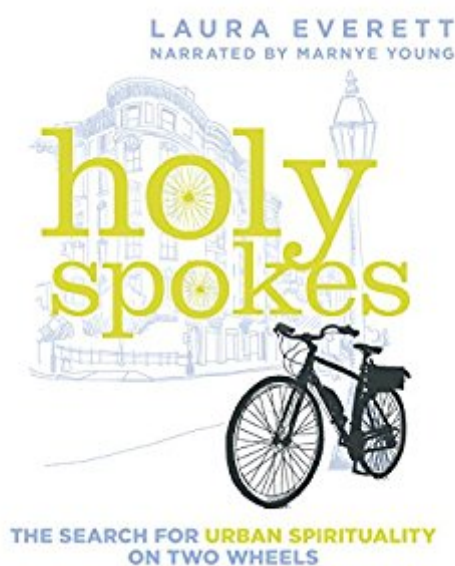


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# Holy Spokes: The Search For Urban Spirituality On Two Wheels



## Synopsis

Invites listeners to embrace the spiritual and communal benefits of cycling in the city. After Laura Everett's car died on the highway one rainy night, she started riding her bicycle to work - and began an unlikely conversion to full-time bicycle commuter. In *Holy Spokes*, Everett tells how she became a dedicated cyclist and uses her story to develop a distinctly urban spirituality. With chapters structured around the parts of a bicycle, the book looks at the history of cycling, relates Everett's own experiences biking in Boston, and reflects on the spiritual dimensions of moving through the city on two wheels. "As I bike across the cobblestones and potholes of Boston," Everett says, "I now have daily opportunity to see the life of my city more clearly, love the broken world around me more dearly, and follow this path more nearly. Curiously, I think I am closer to God because of my bicycle."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I seriously COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN. If you have ever been on a bike, if you see bikes when you are driving, if you have ever had any contact with a bike or someone who loves them, READ THIS. I see the world and people in it in a dramatically different way after reading Laura's wise, urban, Godly wit and wisdom. *Holy Spokes* is urban gospel.

I'm so very glad I read this book. In a super-size-me world this author provides a refreshing alternative. She speaks humbly and boldly about how the world looks from the seat of a bicycle. She

does not hector, she celebrates. She celebrates the wonder of her city, it's peoples, the faith, the church, and the glory of our care for one another. In telling her story she invites us to rediscover the world around us, and the way in which love and justice find us in the midst of brokenness and what looks like chaos. I loved this delightful little book.

Holy Spokes is a work of art. It shows the evidence of years of careful sculpting through reflection on experiences with cycling, spiritual practice and ministry. Laura tells her story as a beautifully integrated whole. The bicycle experience is a surprising frame for a spiritual autobiography at its finest. I encourage every Christian to read Laura's story and reflect on your own. What are you learning about habits, endurance, visibility, rest, pacing and joy in your daily routines? Pastors can see public witness in action through this story. Along the way enjoy a well told story with humor and pain - a story that is alive with hope in the midst of the city.

Rev. Laura Everett is a force of nature in New England religion, and she's making a national name for herself with this fine book, which lifts up an important practice of ministry in real landscapes for real people today. There is much for ministry leaders of all stripes to learn from this thoughtful, fun, incarnational read!

Great read for any one who has to share resources (aka all of us on earth!) like cyclists and drivers who share roads with only limited space. Makes one think about how we all should be expected to be "seen" and be sure to "see" others as well. Mutual respect, no matter your theology or lack thereof would help heal the divides we now endure, whether politics, race, gender, or income...

Laura Everett masterfully connects the daily practice of riding a bicycle to the spiritual practices that actually take us where we need to go, closer to God. I read it slowly, as I did not want it to be over. Today, I am searching for a bicycle. Beautifully and soulfully written, Holy Spokes will change your life for the better.

Great book!

A few disclaimers:-This will not show as "verified purchase" because I let my prime membership lapse and my better half bailed me out and let me use hers.-The author is an acquaintance of mine, but I paid full price and was not bullied (or even gently nudged) into writing a review. That said: as I

near the end of the book, I find that these pages are having the same effect on me for biking as Christopher McDougall's "Born to Run" did for running. Yes, the way Everett writes about her urban riding - even the bad parts of it - is making me long to be in a position where I could hop on a bike and just go. There are a number of things I'm loving about this book. The first is that for a book about spirituality being written by a minister, it is not in the slightest bit "preachy". There is no "do this or Jesus will cry and condemn you to Hell" or anything like that. Instead, the occasional reference to a particular book is used conversationally, to bring further merit to a point or observation that has already been well-made. The words "urban spirituality" in the title are very appropriate. This is not so much about one particular religion as it is about Everett's personal experiences with her existing faith as it has been further developed by cycling. This lends itself to making for a book that is easily accessible to anyone who is not openly mocking of the entire concept of faith. For example, I don't identify with any particular religion, but I do believe in many of the fundamental principles that most of them teach. Holy Spokes, in the simplest summary I can offer, provides countless analogies between the world of cycling (be it the act or the machine itself) and a mindful life. What helps a lot of these points stick is that Everett, while generally writing about her own life, never comes off as having an over-inflated sense of self worth or a massive ego, nor does she appear apologetically humble. She shares stories of her own shortcomings or bad habits that mix with the lessons she's learned in order to create a narrative of a well-rounded woman. And the points she makes are convincing: despite being someone who feels much more "in tune with the world" out in a quiet forest or mountain range, this book is making me see just how tuned-in you can feel by living in a bustling city. Bike nerds will appreciate the numerous discussions of the history of the activity, ranging from simply mentioning how parts work to explaining the social impact of different designs throughout the history of the two-wheeled marvel. As far as I know, there isn't another book like this.

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