

# ONWARD

from the desk of Chris Greer



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And just like that, it's March. Happy Spring-Is-Almost-Here, ! ☐☐☐☐

So...have you ever stolen something?

Mmm hm. Me too. If time travel was a thing, I'd go back to the late 90s and tell my younger klepto-self to return every random thing I ever pilfered. (I'd also smack myself upside the head.)

Because it's never OK to steal from others.

Or...*is* it?

I recently joined my friend Tim from [Seek Well](#) on their [Free and Light](#) podcast (check out the Jan. 30 episode [here](#) if you like). Tim and I chatted about the challenges and goodness of living a life of spiritual rhythm.

Tim sent a few questions ahead of time to help me prepare. One question, in particular, stressed me out. He asked, *"What's the most outside-the-box or unique spiritual practice in your life?"*

I read the question over and over.

Then I considered everything I do to grow and relate with Jesus.

And finally, I realized...*none* of my spiritual practices are unique.

**I stole every last one of 'em.**

Here's proof...

- I witnessed my mom's pre-dawn time with Jesus for *decades* before I took up the habit.
- My family's weekly Sabbath practice was lifted straight out of John Mark Comer's book, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*.
- My monthly day of silence and solitude developed after Tim Boehlke from Harbor Ministries challenged me (and a bunch of other guys) to learn to do it.
- When my wife and I wanted to connect with God together on a recent getaway, we followed the pattern from Seek Well's ["Daily Rhythm"](#).

**I habitually borrow the habits of people (alive and dead!) whose relationship with Jesus I most respect.**

And you ought to do the same. Because though we're certainly not made to *be* anyone else (see the "[I'm not Eugene](#)" edition of ONWARD for that reminder), we *are* designed to learn from one another.

So the next time you're stuck — the next time you're struggling to grow deeper and go further with God — don't forget to ***steal like a Christian***.

Observe and ask the Christians you admire how *they* engage with God. Then don't think twice — take their Godly wisdom and run with it. Imitate the spiritual practices that help them know and obey Jesus.

Jesus invites his disciple to "*Come, follow me*" (see verses like Mark 1:17, Luke 18:22, and Matthew 16:24) and "*let me teach you.*" (see Matthew 11:29) He is, after all, the One we are all to imitate.

And the apostle Paul instructed his friends and church members to "*pattern their lives*" after his (Philippians 3:17) and to "*imitate him, just as he imitated Christ.*" (1 Corinthians 11:1)

**Our fruitfulness as followers of Jesus comes from faithfulness, not originality.**

So steal away, my friends.

(And let me know what habits and practices you're finding most fruitful right now. You know I'd love to borrow them.)

Onward,

Chris

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## quote of the week

*"Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."*

— Paul, in Philippians 4:9

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## dad joke of the week

Which rock group has four men who don't sing?

Mount Rushmore.

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