

**“It” is all about a relationship.**

**A case for faith within-self, first, before seeking outside-self at religion as a basis for spiritual discipline.**

*“GROWING UP CATHOLIC, by Tim Lott, is a magnetic, electrifying, account of one man’s road-to-submission to what un-harnesses the power of faith.*

*Have you ever thought about how you can feel so fired-up when in church and when you get out, your faith feels powerless?*

*In Lott’s divulgements about what he feels is wrong with us relying on religion alone to lead us each into a relationship with God, there are plenty of answers; as are there questions. Helpful STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS laced throughout GROWING UP CATHOLIC are lamp posts that guide readers through probable uncertainties that a sole reliance in religion breeds. It’s true that many of us simply go through the motions on Sunday (in church) believing we do have a relationship with Christ (by doing what amounts to only attending service). In church, however, our minds may be on other things other than God. After reading GROWING UP CATHOLIC, it is no surprise then that each of us has the capacity for a powerful faith that lays dormant and untapped, in-part, because some religions are not as pointed and direct in teaching their doctrine to those whose passive nature needs intrusive outreach into the text of the Bible to discover a relationship with the Lord. GROWING UP CATHOLIC is a compassionate exposé of what it feels like to be betrayed by religion and then realize, in all its limitations, we cannot depend on church alone as a place to strengthen faith. That experience of feeling betrayed is much like a child whose parent didn’t tell them everything there was to know about life. All to realize like most adolescents (in spiritual maturity) out on their own for the first time that some things have to be learned on your own. Although at first glance the book reads as a Catholic-bashing, it soon does a complete turn as its stories ring clear that the book itself is the embodiment of Lott’s hope and prayer that those who are in the Catholic faith search for themselves and ask questions; questions as this book holds between its covers. As sure as this book’s unconventional changing of pace works well throughout Lott’s ups and downs with faith, the title GROWING UP CATHOLIC hints that this book may even have Catholics (who apply this books lessons) GROWING UPWARDS CATHOLIC TOWARDS GOD! Roman Catholics and non-Catholics alike will appreciate Lott’s intrusive style of writing because we all know that like our own faith, Rome was not built in day and it took more than one day for God to arrive at Sunday as a Day of rest.*

*Tim Lott began to go through a self-transformation years ago. Little did he know that the quest for satisfaction in religion would be part of that satisfaction in his own approach towards a confidence that faith existed. He learned the hard way that there is more to a relationship with God than a once a week interlude. To this objective, the recurrent theme throughout GROWING UP CATHOLIC was that traditions and the way our ancestors practiced honoring God may not be good enough for us any longer. Struck by divorce and a calamity of events, the once ‘down and out’ Lott looked up and saw the figurative face of God reach out for him through the text of the Bible. Yes. In GROWING UP CATHOLIC: THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH, author Tim Lott divulges that his satisfaction in his own quest for truth correlated with his own need for knowing that faith was a vehicle for his own salvation aka determining his fate with where he stood with God. Maturing with the spirit literally before your eyes in this book, as Lott rationalizes his own faith and, then, the direction of his own faith in the face of doubt, (with GROWING UP CATHOLIC) he shows how radical his own filling-in-the-blanks can be on the road to utmost confidence in God. We learned through Lott how he used his own confidence in God to do without him for a while and like a once lost floating piece of paper, how the spirit floated back into his life, and how by his experiences and faith, he discovered a self- accountability by God’s word. It is as though Lott found that he needed a faith within himself first before he could fully devote his faith to God; which may be why the traditions of the Catholic religion was a turn off early on in Lott’s life.*

*On the surface a book that airs the Catholic religions dirty laundry may appear self-serving, but after reading GROWING UP CATHOLIC, it proves to be just the opposite; as it is, instead, a compassionate outreach to those who are Catholics or those who grew up Catholic that may not have been able to put*

*their finger on just what was missing from their experience. For that reason, GROWING UP CATHOLIC may have, even, Catholics more so GROWING UPWARD CATHOLIC than had they not read this book. While Lott could have gone further to make suggestions of how to fix the catholic religion, with utmost respect, he instead leaves that aspect of the book open-ended and answerable each unto ourselves through the genuflecting impelled by the book's STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS. In a world without Lott's GROWING UP CATHOLIC (which contains what people, for ages, have been afraid to say), the world would be a sad place. Such a world would be one in which there was no spirit; which would be like a seashell left alone without a sea to be molded by. No longer would the force of each wave have its influence on what outer surface the shell appeared to have. No longer would the force of each wave, have its say on our polish. No longer would that polish shine as it does on each seashell. Oceans away (from the book GROWING UP CATHOLIC) are other books which try to explain the trails and tribulations of holding onto one's faith. In GROWING UP CATHOLIC, 'it' is all about a relationship because your fate rests solely on your relationship with God because he sent His son for all of us. It is up to each of us to accept Him as Lord and Savior. To waver in faith, as we each have done, is not so hard to describe, but Lott does it with style as he tells readers how he got back on course regardless of the many detracting, swaying, determinisms tugged at him and tried to place themselves in from of him and those people he cares about. GROWING UP CATHOLIC has an after-read resonance such as that of a summary read by narrator Rod Serling after a vintage episode of TWIGHLIGHT ZONE episode. That summary would have read: 'Man's twists along the way to his own confidence in faith is what Lott described as part of the road. Yet, one can see that it is Lott's confidence in God that he describes which is the truth he sought all along.'*

*The book GROWING UP CATHOLIC raises many valid questions, and it leaves the reader to do the answering (not Tim Lott). This book greatest strength is that it guides the reader towards self-discovery and onward towards a relationship with the Lord, and 'all that' is a gem worth having as a keepsake in your household or nearby on the church book shelf for when its congregation needs to be reminded where the strength of your faith came from. Its STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS were pointed and intriguing as and, to a generous extent, brings into application the many valid faith-guiding lamp-posts lined up in this literary inward look at what reads as a gut-wrenching experience any compassionate person can appreciate. Lott's (book) GROWING UP CATHOLIC will achieve its goal, in due time: to simply help Catholics and Former Catholics build a bridge to a relationship with the Lord Christ almighty. No need to wait until something tragic happens in your life to be the one impetuous to strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Do it now! Readers will applaud Lott in tackling a tough subject: Religion versus faith; which is the mistaken foundation of seeking a relationship with the Lord?"*

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