

# Jon Wallace

His hero celebrates a birthday this month (hats off to Mr. Lincoln!)—and he does as well—so it’s the perfect time to share recommendations from our good friend **Jon Wallace**. Part of the Azusa Pacific University community for more than 40 years, Jon led as president for nearly two decades. I heard Jon’s wisdom in many settings beyond the boardroom, especially in Chapel and in the classroom (a Senior Seminar in Business Ethics each Fall). He and wife, Gail (pictured), enjoy sharing that wisdom now with their eight beautiful grandchildren. — *Peggy Campbell*

You can connect with Jon at [jwallace@apu.edu](mailto:jwallace@apu.edu).



**1 Life Together (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)** | Insightful and grounded understanding of Christian community crafted by Bonhoeffer while he was living in an underground seminary during Nazi leadership in Germany. This book has shaped how I think about my own accountability to community.

**2 A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society (Eugene Peterson)** | Peterson’s book brings clarity to the journey of discipleship as he unpacks the Psalms of Assent. I have used this book for many years as an introduction to the discipleship process with college students.

**3 Telling the Truth: The Gospels as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale (Frederick Buechner)** This small hardback book was a constant companion for me in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s when backpacking and peak climbing in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. My fellow hikers/climbers passed it around the campfire and read key passages on distant mountaintops.

**4 Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life (Henri J. M. Nouwen)** | Nouwen’s books fill a shelf in my office. As a certified introvert, I find a kind of courage from Nouwen’s reflections on three moments in the life of Christ. This is another favorite that is often tucked into my

backpack when heading into the backcountry.

**5 Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln (Doris Kearns Goodwin)** | In my opinion one of the best books on Lincoln’s leadership and character. Kearns Goodwin is perhaps one of America’s greatest living historians. In this book she recounts how Lincoln built his cabinet with brilliant and courageous men that had previously been political rivals.

**6 Leadership Prayers (Richard Kriegbaum)** | Dr. Kriegbaum is a former Christian University president with a deep understanding of the importance of prayer in the life of a leader. Divided into 30 prayers focused on specific areas where leaders face challenges, this is one of my go-to resources for a dose of daily inspiration and meditation on critical decisions I’m facing.

**7 God Is No Fool: Ninety-Nine Acts of Communication with God (Lois A. Cheney)** | I discovered this book many years ago when I first began working with college age students. Cheney’s words ring true with those looking for insight without banalities, and truth that reaches across the generations.

**8 You Gotta Keep Dancin’ (Tim Hansel)** | I wandered the backcountry with Tim, a gifted

teacher of things both physical and spiritual. He helped to found the Walkabout wilderness program at Azusa Pacific, and in so doing opened the door for many college students to experience the wonder of authentic Christian community. This book was written after a terrible climbing accident left him with permanent and nearly disabling pain.

**9 How Now Shall We Live? (Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey)** | Early in my tenure as the president at Azusa Pacific I gave this book to all of our employees. Colson and Pearcey clearly articulate a compelling Christian world view and provide a roadmap for Christ followers in light of these truths. I have pointed others to this resource when asking the questions: who am I, what is my purpose, what is truth?

**10 My First Summer in the Sierra (John Muir)** | In 1869 John Muir, the great naturalist, spent his first summer in the Sierra. This book comes from the journal he kept that summer. When first published in 1911 it proved to be a primary driver in helping the American people embrace the preservation of our great outdoors including treasures such as Yosemite and Sequoia National Park. A ragged copy has accompanied me on a number of Yosemite backcountry trips.

