



## **Empty Promises: The Truth About You, Your Desires, and the Lies You're Believing**

*Pete Wilson*

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**Empty Promises:The Truth About You, Your Desires, and the Lies You're Believing** Pete Wilson  
(Taken from Amazon.com)

God has a plan to heal the soul's gnawing inner emptiness that is always longing for just a little more.

Every human experiences an inner emptiness of the soul, that gnawing feeling and unquenchable longing that often drives us to sacrifice everything we have and everything we are so we become more beautiful, more successful, and more powerful. We are by design a worshiping people, giving our lives and our devotion to something to pursue and adore, somebody to idolize. What drives this futile attempt for something more is the heart's true desire for significance, worth, and value-a desire that can be met only in the person and worship of Jesus Christ.

Join Pastor Pete Wilson in his exploration of the empty promises of the "good life" that includes the:

- seduction of achievement
- addiction to approval
- attraction of wealth
- perils of power
- idolatry of religion
- obsession of beauty
- chasing of a dream

Learn how to replace and not just relinquish these idols by turning your focus and worship toward God. It is the only thing that will set us absolutely free from the endless pursuit of everything else.

## **Empty Promises:The Truth About You, Your Desires, and the Lies You're Believing Details**

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Author : Pete Wilson

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## **From Reader Review Empty Promises: The Truth About You, Your Desires, and the Lies You're Believing for online ebook**

### **Amanda Willis says**

It took me awhile to get into EMPTY PROMISES, and honestly, I skimmed probably the first quarter of the book. The beginning didn't seem to be anything I haven't read before, and so I almost put it down. However, I felt the Lord urging me to continue, and so I did. Wilson does a great job exposing every day idols that have become so normalized in our culture that they're overlooked for exactly what they are. A few sections really resonated with me and definitely challenged me to press into them further. I was torn between three stars and four, but opted for three since the beginning wasn't engaging enough to pull me in beyond skimming. Depending where you are in your faith walk and how much intentional soul work you've already done will most likely determine the level of insight gleaned from this book. Overall, I recommend it. It's an easy, conversational read with lots of Truth we need to hear.

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### **Ian says**

This is Pete's second book and both have a disarming conversational-style of writing that makes them easy to read.

But don't take that to mean they lack depth. "Empty Promises" works through some of the major "idols" that draw us away from God and what influences us to chase after them. These weren't too revelationary for me, as I have a pretty good hold on what my struggles are. However, I expect many people will find these chapters confronting and open their eyes to what is inhibiting their walks with Christ.

It's the final 3 chapters that held the most grunt for me and I certainly benefited greatly from their content. Pete brings us back to the core essence of beating down our idols from strangling our desire for the Lord. And it comes back to spending time with Him, and lots of it, allowing His Spirit to transform us.

There are many quotable quotes in this marvellous book and Pete also shares many tremendous "sound bites" from his own extensive reading. But it's this one from Pete in the final chapter that has stayed with me:

"I don't think being mature Christians means getting to a place where we never deal with idolatry. Rather, maturity comes when we become aware that this is going to be a lifelong battle ... and we make up our minds to engage in it on a daily basis. It's this realisation, I believe, that puts us on the road to freedom from the empty promises that attempt to control us." (p196)

That statement reminds me of Martin Luther's great quote that "we need to read the Bible every day because we forget it every day."

This is well written and easy to read with lots of anecdotes and solid food to digest.

Highly recommended.

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## **Susan says**

I LOVED this book! The book is all about the things we chase and try to use to fulfill our lives. The things we put our trust, faith, and hope in. And how all of those things will only leave you empty. Only God can fulfill those deepest desires and give you purpose.

There are chapters on Achievement, Approval of Others, Power (or really control), Money, Religion, Beauty, and Chasing The Dream (you know car, house, husband, 2.5 kids and a dog). I could identify with every chapter. I have made all of these things idols at some point in time and struggle with keeping them all from taking over control of my heart and mind.

But he doesn't leave it at identifying these idols, he gives you practical tips for keeping them at bay. He has a chapter on "You are What You Worship" and "Living Close to the Truth". He talks about you have to be disciplined and keep yourself in God's word and reminding yourself of the truth always.

I seriously can see myself re-reading this book for years to come!

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## **Zee says**

Sometimes God talks to me through a book.

Not Bible.

Just a book.

A book that I have looked at for a long time and for some reason it just didn't feel right to read it...

Then the time comes.

"Go read that book."

"But God, I got it over a year ago and it didn't click when I tried to read it..."

"Just do it. Go ahead, take that book, make yourself a cup of Earl Grey tea, and I'll speak."

"But..."

"Go."

"Um... okay."

And He speaks.

And I smile because... because He knows me. He knows how to get to me.

The foreword by Rick Warren, the author of Purpose-Driven Life, hit the ground running:

God wired each one of us with a spiritual hunger that can only be satisfied by him. We use phrases like "There's got to be more to life than this," or "I'm bored... restless... empty... unfulfilled." Or even "I feel like something is missing in my life." Even when things are going well, there's always that little gnawing feeling on the inside. It is our hunger for God.

Rick Warren, Foreword to Empty Promises

In the beginning, Pete clearly states the premise: All people worship something. It's not a question whether we worship but rather what do we worship. In this book, he focuses on the dreams we have and promises we believe that might take away our attention from God's quiet voice and His path for our lives.

There are so many baits all around us. So alluring, so enticing. And it's not as if they are bad per se. It is wonderful when you have a family that you love and kids you are proud of. It is great when you have a job where you feel like you fulfill your potential. It is good if you prefer a healthy lifestyle. Those are great desires and blessings. The problem starts when we try to find the meaning for our life in them.

Families, no matter how wonderful, are never perfect. If we try to find our meaning in them, we run a risk of falling apart completely if something happens between us and our loved ones. We might lose our jobs due to economic downtime or any other factor. And good health might be elusive even despite all our efforts.

However, that does not mean we are doomed. Instead, Pete focuses on eternal promises, the ones God, who does not change, provided.

This was my second Pete Wilson's book and I have enjoyed reading it as much as I have enjoyed the previous book, Plan B, - even though most of the time, it felt like a spiritual 2-by-4 to the head.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the BookSneeze®.com book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. 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."

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## **Denise Dilley says**

Empty Promises by Pete Wilson tackles the tough subject of modern day idolatry in the lives of Christians today. From money to power to religion, there are numerous idols that sit on the throne of our hearts. But these idols are oh-so-deceptive. At times, they come to us as wolves clothes in sheep's clothing. Idols are deceptively good. Thus, idolatry in our own lives is easily overlooked, unseen, or shrugged off as we fool ourselves into thinking that nothing is more important to us than God.

Pete takes the traditional definition of an idol and replaces it with his own, "idolatry is when I look to something that does not have God's power to give me what only God has the power and authority to do." With this definition, when we take good things - marriage, career, dreams - and pursue them with the hope that they'll make us happy, content, or even fulfilled - things only God can truly do - then we have fallen into the trap of idolatry.

Throughout Empty Promises, Pete takes a systematic look at several common modern idols Christians

struggle with today. He uses stories from his own life and of others to show the pitfalls of each idol. He also uses biblical examples to share how this constant struggle with idolatry has been with us since the beginning of time. But he doesn't stop there. Not only does he reveal what idols Christians struggling with, but he helps us identify specific idols in our own heart. Then he offers specific spiritual disciplines to aid us in removing the idol from our heart and replacing it with the One who belongs there.

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## **Wendi says**

### **Empty Promises**

By Pete Wilson

Published by Thomas Nelson

In his latest book, Pete Wilson, founding and senior pastor of Cross Point Church in Nashville, Tennessee and author of *Plan B*, reveals “the truth about you, your desires, and the lies you’re believing.”

With no-nonsense straight talk, Wilson uncovers the *Empty Promises* we all fall prey to in our lives. Whether it's achievement, approval, power, money or beauty, these false idols only pull us farther from our creator and our true purpose. Luckily--even if painfully--“God loves you enough to strip you of anything that keeps you from Him--even if it's your most cherished dream.”

Highly recommended, *Empty Promises* will help unveil the hidden idols in your life, the defeat these idols can cause and the path to refocusing your attention on what matters most.

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## **Ashley says**

This book isn't all that long and when I first received it I expected it would be a quick 1-2 night read. I was completely wrong. Pete Wilson asks so many thought-provoking questions and provides so much food for thought that it took me much longer (over a week) to actually read all of the way through it. This is definitely not a book that will be moved to collect dust on my shelves, I'm sure it will be a book that I refer to many times over the years.

I had never really put much thought in to what idols may exist in my life that distract me away from my relationship with God but as I read through this book I began to see some of them for the first time. I realized how my need for control (The Perils of Power) interferes with my relationship with the Lord. When I read the part about idolatry of other people it made me think about my relationships. There were just so many places where I felt the need to stop and reflect and it certainly brought about a lot of personal and spiritual growth.

This is one book that I can honestly say affected me in a personal way and has caused a inner transformation. I have a new perspective on a few things in my life and it feels good. I have already recommended this book

to my husband and added it to his "to-read" list even though he's not really that much of a reader.

I received this book through BookSneeze. The opinions above are solely mine and I have received no compensation for this review.

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### **Jeff Randleman says**

Book Review - Empty Promises by Pete Wilson

A few months ago, I picked up a copy of Timothy Keller's book, *Counterfeit Gods*, and read it. Revealing the hidden and accepted idols in our lives, I was overwhelmed, and it impacted me deeply.

Last week, I started Pete Wilson's new book, *Empty Promises*. Dealing with the same subject of idolatry, this book served to reinforce what I'd just read recently in Keller's book.

When I started the book, I expected another feel-good type of book, like Wilson's first book, *Plan B*. While challenging, it didn't leave me with a lot of lasting change. That's what I expected to receive from *Empty Promises*. But that's not what I got.

In *Empty Promises*, Wilson delivers a hard hitting punch to the fact that we worship at the altar of many things that are not God. With chapters covering such topics as the idolatry of achievement, approval, power, appearance, success, and even religion, Wilson brings many hidden things to light, things that most of us, if we're honest, would rather not deal with, because we are comfortable in the way things are.

Pete Wilson challenges that comfort.

The only negative with *Empty Promises* is this: Wilson has some theological hang-ups that he can't seem to get over, and these rear their ugly heads occasionally throughout the book. They take on the form of petty ranting, and do nothing to add to the impact the book has; in fact, they detract from it somewhat.

However, in spite of that, *Empty Promises* is anything but that; it delivers.

This is a book that I know I will refer to again and again. I'd recommend that you pick up a copy and read it. You won't be sorry.

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***Have you ever faced the reality of idolatry in your life? What resources have you found helpful? You can leave your thoughts in the comments section below.***

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### **Frank Peters says**

Empty Promises, a book by Pete Wilson is subtitled: "The Truth about You, Your Desires and the Lies You're Believing". The subtitle ably describes the purpose of the book. The book is written from the

perspective of a follower of Jesus, who believes the Bible is the word of God, and that Jesus is who He says He is as recorded in the Bible. Those of us, who claim to be followers of Jesus, too often live lives that do not fit with this claim, and instead follow many, many other things that have little or nothing to do with Jesus. The “Empty Promises” that Wilson talks about are those (often good) things that we end up pursuing too strongly, and end up supplanting God in our lives. Some of these empty promises are power, approval, success and beauty. The book is written in a very approachable style which should appeal to a broad audience. Wilson did an excellent job in describing the areas of empty promises (or false gods) and how we deceive ourselves by believing we are doing something good or important while pursuing them. But, ultimately, we will always be deceiving ourselves whenever we follow anything more than our pursuit of God. I really liked the book, but was a bit troubled by two main points. First, the book was extremely similar (though less comprehensive) to an existing book: “Counterfeit Gods” by Timothy Keller. To be fair Wilson referenced Keller a number of times, so at least he did not pretend Keller’s book did not exist. I still wonder what this book covered that was missing from the Keller book, unless it was simply that this book was designed for a wider audience. Second, Wilson’s book seems to me to be incomplete. The area that I have always struggled with the most can be described as hedonism, which could include outdoor pursuits, video games, internet addiction, sex, and sports. Wilson’s book just about ignored these distractions, which are also empty promises. As a result, I believe the book was very good (for what was covered) but sadly incomplete.

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### **writer... says**

In our need for worth - value, significance, acceptance - we find ourselves sacrificing everything for the promise to be a little more beautiful, a little richer, a little more powerful, a little more successful, a little more loved...

With what are we trying to satisfy these needs? empty promises offered by everything and anything around us ...

Wilson challenges us to learn how to replace life's empty promises by turning our focus toward the One Who has already set True and unconditional approval upon us. Turning is the only thing that will break us absolutely free from the endless pursuit of anything lesser. The wheel that has us running faster, harder, yet accomplishing nothing, going nowhere.

The 'Good Life' is to be found, but not in one more idol demanding devotion yet offering Empty Promises...

Personal Interview on EMPTY PROMISES with author, Pete Wilson :  
<http://youtu.be/QZilR7StUWk>

Book trailer:  
[http://youtu.be/EwB2-3\\_Gw44](http://youtu.be/EwB2-3_Gw44)

\*Thank you to Thomas Nelson for providing me with a complimentary copy through BookLook Bloggers for reading and review without compensation.

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## **Josh L says**

You can read my full review at [Quiet Waters](#).

Pete Wilson is a pastor at Cross Point Church in Nashville, author of Plan B, and blogger at [WithoutWax.tv](#). Empty Promises is Wilson's second book, and it dwells on the longings of our hearts, on what we crave.

This book has strong echoes of two other authors, C. S. Lewis and Tim Keller. The closest comparison is Keller's Counterfeit Gods, which deals with nearly the same subject. Keller's book is more deeply analytical and focused on theology, while Wilson writes with a goal of speaking to the reader's daily life. Empty Promises focuses on applicability. Each chapter includes questions the reader should ask for self-analysis, to identify possible idols in your own heart.

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## **Marsha says**

Book reviews are written to tell the reader the general idea within the pages of a book coupled with the reviewers opinions of how the idea was presented. This book has a self explanatory title and cover picture. I chose to review "Empty Promises" by Pete Wilson because of its' subtitle: "'The Truth About You, Your Desires and the Lies You're Believing". I am very much interested in books that help me evaluate the decisions I have made in life, I do not like books that allow an individual to not assume responsibility for his or her life. For me reviewing this book, barring any biblical misrepresentations, would be easy.

We all should take the time to consider how we got to where we are today. Rather you agree with all of the authors' premises or not, I cannot see why you would disagree with him, this is an excellent book for introspection. There are twelve chapters which look at various personal beliefs; "Religion Lies" happens to be one of my favorites.

While reading this book an individual will be compelled to pause and evaluate how certain values, such as the need to achieve, affected his or her life. Upon completion of this book the reader will have a better idea of what he or she believes at the least and why. "Empty Promises" is therefore a great tool for anyone wanting to make life adjustments.

I recommend "Empty Promises" to those who can handle the truth about themselves. Though I enjoyed reading the book it is not always easy to read "The Truth" about oneself but it is always good to admit your shortcomings.

A complimentary copy of this book was provided to me by Book Sneeze in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Mason Neil says**

A lot of times I find myself making silent promises saying that I will start something new. Maybe it's eating healthier, or exercising more, or maybe just trying to go to bed early, and then I break them. I feel such a let down, and a disappointment in myself for being so dumb and not being able to stick with the program. After

these things I feel empty, and without an identity. Almost like I need to go to something else to find contentment in my life. So when I was Empty Promises I thought, hey, why not. The book was pretty good. It pointed out that the reason I feel this emptiness after my failures was that I was hinging my self-worth and identity on my success. It helped spark a paradigm shift in my head to where I based my self-esteem and self-worth on God's value in me, and not what I can do. With that in mind, I can do much more with Christ working through me. I'd give this book a four star.

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### **Daniel Butcher says**

Pete Wilson in *Empty Promises: The Truth About You, Your Desires, and the Lies You're Believing* addresses head on the issue of idols in our lives. Wilson notes that "idolatry is when I look to something that does not have God's power to give me what only God has the power and authority to give (Wilson, *Empty Promises*, 5). He then goes on to explain that we, including those in the church, are practicing idolatry on a daily basis not allowing us to achieve our purposes. Wilson then chronicles the common idols of our day, including the warning signs that we are worshiping at a false idol. These idols include; power, success, money, beauty and religion. Wilson notes that humans are inclined to worship and that only by worshiping God can we achieve our true purpose of reflecting Him. Wilson finishes with practical tips for connecting with God and throwing off false ones.

I have to be honest, I went into this read expecting generic Christian book and a continuation on the themes in Wilson's first book *Plan B*. Instead, I found all new content that was challenging and to be honest things we need to be saying to each other. Wilson is honest and calling us out in the church on our issues. Chapters on pleasing others for their approval and religion for the glorification of self will make many uncomfortable. There was plenty in this book that I found challenging! Wilson identifies the sin of idolatry in the midst of God's people and then gives us the prescription for overcoming it. The text itself is very well written, easy to read, and has a nice balance of personal stories, Biblical references and secondary supporting sources.

Overall *Empty Promises* is a very challenging book attacking issues that are often blind spots in the church.

Review Copy Provided by Thomas Nelson

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### **Brenten Gilbert says**

One of the most annoying things in life is when someone or something doesn't live up to expectations. Too many times, I've purchased some new technology that promises to make life easier, but ends up costing endless hours in configuration or troubleshooting. Such is life in reality. Pete Wilson offers this poignant reminder that regardless of what we look to for acceptance and love – whether accolades, looks, religion, or even other people – anything this world has to offer won't fill that proverbial God-shaped hole that aches to be filled.

*Empty Promises* examines many of the most common substitutes that can quickly become idols in our lives, distracting us from our natural inclination to worship God and find our purpose in Him. Wilson writes with a casual tone that makes reading enjoyable and conversational. The book is full of practical advice for identifying some of the issues we struggle with as well as some steps to take in addressing them. As someone who's inclined to miss the point from time to time, it's nice to have things spelled out clearly and honestly.

-from trudatmusic[dot]com[slash]raw

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