



Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles H. Spurgeon

Ray Rhodes Jr.

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The definitive biography of Susannah Spurgeon.

While many Christians recognize the name of Charles H. Spurgeon, the beloved preacher and writer, few are familiar with the life and legacy of his wife, Susie. Yet Susannah Spurgeon was an accomplished and devout woman of God who had a tremendous ministry in her own right, as well as in support of her husband. Even while dealing with serious health issues, she administered a book fund for poor pastors, edited and published her husband's sermons and other writings, led a pastor's aid ministry, wrote five books, made her home a hub of hospitality, and was instrumental in planting a church. And as her own writing attests, she was also a warm, charming, and fascinating woman.

Now, for the first time, *Susie* brings this vibrant woman's story to modern readers. Ray Rhodes Jr. examines Susannah's life, showing that she was not only the wife of London's most famous preacher, but also a woman who gave all she had in grateful service to the Lord.

Susie is an inspiring and encouraging account of a truly remarkable woman of faith that will delight Spurgeon devotees and fans of Christian biographies alike.

"I am writing in my husband's study, where he thought, and prayed, and wrote. Every inch of the place is sacred ground. Everything remains precisely as he left it. His books (now my most precious possessions), stand in shining rows upon the shelves, in exactly the order in which he placed them, and one might almost fancy the room was ready and waiting for its master. But oh! That empty chair! That great portrait over the door! The strange, solemn silence, which pervades the place now that he is no longer on earth! I kneel sometimes by his chair, and laying my head on the cushioned arms, which so long supported his dear form, I pour out my grief before the Lord, and tell Him again that though I am left alone, yet I know that 'He hath done all things well' ..."

Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles H. Spurgeon Details

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Spurgeon...

H. Spurgeon Ray Rhodes Jr.

From Reader Review Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles H. Spurgeon for online ebook

NinaB says

This is an informative book about Susie Spurgeon, the famous preacher's beloved wife. I enjoyed reading more about her beginnings, family, marriage and life after Charles. She was a long-suffering wife who endured physical pain for most of her adult life. All the while, she was a mother to twin boys and a help-meet to one of the "celebrity pastors" of their time.

The book introduced me to their unique marriage that left me wondering what constituted a "good" marriage back then. For example, she was often too ill to hear her husband preach, so was she part of the church body at all? As a pastor's wife, I cannot imagine not being a regular part of my husband's ministry. Charles often went on extended trips, but left his ill wife at home. Again, I cannot imagine my husband going on vacation alone, without me, especially if I'm sick myself.

Perhaps, these were standard practice back then, or that I just don't fully understand the extent of their physical suffering. Regardless, if you want to know more about Susannah Spurgeon or have benefited from her husband's writings like I have, I highly recommend this book to you.

Nan Williams says

This biography of Susie Spurgeon covers 125 years. This is 125 years of family history, national history in Great Britain and church history. The book starts with a comprehensive timeline over 11 pages of what's to come in the book. The next chapter covers 71 years in Susie's life, fleshing out the timeline in the first chapter. Subsequent chapters flesh this history out even more.

I'm thinking this book was probably written for a group study, rather than for individuals to read as a biography. The way it's outlined and with the repetitive nature of the chapters, it would be an excellent study for a small group such as a Sunday School class or Bible study. The material is excellent and well researched. It lends itself very well to reading a chapter per week and discussing with other readers.

I am thankful to NetGalley and Moody Publishers for an ARC of this biography. The opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Ray Rhodes says

Since I am the author, this review is not objective. However, I love the story of Susie Spurgeon and I hope that many will get to know her via this book. Thanks for reading. I have read it at least 10 times and am often moved to tears of conviction and joy at her life.

Amanda Geaney (Christian Shelf-Esteem) says

Wow! What an example of biblical womanhood and marital unity. This is a love story through and through, for Susie's love for God, Charles, and the Church seemed inexhaustible. Women young and old will be moved by the passion and compassion of this remarkable lady. I'll be recommending her biography to individual readers and Christian book clubs alike.

Ashley Montgomery says

Susie is a very interesting read about the life of Susannah Spurgeon. I knew very little of Susie prior to reading this book; however, after reading it I feel very well acquainted with this powerful woman. The story flows quite smoothly and I found the book to be very easy to read.

I received a complimentary copy of this title in exchange for my honest review.

Blake Wagner says

Writing as a pastor's wife, I can attest to the truth that many of us get absorbed into our husband's ministries at the very least as a support to him. This biography of "Suzie" shows that she was also absorbed into Charles Spurgeon's ministries. What he accomplished would not have been as great without his "help mate". Yet she worked beyond and branched from Charles' ministry to form her own significant place within the ministry of the church.

Rhodes, the author of "Suzie" does not glamorize the ministry of Charles or of Suzie but shows it in its beauty and in its pain. A good balance of togetherness and separation while maintaining a strong bond of love.

"Suzie" is a book of balances. Rhodes has balanced a narrative of Suzie's life and the letters to her and from her. He balanced her home life with her ministry life. He balanced her personhood and her life as a wife, mother and author.

Rhodes allows us to marvel at the marriage of two incredible people in their troubles and joys without envy.

This book was a joy to read. An encouragement and a challenge to pastors' wives everywhere.

--L. Wagner

P.S. As a Pastor reading Susie reminded me that the role of my help meet is not an easy one but I too thank God that like Susie the love of my life stands with me and shines so brightly for our Lord.

Christina Boodhan Juras says

I received an ARC of this book from Netgalley.

I am always interested in reading about the woman behind the man: in this case, Susie is the wife of revered preacher Charles Spurgeon and the book covers her life and her initial reluctance to follow religion.

Unfortunately, I am struggling with this due to the poor formatting. I realize that they don't want the book to be circulated in advance of its release date but the formatting was a real distraction. I hope I will be able to finish it in time to write a more extensive review.

Jen ????? says

I did not know a great deal about Susannah Spurgeon prior to reading this book but what an interesting history.

The book is biographical in nature and covers a great span of time including information about the history of Great Britain and the Baptist movement during her life. The pro to the book was its informative nature, its con is the repetitive nature in the writing.

Yibbie says

I am really sorry to have to rate a book about a truly inspiring woman so low. The author was very careful to show Susie, in all her strengths and weaknesses, and to give full glory to God, as she would have wished. I did learn a lot about her through this book, but it just wasn't an enjoyable read.

It contains a lot of information, but it reads like a series of compiled notes. It's choppy. Thoughts don't flow smoothly even inside a paragraph. Then, the whole book is also choppy. The author picks a project or an event and follows it out to the end of her life, and then returns to it over and over again in the following chapters. Even as he is describing a scene he repeats himself, stating a thought numerous ways.

I found it hard to keep interested and a bit hard to follow. It had good information, but it was not compiled in an easily readable way.

I received this as a free ARC through NetGalley and Moody Publishers. No favorable review was required. It was my pleasure to provide my honest opinions.

Laura says

Susannah Spurgeon, wife of theologian, Charles H. Spurgeon, was herself very involved in ministry. Her ministry was sending books to various pastors who she felt would most benefit by the book's topic. Her great love for others was returned and especially evident upon her death when every shop in the city closed.

Susie was devoted to her husband, and he her, however, that devotion was superseded by their love and devotion of God. Both would have never considered anything less than God first in their relationship and lives.

This biography is chock full of interesting facets of the life of Susie Spurgeon; how she developed her own Christian walk, ever seeking guidance, often from her husband.

So full of information and anecdotes, Susie, The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles Spurgeon, it is a great resource and encouragement.

The book, written by, Ray Rhodes Jr., also includes photographs of homes, churches and so forth important to Susie and Charles.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Moody Publishers and am not required to write a positive review. All thoughts and opinions, therefore, are solely my own.

Faye says

I went into this book really admiring the sermons of C.H. Spurgeon, and knowing a little of his sons who carried on his legacy, but knowing next to nothing about his wife, Susannah.

But as I read this book I became very impressed with Susannah who was a very strong believer with many accomplishments to her name, who selflessly served her family and her husband's ministry.

I enjoyed reading about her young life, upbringing, courtship, and then marriage to Charles Spurgeon. I wasn't easy to be married to such a famous man, and to weather man storms by his side, as he was often criticized very publically in the papers. Much of the book draws from correspondences, sermons, and sources of the time like the papers, as well as church records, etc.

Susie was a very well spoken woman, as her writing clearly shows. She was very passionate about serving the Lord through supporting her family, and discipling her twin sons, who went on to each become preachers in their own right.

Overall, this was a fantastic read, thoroughly enjoyed reading about Susie, her life and faith. I thought that it was amazing how much she did to preserve her husbands written work, train preachers, and plant multiple churches. Her determination and serving spirit, even when she was deemed an invalid, is so inspiring. If you like Christian biographies you won't want to miss the chance to read about this remarkable woman!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and testimonials in Advertising."

Cristie Underwood says

I admit that I knew nothing about Susie or her husband before requesting this book. I found this book to be extremely interesting and you can tell the author did their research. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about how Susie came into her own and out of her husband's shadow.

Lauren DuPrez says

When I saw that Ray Rhodes Jr. had written a book about Susannah Spurgeon, I jumped at the opportunity to join the launch team. I honestly didn't know anything about the life of Susie other than that she was adored by her husband Charles and she loved the Lord. I was excited to learn about the wife of the famous "prince of preachers" and Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, truly exceeded my expectations. Susie is the only book of its kind that gives a truly comprehensive look at Susie's life. I was encouraged to learn about how Susie was a woman who strove to put Christ first in every area of her life. My heart was also blessed to learn about how she cared for her husband who was a famous pastor with a very demanding schedule. Although Susie missed Charles as he had to travel often, she really wanted to place his needs above her own and support him however she could. This was a good reminder for me to adopt the same attitude in my own marriage. It was truly sweet to read about the love Charles and Susie had for one another and I enjoyed seeing many commonalities between their love story and my own. A theme that really struck a chord with me in reading about Susie's life is the idea of legacy. Throughout the book, there are multiple examples of Susie remaining faithful to the Lord even when her circumstances were discouraging. One of my favorite lines in the book about Susie's legacy is, "She loved her husband. She loved Jesus. And she had served God faithfully," (pg. 28). Upon reading that line I went back and re-read it at least three times and was so greatly encouraged. I hope that the same can be said about me when I enter into glory. Other aspects of Susie's legacy that encouraged my heart are how well she loved and served her husband, the impact she had in training her sons in the ways of the Lord, and her continued faithfulness to love and serve others even after her husband died. These are really great aspects of Susie's character and they ultimately point to her deep love of Jesus. In addition to the information about Susie's life are the comprehensive resources included in the book. Susie begins with a timeline of Susie's life which was helpful for someone like me who had no previous background info. There is also a section in the middle of the book that contains photos of Charles and Susie along with photos of places they've been and letters they've written. Reading Susie was a pure joy and encouragement to my heart and I give it my highest recommendation. It isn't too often that emphasis is placed on women who have been foundational in church history and I'm so thankful for the time and diligence Ray invested in this remarkable work. I received Susie compliments of Moody Publishers in exchange for my honest review.

Suzanne Jackson says

So much has been written about Charles Spurgeon that it's surprising that more attention has not been given to his wife, Susannah. Though often parted due to ministry or health issues, the love between Charles and Susie preserved a bond of oneness that, undergirded by their love of Christ, anchored them during difficult times. This anchoring allowed Charles Spurgeon, prince of preachers, to have a ministry of great breadth and depth, and it's impossible to separate the man and his ministry from his bride and helpmeet. This is made clear in Susie: the Life of Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon by Ray Rhodes.

As a pastor's wife, I was interested to read about the life of the woman married to one of the most celebrated pastors of the last 200 years. I expected to be informed and even encouraged, but I also came away challenged and convicted.

As the wife of a celebrity pastor of that day, Susie found herself with a platform of her own. In our time, she may have been a blogger and more prolific author; in her own time, she transparently expressed her dependence on God during her own trials through letters, articles, and a handful of books. She never denied

the grief, pain, or weariness that she experienced, but used it to point toward the sufficiency of Christ to sustain her. In her writing, she was most concerned with the image of Christ that she portrayed, and she shared undiluted truth in a most winsome way. Without the concern of hitting a bestseller list or building a large blog following, she simply spoke the truth in love.

Susie is a most comprehensive biography, and I learned much about Charles as well as his bride. It encouraged me anew in ways to come alongside my pastor husband to love and encourage him, as well as to pursue serving others with my own gifts. As the author (a friend of mine) is a great promoter of both marital and ministry joy, I can guess this was one of his hopes for his readers!

Moody Publishers provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for a review; however, the views stated here are my own.

Amy says

I give 4-1/2 stars. **Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles H. Spurgeon.** Fascinating.
