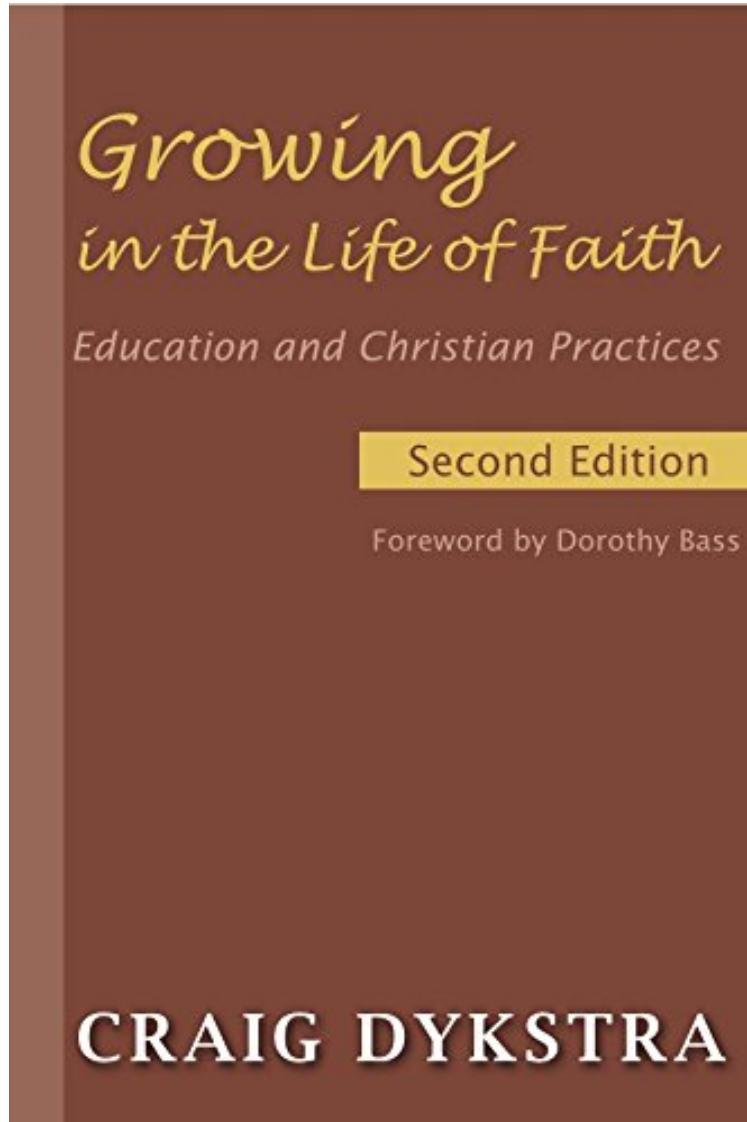


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## Growing in the Life of Faith, Second Edition: Education and Christian Practices

Von Craig Dykstra

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**Von Craig Dykstra : Growing in the Life of Faith, Second Edition: Education and Christian Practices** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Growing in the Life of Faith, Second Edition: Education and Christian Practices:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Inspiring!Von FrKurt MessickCraig Dykstra worked with Dorothy Bass to write 'Practicing Our Faith' - another

classic book high on the recommended reading list. 'Growing in the Life of Faith' explores the areas of ministry and Christian education with flair, sensitivity, and an imaginative compassion that is sure to touch and inspire readers, ministers, and educators. Dykstra's compassionate stance and creative and subtle nuances, respectful of varying points of view without denigrating any and being supportive of general enlightened approaches parallels his work in the Lilly Foundation. Dykstra came of age during the 60s, a time which he describes as violent, a war on two fronts - his home city of Detroit, and the Vietnam conflict. While Dykstra himself was not a direct participant in either, the violence and aftermath left a lasting impression upon him. This led him to wonder what could be done differently, and education was high on list. He expresses this in various terms, but is always preeminently experiential, from the experience of education itself, to the experience of the mystery of God. The book traces the development of education in several broad strokes - hunger, life, practices, places, and signs. There is a profound hunger, Dykstra says, that churches should be able to meet; those that engage people fully, where they are and as they are, giving them the living bread of truth, this is the calling of God. Leading a life of faith and growth involves many steps, not the least of which is honest engagement with community, and an acceptance of discipline toward certain growth-oriented practices. These practices have power and depth, but require education. According to Dykstra, we get wrapped up too often in the 'too big' and the 'too small'. Dykstra's section on places is the longest - this is not a survey of geographic places, but more akin to 'places of the heart'. Dykstra here writes about congregations, families, youth groups and peer groups, religious and education communities. He sees the important aspect for the future of the church in education, a spirit-led education that cares for all. Dykstra's final section is about the charge - echoing the response of prophets and disciples, he charges us to 'make it real'. His final sentiments reinforce the idea that so much of ministry and life is showing up and being present for the power of God in community to manifest itself. This is a wonderful book, one I re-read frequently. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Inspiring too! Von Kurt Messick Craig Dykstra worked with Rev. Dr. Dorothy Bass to write *Practicing Our Faith* -- another classic book high on the recommended reading list. *Growing in the Life of Faith* explores the areas of ministry and Christian education with flair, sensitivity, and an imaginative compassion that is sure to touch and inspire readers, ministers, and educators. Dykstra's compassionate stance and creative and subtle nuances, respectful of varying points of view without denigrating any and being supportive of general enlightened approaches parallels his work in the Lilly Foundation. Five stars! \*\*\*\*\*

**Kurzbeschreibung** In this new edition of his popular book, Craig Dykstra explores the contributions of the traditions, education, worship practices, and disciplines of the Reformed Christian community in helping people grow in faith. In doing so, he makes the case that the Christian church, in its own traditions, has a wealth of wisdom about satisfying spiritual hunger and the desire to know God deeply--wisdom that offers coherent, thoughtful guidance in such diverse settings as congregational life, families, youth groups, and higher education.

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**Synopsis** Identifying a widespread hunger for guidance in people's quest today for a genuine encounter with God, Craig Dykstra explores the contributions of the traditions, education, worship practices, and disciplines of the Reformed Christian community in helping people to grow in faith. This new edition includes a foreword by Dorothy Bass, Director of the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, and a study guide by Syd Hielema, professor at Dordt College in Sioux City, Iowa. From Dorothy Bass's foreword: "What does it mean to live the Christian life faithfully and well? And how can we help one another to do so?" I recently heard Craig offer these two questions as a summary of his life-long interests. As he notes early in "Growing in the Life of Faith", the ongoing forms of Christian living in his family and church were determinative in planting these questions in his mind and shaping his answers to them. He insists that thinking and doing cannot be separated--and neither can believing and living, education and its content, or theology and the means of sharing it with others. This is where 'practices' come in--not at all through a simplistic 'putting ideas into practice' approach but rather by showing how the dualism implied in that cliché, disappears when people are actively engaged in the ongoing, thought-filled practices of the Christian life."