

- **Release Date:** September 12, 2019
- **ISBN:** 9781632695079
- **Retail:** \$15.99
- **Pages:** 400
- **Category 1:** Christian Living
- **Category 2:** Devotional
- **BISAC:** REL012020 RELIGION / Christian Living / Devotional
- **Format:** Paperback

RENOVATING YOUR MIND

365 DEVOTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

PATRICK EGLE

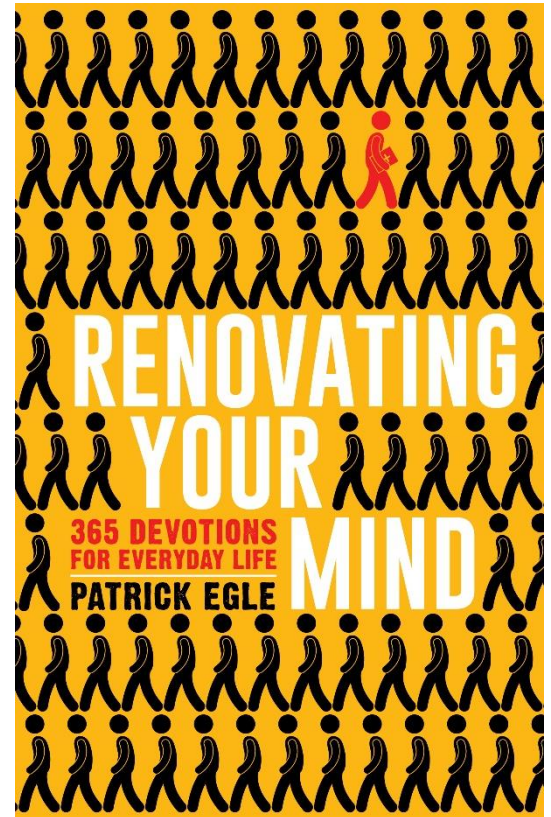
Motivated by a desire to strengthen his family’s faith, Patrick Egle decided to share with the members of his

family what he had learned from the Bible that day. It was nothing extensive or theologically profound—just a one-paragraph account of how the Lord had spoken to Patrick through His word. It was from sharing that initial paragraph that *Renovating Your Mind* came to be.

This book is a collection of those same morning devotions, journaling an average man’s walk with a supernatural God through everyday life situations. These devotions were not written while sitting behind a desk, detached from the realities and struggles of this life. In *Renovating Your Mind*, experiences are chronicled in detail, challenging readers to alter their thinking that they might be transformed more into the image of Christ by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2). These devotions encourage readers to change their perspective from perception to truth. Through the lens of truth, readers will find the freedom and joy that God has abundantly given us through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Renovating Your Mind is written by a simple, yet divinely inspired layman; easy to understand for every level and denomination of believer. Resisting the temptation towards elegant theological verbiage meant to impress scholars and dumbfound readers, this devotional instead is approachable, yet profound. Whether a brand-new Christian, or a seasoned follower of Christ, *Renovating Your Mind* is sure to challenge its readers to deeply consider its contents, and to develop further their fellowship with Christ.

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About the Author

PATRICK EGLE



On April 22, 2000, at the age of 29, **Patrick Egle** was saved while sitting in his driveway listening to the Jesus Christ Superstar soundtrack (yes, God will use anything to save a soul). This “Saul on the road to Tarsus” encounter guaranteed that Patrick could never deny the existence and reality of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His first year with Christ consisted of removing what was, the second year with renovating what is, and the third year with establishing and empowering what would be.

Since that moment in his driveway, Patrick has continued to press on “toward the goal for the prize of the upward call in Christ Jesus” by making himself available for mission trips, teaching, and ultimately writing devotions. Patrick married his best friend Michelle in June of 2011 and they have two children together, Kate and Joel. Patrick Egle and his family reside in Redlands, California where he attends the Packinghouse and assists in leading the Married Couple’s Study.

Connect with the Author:

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What Others Are Saying About
Renovating Your Mind

We highly recommend to you this well written and scripturally sound Bible devotional. We suggest you start every day with a reading from it before you begin your regular daily Bible reading. There are many reminders in this book of God's great love for you, so much so, that it colors virtually every single devotional. We have come to expect nothing less than his best from this gifted young author as a long time faithful member and bible study leader in our Packinghouse Church family.

— **Pastor Ed Rea, The Packinghouse, Redlands, CA**

Patrick has such a gentle yet firm way of reminding us that we aren't to think, act, or react to situations and circumstances in our lives as the world does; gently inviting and guiding us to think as God does. His words speak to you as a friend would over a cup of coffee, and in a way that while you may be receiving correction and discipline, you welcome it as from a friend. We think this devotional will speak to the hearts of many as we seek to think more and more like Jesus in this rapidly, ever-changing world.

— **Pastor Garrie Price, Calvary Chapel Safe Harbor, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico**

Patrick has not only captured the essence and flavor of what I have remembered from my home church, but he has also allowed the Lord's heart to beat through his words, not in the same way as one would consider the doctrine of inspiration, but in the way of a man that is kept by the Holy Spirit and determined as He is, to encourage and enlist men and women to love Christ more fervently, to live for God more passionately.

— **Pastor Frank Sanchez, Calvary Christian Fellowship, Colton, CA.**

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Patrick Egle, author of

Renovating Your Mind

365 Devotions for Everyday Life

Q: How did you begin writing devotions?

A: I didn't sit down and decide to write devotions one day . . . in fact, the thought never even entered my mind. It all started with a conversation I had with my brother Chris. See, as a family, we always spent Sundays together at my parent's house watching football, doing laundry, catching up with each other, etc. The problem was that I was saved and wanted to talk about God, and my family was not comfortable doing that. So one Monday morning, my brother and I got into a conversation about this over email and I told him that I couldn't truly be who I was around our family because God was everything to me yet I couldn't talk about Him to them. Chris was shocked, as it never even dawned on him that I felt this way. He apologized and said that I could talk to him about God whenever I wanted to, I just shouldn't ever expect a response from him. So that morning I decided to send an email to the members of my family sharing with them what I learned in my devotional time. The following day I sent another email to them, but also felt I should send it to some guys in my bible study as well. The next day I included some Christians at my work. It was then that one of my co-workers, Keith Ricker, a faithful Christian brother, wrote me back and said, "Bro, these are really good . . . you should do this every day." And with that, a ministry was born. I never imagined an email distribution list, a website, or a book . . . I just wanted to share God with those I loved so that they might come to know Him more. But God had a greater vision for these devotions, one that included saving my family and publishing a devotion book.

Q: To help people get an idea of the kind of devotions that are in this book, let me ask you this . . . if your devotions were a type of food, what would they be?

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A: In Texas there is a restaurant that sells 72-ounce steaks for \$72. The challenge is that if you can eat the entire 72-ounce steak in one sitting, you get it for free. I would say that these devotions are kind of like that. They are not light like a salad and they are not something quick like fast food; they are a substantial meal that requires you to sit down and really digest what is being said because you are going to be challenged to consider and apply spiritual truths that may not always be comfortable or politically correct in today's society. At the same time though, you will encounter God in a deep and meaningful way through the explanation and application of His word.

Q: How did God encourage you as you went through the process of putting this book together?

A: When I first started writing devotions in 2008, I was given some really bad advice from a friend. I was told that if you read something, and you put it in your own words, then you do not have to cite the source. So when it came time to submit my manuscript to the publisher for editing, imagine my surprise when I learned that I had to cite every source I had ever read and wrote about. Some of these devotions were ten years old and I couldn't remember if portions of them were given to me by the Holy Spirit, or if He influenced my writing through someone else, so, I went through every single devotion, line by line, verse by verse, using every resource I could think of . . . bibles, commentaries, devotion books, online resources, subject books, movies, etc., meticulously checking to see where I may have been influenced by someone else's material. It was the most stressful, exhausting experience of my life. It got so bad that I actually quit publishing this book at least 10 different times. Yet God would not let me quit. Each time, within hours after quitting, I was spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally renewed and restored in such a powerful and complete way that I knew it had to be God. It literally felt like a reset button had been hit within me to where I just knew that everything was going to be ok. Once I realized what God was doing, my entire perspective changed as I now knew that God was fully in this

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and that He had a plan and purpose for this book that far exceeded the difficulties I was experiencing.

Q: What would you like your readers to take from these devotions?

A: I think that many times when we read the Bible, we forget to take it literally, kind of like it is just a book of stories and is not really for us today. We forget that the Bible is absolute truth that transcends time and culture; that it is alive and active and is fully relevant for every situation we will ever face. It is not just for certain moments in life, but it is for every moment in life as it instructs us how to act, what to say, and how to navigate life's troubled waters correctly. I want readers to see the relevance of God's word in their lives today . . . in the every day things, so that they may experience the freedom and joy that He desires for all of us to have regardless of the situation we are facing. These devotions are real life examples of how an average man saw and experienced God's word move in and around his life.

Q: Can you give us an example of a real life experience that led to a devotion?

A: My wife, Michelle, and I love to go for long walks around our hometown of Redlands because the south side of the city has some amazing homes from the early 1900's. With that though, the infrastructure is pretty old as well; the sidewalks are cracked, uprooted, uneven, and sometimes just stop, so you have to be very aware of your surroundings. So one Saturday, as we were out walking, Michelle pointed out something for me to look at. As I looked to see what she was pointing at, the sidewalk dropped because of a tree root and I missed a step causing me to tweak my back. About a block later, I pointed out something for her to look at and she about broke her ankle as the sidewalk suddenly stopped. Then, as I was looking at my phone to see how far we had walked, I hit my head on a low hanging tree branch. As we were laughing about our random misfortune, and talking about the "dangers of walking in Redlands", I said to Michelle, "You can't take your eyes off of where you are going for 2 seconds without getting hurt."

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As soon as I said that, something clicked. A divine truth was revealed to me about our walk with God. See, I had always pictured the Christian walk as us walking on this perfectly smooth dirt path up and down hills and valleys. I now realized that along this path, on both sides, is the world with all of its temptations and distractions. As we walk along this path, keeping our eyes straight ahead, we do not stumble or fall. But, if we take our eyes off of where we are going, and begin looking at the things of the world, desiring them, we slowly drift off the path onto very uneven ground with lots of pitfalls and dangers. This is when we get hurt. I was reminded that we have an enemy and a world and a flesh that purposefully tries to sabotage our walk with Jesus by getting us to focus on all of these other things.

Q: Why do you believe people should read this book?

A: I once heard a saying, “If you write a message from your head, you will only reach a person’s mind; but, if you write a message from your heart, you will touch a person’s soul.” When I would receive responses from people who read these devotions, I would say 95% of the comments I received were, “You have no idea how much I needed to hear this today.” This book is kind of a divine appointment between God and its readers. To put it simply, I believe people should read this book because God is in it and He will speak to them through it.

Q: Can you explain what you mean by, “this book is kind of a divine appointment between God and its readers”?

A: A divine appointment is where God has prepared two parties for a specific time and purpose. Generally speaking, it is a time where one person can serve God by playing a part in the life of someone else. For example, one morning I was standing outside of the prayer room in between services at church; and as I was looking around the sanctuary, I noticed a young man sitting in the front row all by himself. It was then that I felt God say to me, “Go say ‘Hi’ to him.” “What?” I replied. “Go

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say ‘Hi’ to him.” The Lord repeated. “And then what Lord?” “Just go.” He said. My thoughts began racing. “This is dumb. Saying ‘Hi’ won’t change anything . . . it’s trivial.”

But the Lord kept pressing on my heart to go, so, reluctantly, I walked over to this young man and said to him, “Hey bro, the Lord really impressed on my heart that I needed to come say ‘Hi’ to you, so . . . Hi.” Immediately his eyes welled up with tears. He told me that he had been to our church seven times, and not one person ever said ‘Hi’ to him. He said, “I was just praying that God would please send someone over to say ‘Hi’ to me.” We both rejoiced and praised our amazing God. That is a divine appointment, and that is what I have seen God do through these devotions over and over again as He has spoken into people’s lives at exactly the right moment.

Q: How has your family supported you through this process?

A: My family was really great throughout this process. They were our prayer warriors, our sounding board, our test group, and a great source of insight when we needed it most. My wife, Michelle, though, she really carried the heavy load and was amazing through it all. When I would vent, complain, or express all the hopelessness I was feeling, she would patiently listen and then would just pray for me. She constantly encouraged me when I was down and corrected my thinking when I was of the wrong mind. She wrote me notes daily expressing how proud she was of me, and would text me verses throughout the day reminding me of who God is and who this book was for first and foremost. She always gave me the right perspective when I needed it most.

Q: So, who is this book for first and foremost?

A: It is for our children, Kate and Joel. This was the answer God gave me when I was praying about the vision for this book. He reminded me that when they get older, and are able to read and understand the spiritual truths that are written in this book, they will get to read about us when we were single, when we became

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friends, when we were courting, when we got married, and eventually when the Lord gave us them. They will see our struggles, our failures, the lessons we learned, the victories we experienced, and more importantly, they will see how God was always faithful to us no matter what we faced. This book is essentially a diary of how God wrote our love story, formed our family, and walked with us through every season of life.

Q: The title *Renovating Your Mind* is very interesting, what does it mean exactly?

A: The title was birthed out of Romans 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” One of the meanings for the word *renew* that is used in this verse is *to renovate*. As believers, there has to be a renovation of our thought process and how we deduce things. In other words, we have to change our thinking from the carnal to the eternal. No longer can we think and act like the world does, for we are no longer of the world. We are now of Christ and must think as Christ thinks if we are to become more like Him. That is essentially what this verse tells us, without renovation, there can be no transformation. This renovation of our minds only takes place when we read, memorize, and apply the word of God to our every day lives; for it is by doing this that we are transformed more into His image.

Q: Is this book for men or women?

A: In the spirit of the Galatians 3:28, and really the Bible as a whole, this book is written with truth being both universal and absolute which effectively breaks down the barriers that exist between gender, ethnicity, age, and social status. In short, this book will appeal to anyone who is seeking truth.

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