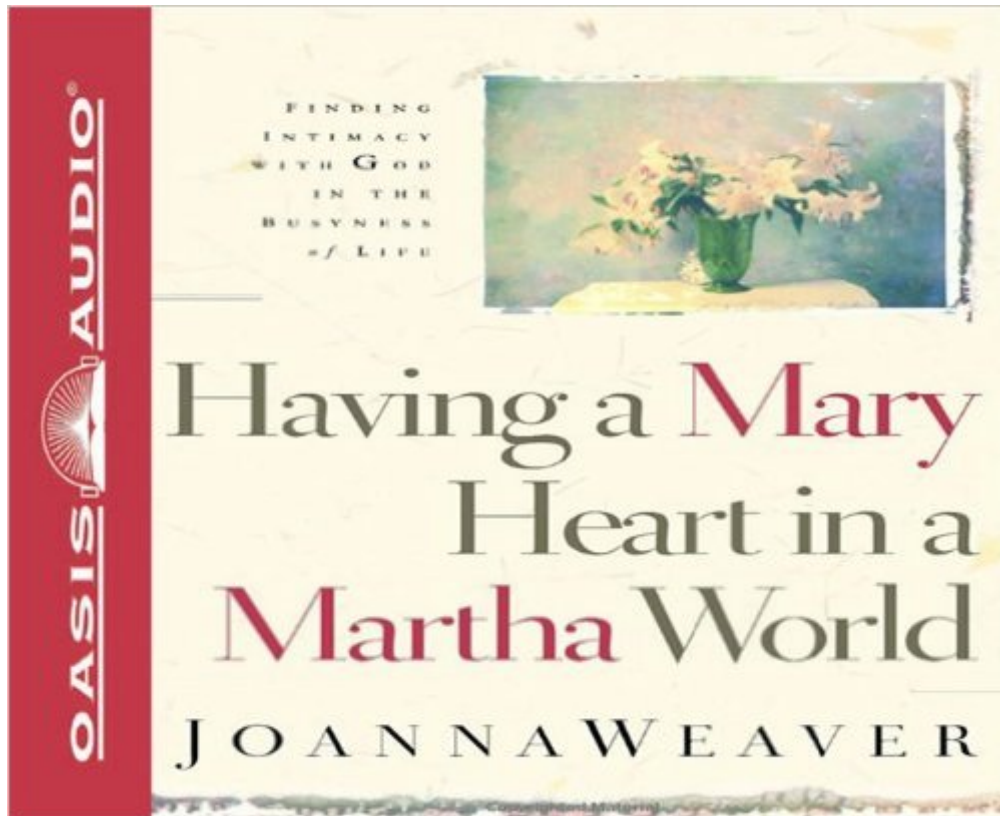


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# Having A Mary Heart In A Martha World



## Synopsis

An invitation for every woman who's ever felt she isn't godly enough, isn't loving enough, isn't doing enough. The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet... but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him... yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus, into the midst of your busy life, to extend the same invitation He issued long ago to the two sisters from Bethany. Tenderly, He invites you to choose "the better part" - a joyful life of intimacy with Him that flows naturally into loving service. With her fresh approach to the familiar Bible story, Joanna Weaver shows how all of us - Marys and Marthas alike - can draw closer to our Lord: deepening our devotion, strengthening our service, and doing both with less stress and greater joy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am so thankful to Joanna Weaver for this book. She fills it with her own experience -- many years of it -- and speaks so personally and poignantly that I felt I was having a heart-to-heart conversation with her. I felt God was speaking to me through the book as well. Joanna addresses what might be the single biggest problem for Christian women today: How in the world do we find the TIME for our walk with God? She very clearly explains both the how and the why, illustrating her points with plenty of examples from the Bible and her own life. I ended up thinking, how in the world can I NOT make time for God? When I make God my center, everything else can swirl around me (like hula hoops) and stay balanced. Her book is changing the way I approach my walk, helping me to make

time for my devotions on a daily basis. She's also helped me to understand exactly what to do in that devotion time -- how to study the bible and have a conversation with God (not a monologue to God). The book is wonderfully written and is hard to put down. Thank you, Joanna, for your service to God and to all of us through this book!

I learned so much about the Mary and Martha from reading this book. I went back and read all I could in my Bible about these two sisters of Lazarus. This is one of my Top 10 Christian books -...!! I lead a small group Bible Study in my home and we're studying the book of John. Time and again, I would open this book by Joanna Weaver and read to my group out of it. Finally, they all decided they needed a copy of their own! And some of them are in turn passing it on to other friends and relatives. The author makes herself vulnerable in this book, passing along personal anecdotes and stories we can all identify with. This book shows you how to sit at Jesus feet like Mary while still getting stuff done like Martha.

Joanna Weaver uses a simple analogy, the living room or the kitchen, to bring hurried, harried women needed truths about balance in their lives. Mary, of course, was the woman in the living room, and Martha was in the kitchen. I appreciated Joanna's willingness to open up her life and provide memorable stories and fresh symbols. For example, she compared picking up the house in the morning with the confession needed in prayer time to keep our spiritual house "fresh" for God. Women's Bible study groups will find this book targeting many needs.

This book should maybe have been written by co-authors, a Martha and a Mary. I've always identified more with Mary, and for me the author didn't really capture her spirit. Ms. Weaver comes across as a struggling Martha trying to be more Mary, writing down Martha-esque strategies and tips for being more Mary. Perhaps she captures a mid-struggle Martha well, but she never gets very far into the heart of Mary. An example from the book: "You've known the Lord your whole life, and yet you haven't found the peace and fulfillment you've always longed for." That's a very Marthaesque statement; it speaks to working very hard to live a Christian life without recognizing what God really wants from you. I don't even understand or relate to that experience (as a Mary, my struggles are in different areas). How do you know the Lord and not know peace? A Mary might have said it like this - "Peace and fulfillment found me and I was powerless to resist; I'm not sure how it happened, but his name was Jesus. Hallelujah!" The author also gets overwrought with her struggles as a Martha. I'm not sure Jesus was condemning Martha for being task-oriented. Society can't function without

task-oriented people. All he seems to be saying is that when God shows up at your door, spend the time being present with him. I'm not sure he's asking Martha to change who she is - he just seems to be saying "I'm here. Take a load off and spend some time getting to know me, Martha heart and all." It appears that a lot of women who have enjoyed this study identify with Martha. If you identify with Martha and are looking for a book that will help you articulate your frustrations, this might be a good book for you. I'm not sure it has any great answers. I agree with other reviewers who commented that Ms. Weaver wasn't old enough to write this and offer mature wisdom.

For all of us who continually find ourselves in Martha's shoes, this book is a great resource and study guide! The author's writing is very unique and clever. She takes less than 10 verses and expands them into a book rich with ways to become a little less like Martha and a little more like Mary. I suggest going through this book with a discipleship partner to make it even more enriching. The study guide in the back is complimentary, but I enjoy just a little bit more on the studying part. There are memory verses throughout and self-reflection guides as well. However, the study guide is extremely easy to fit into a tight schedule! (: Enjoy

Living Room Intimacy was the chapter that spoke the most to me, though the entire book was excellent. It gave me a new perspective on what it really means to develop that personal relationship where you're conversing with the Savior instead of always rushing to Him for help in a harried life! When I started getting up an hour earlier in the morning just to be with Him, I have actually become LESS stressed even though I am on less sleep and have fully active days with full time work and two kids (ages 9-14) that keep me running everywhere. Add to that a husband that travels and I'm often handling it all on my own...but wait, no I'm not because I have God's help. I find he's there when I call a lot quicker when I've spent time with him regularly than before when I only prayed in crisis situations. Interestingly, the crises have diminished as a result! I'm now looking forward to going deeper into an even more personal "living room intimacy" with Him. I agree with the other reviews in that this is a book you will want to come back to again and again. I will also be giving several copies of this book as Christmas gifts this year!

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