributed to the situation?

The reader is then presented with an honest appraisal of some of the paradoxes of the Christian life as they apply to teachers: like the clash between idealism and reality, the tension between giving everything to our students and taking care of ourselves, and the contrasts of what we know in our head and what we feel in our heart.

This is not a self-help book. It doesn’t prescribe quick solutions but it explores the close relationship between teachers’ daily classroom experiences and their own spiritual development.

There are questions at the end of each chapter—a pause to consider not if, but how the discussion relates to individual teachers and their situations, as it surely will.

Because the book addresses experiences that are topical, and relevant to Christian teachers, it is easy to read. With only 115 pages, it is designed for busy teachers, student teachers and their mentors. I wish it had been available when I was a student teacher, a classroom teacher, a lecturer and student mentor.