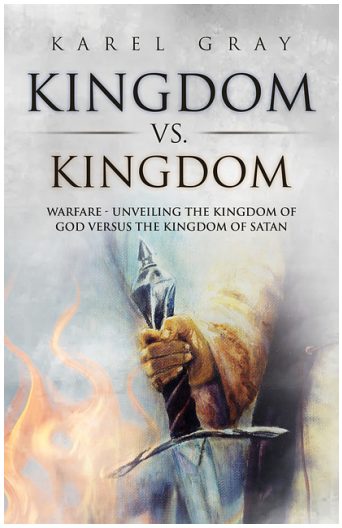
BISHOP GRAY'S READING LIST

Bishop Gray's Reading List

Begin with Bishop Gray's Kingdom vs. Kingdom, then explore twelve companions for theology, leadership, and soul care.



FEATURED BOOK

Kingdom vs. Kingdom

By Bishop Karel Gray

Two kingdoms. Two agendas. One eternal battle.

Discover the biblical reality of spiritual warfare, expose the strategies of the enemy, and learn to live with confidence under the authority and victory of the Kingdom of God.

Explore the book — KingdomVsKingdom.com

Explore these themes

The Kingdom of God • Biblical discernment • Identity in Christ • Spiritual warfare • Victory through Christ

Celebrate the Book Launch

Sunday, December 13, 2026 • 10:00 a.m. EST

New Life Pentecostal Ministries

8 Pine Street, Englishtown, NJ

KingdomVsKingdom.com

Continue your reading journey

The following pages offer twelve annotated selections: four for theology, four for leadership, and four for soul care.

BISHOP GRAY'S READING LIST • FOUR BOOKS PER TOPIC

Theology

Know what you believe, read Scripture in context, and connect doctrine with worship and faithful living.

A curated ministry study guide, not an objective ranking or a record of Bishop Gray's personal endorsements. These authors represent differing Christian traditions; inclusion does not make their views the ministry's doctrinal position. Read critically with Scripture and your church's teaching. The Bible remains the primary text. Annotations are original, not publisher quotations.

Knowing God

J. I. Packer • IVP • Accessible to intermediate

A widely read exploration of God's character and the difference between knowing about God and knowing God. Packer brings attributes, grace, adoption, and Christian assurance into conversation with worship and obedience. Useful for readers who want doctrine to shape prayer rather than remain abstract. Its evangelical, Reformed perspective should be weighed alongside your congregation's teaching, particularly where traditions differ on salvation and assurance.

Consider: Which truth about God should change the way I pray, treat others, or respond to fear?

Publication details

Mere Christianity

C. S. Lewis • HarperOne • Accessible

An influential introduction to Christian belief through moral reasoning, ordinary illustrations, and reflection on transformed character. Lewis helps readers explain faith in language that does not assume theological training. Especially useful for discussing belief with thoughtful questioners. It is an apologetic introduction, not a complete systematic theology; its presentation of classical Trinitarian Christianity and other doctrinal conclusions should be discussed where they differ from a reader's church tradition.

Consider: How can I explain a central Christian belief clearly without relying on insider vocabulary?

Publication details

BISHOP GRAY'S READING LIST • FOUR BOOKS PER TOPIC

Theology / continued

Know what you believe, read Scripture in context, and connect doctrine with worship and faithful living.

Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God

Gordon D. Fee • Baker Academic • Intermediate

A Pentecostal New Testament scholar's accessible account of the Holy Spirit in Paul's letters. Fee connects the Spirit's presence with the identity of the church, ethical life, worship, prayer, and spiritual gifts. It is a helpful corrective to treating the Spirit only as a source of dramatic experiences. Fee writes within classical Trinitarian Pentecostal theology; compare his conclusions carefully with Scripture and your church's doctrinal commitments.

Consider: Where does life in the Spirit need to become visible in our congregation's relationships and conduct?

Publication details

Systematic Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective

Stanley M. Horton, general editor • Gospel Publishing House • Reference / advanced

A substantial reference work bringing multiple Pentecostal educators together around the major areas of Christian doctrine. Useful for organizing study, identifying theological questions, and comparing scriptural arguments rather than assembling isolated proof texts. Read a topic at a time with an open Bible. Its Assemblies of God and classical Trinitarian Pentecostal framework is not identical to every Pentecostal tradition, including Oneness traditions; use it as a conversation partner rather than a statement of this ministry's beliefs.

Consider: Which biblical passages support this chapter's argument, and where does my church interpret them differently?

Publication details

BISHOP GRAY'S READING LIST • FOUR BOOKS PER TOPIC

Leadership

Develop character, wise influence, healthy teams, and the courage to lead through change.

Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer

J. Oswald Sanders • Moody Publishers • Accessible to intermediate

A Christian leadership classic that places character, discipline, prayer, and service before position or personal magnetism. Its biblical examples invite leaders to examine ambition, responsibility, time, and the development of others. Particularly useful for a team that wants a shared language of spiritual maturity. Read its demanding counsel with wise attention to health and limits; disciplined service should not become a justification for exhaustion or an inability to receive help.

Consider: Which leadership habit is strengthening others, and which habit is mainly protecting my image?

Publication details

Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory

Tod Bolsinger • IVP • Intermediate

A practical account of adaptive leadership when familiar methods no longer address the situation a church faces. Bolsinger helps distinguish technical fixes from changes that require learning, trust, and shared experimentation. Useful for leaders tempted to respond to uncertainty by simply working harder at yesterday's approach. Its Presbyterian context and organizational framework are not universal prescriptions; evaluate proposed changes through Scripture, local knowledge, and the real needs of the people affected.

Consider: What must we learn together rather than try to solve with a familiar technique?

Publication details

BISHOP GRAY'S READING LIST • FOUR BOOKS PER TOPIC

Leadership / continued

Develop character, wise influence, healthy teams, and the courage to lead through change.

The Emotionally Healthy Leader

Peter Scazzero • Zondervan • Intermediate

Connects the leader's inner life with planning, team culture, power, and organizational decisions. Scazzero asks readers to attend to limits, relationships, and emotional maturity rather than measure health solely by visible ministry output. Helpful for teams that repeatedly confuse urgency with importance. His contemplative practices should be evaluated within your church's tradition. Emotional-health language is a tool for reflection, not a basis for amateur diagnosis or a replacement for professional care.

Consider: How do my unexamined fears or limits affect the decisions and workload of my team?

Publication details

The Making of a Leader

J. Robert Clinton • Two Words Publishing • Intermediate

Explores leadership development across a lifetime, paying attention to formation, experience, relationships, and seasons of responsibility. Useful for mentors who want to develop people instead of only fill immediate vacancies. Its developmental framework can help readers notice patterns, but it should not be used to declare with certainty why God allowed a particular hardship or to force every person's story into the same sequence. Read it with humility about what remains unknown.

Consider: What am I learning in this season, and who am I helping develop beyond today's tasks?

Publication details

BISHOP GRAY'S READING LIST • FOUR BOOKS PER TOPIC

Soul care

Attend to the inner life with grace, honest relationships, sustainable rhythms, and appropriate care.

Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You

John Ortberg • Zondervan • Accessible

An accessible invitation to take the health of the inner life seriously, drawing on Ortberg's relationship with Dallas Willard. Its reflections help readers recognize how hurry, disconnection, and misplaced priorities affect spiritual life. Useful as an entry point for people who have learned to keep serving while neglecting attention to God and themselves. Read its spiritual-formation language thoughtfully within your own church's teaching, and translate insight into modest, sustainable practices rather than another demanding checklist.

Consider: What is nourishing my inner life, and what is slowly fragmenting it?

Publication details

Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry

Ruth Haley Barton • IVP Formatio • Intermediate

Uses the life of Moses to explore calling, solitude, discernment, spiritual community, and the strain of ministry. Barton keeps attention on the person behind the public role and provides practices for reflection. Particularly helpful for leaders who have become skilled at helping others attend to God while losing their own sense of communion. Its contemplative emphasis is one Christian approach, not the only one; assess practices with Scripture and trusted pastoral guidance.

Consider: Where am I helping others encounter God while avoiding an honest encounter myself?

Publication details

BISHOP GRAY'S READING LIST • FOUR BOOKS PER TOPIC

Soul care / continued

Attend to the inner life with grace, honest relationships, sustainable rhythms, and appropriate care.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Peter Scazzero • Zondervan • Accessible to intermediate

Connects discipleship with emotional maturity, family patterns, limits, grief, and rhythms of rest. Helpful for readers who have separated spiritual language from the way they handle conflict or personal pain. The book's exercises can support honest conversation, but participation should never require unsafe disclosure. Its contemplative practices and psychological language deserve thoughtful evaluation within your tradition. Serious or persistent distress calls for appropriate professional support as well as pastoral care.

Consider: Which emotional pattern needs honest attention rather than a spiritual explanation that avoids responsibility?

Publication details

The Soul of Shame: Retelling the Stories We Believe About Ourselves

Curt Thompson • IVP • Intermediate

Brings Christian reflection and psychiatric insight to shame, relationships, and the stories people tell about themselves. Useful for distinguishing honest conviction about wrongdoing from the belief that one's whole person is beyond love or restoration. Thompson emphasizes relational contexts for healing. This is a thoughtful conversation partner, not a clinical treatment plan; readers dealing with trauma or serious mental-health concerns should seek qualified care and choose safe settings for personal discussion.

Consider: What story about myself needs to be brought into the light with a safe, trustworthy person?

Publication details

Read with a plan

A realistic reading rhythm: choose one book from each category over the next three months. Keep notes under three headings—biblical support, questions or differences, and one practice to try. Discuss conclusions with a mature believer rather than treating any author as beyond correction. These are book recommendations, not free copies of the books. Linked pages provide publication information; prices and editions may change.