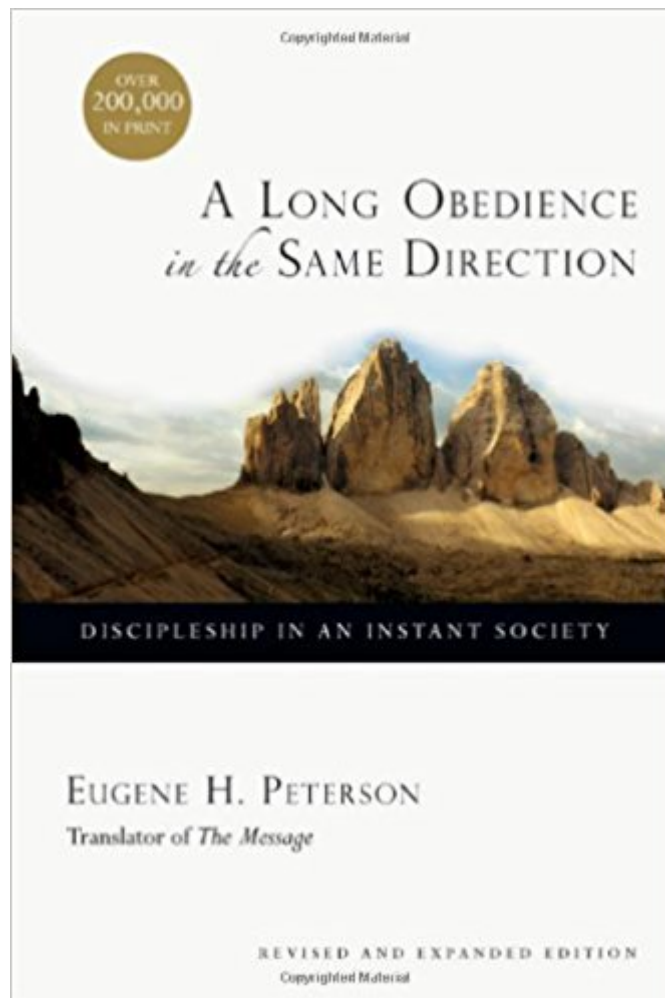




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# A Long Obedience In The Same Direction: Discipleship In An Instant Society



## Synopsis

As a society, we are no less obsessed with the immediate than when Eugene Peterson first wrote this Christian classic. If anything, email and the Internet may have intensified our quest for the quick fix. But Peterson's time-tested prescription for discipleship remains the same--a long obedience in the same direction. Tucked away in the Hebrew Psalter, Peterson discovered "an old dog-eared songbook," the Songs of Ascents that were sung by pilgrims on their way up to worship in Jerusalem. In these songs (Psalms 120-134) Peterson finds encouragement for modern pilgrims as we learn to grow in worship, service, joy, work, happiness, humility, community and blessing. This 20th anniversary edition of *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* features these Psalms in Peterson's widely acclaimed paraphrase, *The Message*. He also includes an epilogue in which he reflects on the themes of this book and his ministry during the twenty years since its original publication.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"All of the marks of a classic--profound, timeless, life-impacting." -- Leith Anderson, author of *Leadership That Works*"I've never read a book by Eugene Peterson that didn't stir and challenge me." -- Max Lucado, author of *In the Grip of Grace*"Wonderful book, one of the very best guides to the Psalms! Peterson's combination of passion and insight match the psalmists" -- Tim Stafford, author of *Knowing the Face of God*

Peterson, now retired, was for many years James M. Houston Professor of Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. He also served as founding pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland. In addition to his widely acclaimed paraphrase of the Bible, *The Message* (NavPress), he has written many other books.

This book has been a life changer for me. I have read it for years. Somebody told me recently that Peterson has some unorthodox beliefs now but even if that is true i would strongly recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn about the Christian life and know how to persevere.

This book is a reflection on the Psalms of Ascent (120-134). Peterson wrote this book over 20 years ago, but it is interesting to see how much of what he was writing about then has not changed. There are things he writes about that I have seen or experienced and thought they were unique to the last 5-10 years or so, but clearly that is not true. This is a reprint and has a newer epilogue at the back. I think if I were leading a book discussion on this book I would start with this and then go back to the beginning. The title really says what this book (and these Psalms) are about. Interestingly enough the title is actually a line from Nietzsche (who was not a Christian) and Peterson ends his epilogue with an interesting anecdote about using Nietzsche in his title. While this book is not necessarily my favorite Peterson book, I would still recommend it to anyone.

I really enjoyed this book on the Psalms of Ascent. It challenged me to not read them for information, but to read them slowly so that God could speak to my heart. The Christian faith is a long journey filled with many twists and turns and this book guides us on that journey.

This book was very good for our Bible Study. Very informative. The book was in good condition. I would recommend it.

As advertised. Good value. Godwin purchase. Hope this is helping others. (Outstanding exegesis of the Psalms 120-126)

"A Long Obedience . . ." is a thoughtful explanation of the Ascent Psalms that taught me something. The psalms that the Israelite travelers sung on their way to Jerusalem to the festivals formed the road map for our church's journey through Lent in 2014. Eugene Peterson does a great job of giving you the context for Psalms 120-134 which allow you to understand the familiar words you have read

before but never really understood completely. I recommend the book to those you wish to search for more meaning in their Christian journey with God.

I've bought this book several times now. I've given it away (with my markups). The attraction I have for this book comes from a paragraph on page 17 of the paper back edition. I'll quote a portion of that paragraph here. "A disciple is a learner, but not in the academic setting of a school room, rather at the work site of a craftsman. We do not acquire information about God but skills in faith." I think this is what Jesus was talking about in Matthew 28:20 when He said " Teach(ing) them to obey everything I have commanded you."

This is a classic book in the sense that its information stands the test of time and that it is one that can be read multiple times. I would go so far as to say I'd recommend reading it more than once due to the amount of information in this book. I found it both deeply encouraging and inspiring. When I first considered purchasing it I was concerned that it might be "over my head" but Peterson speaks in such a way that really helps you "get" it- both with his language and illustrations of everyday examples. It is a very easy read but still meaty enough to help you really learn more about your relationship and walk with Christ. If you are looking for encouragement along your walk with Christ or if you want to delve further into your relationship to Him, I strongly encourage this book! I can't say enough good about it.

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