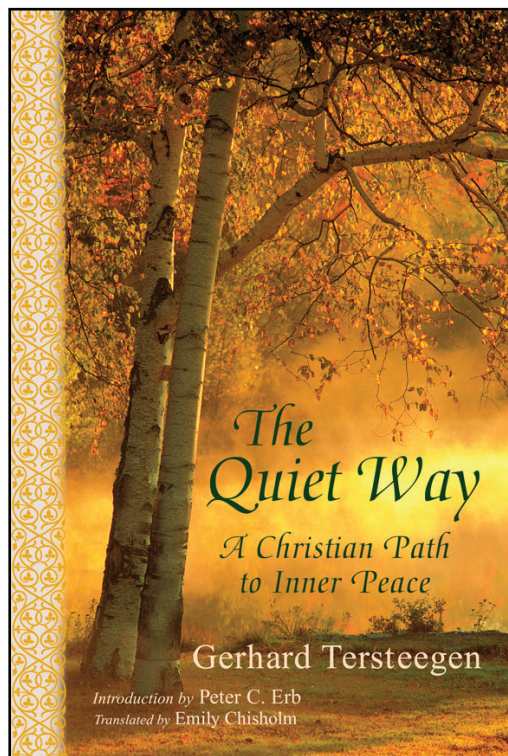


*The Quiet Way:*  
*A Christian Path to Inner Peace*  
by Gerhard Tersteegen  
Historical Introduction by Peter Erb



Though you may not know Gerhard Tersteegen by name, you will likely find his hymn “Thou hidden love of God” in your hymnal. If you read further, you will see that this hymn was translated by none other than John Wesley—a great admirer of Tersteegen. Now you too can be inspired by the same words that set John Wesley and countless other religious leaders on the path to inner peace.

The profound spiritual counsel of this 18th century pastor is presented in this volume in the form of short selections from 100 of his letters. Tersteegen’s emphasis on heartfelt religious devotion, ethical purity, and charitable activity profoundly influenced the development of various Protestant denominations, including the Methodist movement. It is the beauty of Tersteegen’s words that have kept his hymns popular for over 250 years, but it is his simple message of prayer and inwardness that is as timely today as it was when they were first written.

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“Tersteegen’s advice was simple. You are the child of God. God’s nature is in you. It has only become overclouded. Withdraw from outward things. Pray, and you will make contact again with God, the source of your being. Forget yourself. Forget your selfish desires. Look to God. Die to your own will, live for God’s will and you will know true life.”

—from the Foreword by Emily Chisholm

*What is included in this volume?*

- ❖ A translation by Emily Chisholm of short selections from 100 letters by Gerhard Tersteegen
- ❖ A Translator’s Preface by Emily Chisholm
- ❖ An Introduction by Peter C. Erb, a renowned expert on German Pietism
- ❖ Biographical Notes
- ❖ An Index.

*The Quiet Way: A Christian Path to Inner Peace* (978-1-933316-52-9, Trim Size: 5.5” x 8.5”) has a publication date of April 2008, is 160 pages, and has a retail price of \$17.95.

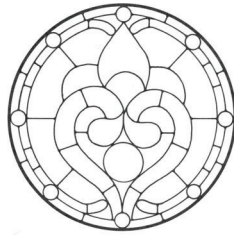
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**World Wisdom**



## *Excerpts from The Quiet Way*

- “It is a little thing for Him to let us find in our souls in one moment, without any trouble, what we may have been seeking for years with such trouble outside ourselves.”—page 6
- “In short, I realize more and more that what I do is unavailing, but everything avails when I let God do it.”—page 8
- “Prayer is looking at God, who is ever present, and letting Him look on us.”—page 22
- “There are many ways, means, and preparations, whereby we may gain reunion and fellowship with God. But the nearest way of all, and the easiest means, yes, the tiny point where this union is actually achieved, is when we become little children. The Son of God became one with mankind as a child, and mankind can only be united to God in the state of spiritual childhood. And, indeed, dear sister, the baby Jesus constrains us once again to enter with Him into the most perfect innocence of the childlike mind. So, away with all scruples, brooding, suspicion, unrest, and all lovelessness.”—page 31



### *What others have said about this book and the author*

“Emily Chisholm and Peter Erb deserve our heartfelt gratitude for bringing Gerhard Tersteegen within the purview of contemporary spiritual wayfarers who will find in these writings a rich vein of Christian insight and sage counsel. Many of the anxieties and tensions of Tersteegen’s age strike a very contemporary note and his writings remain as pertinent today as ever. *The Quiet Way* is also a salutary reminder of the spiritual treasures to be found in the oft-neglected writings of the Protestant mystics.”  
—**Harry Oldmeadow**, author of *A Christian Pilgrim in India*

“Tersteegen’s life is evidence that saintliness can find root in the protestant traditions as well as in Catholicism.”  
—*Journal of Bible and Religion*: Vol. 20. No. 2, p. 143

“I love Tersteegen for the insight he gives us into the eternal mind of God and His plans for His people. When multi-linguist Tersteegen was asked which country he was from, he invariably answered, ‘My home is with God in Eternity.’”  
—**George M. Ella**, historian and author, including *Mountain Movers: Champions of the Faith*

“A book to treasure: intimate, simple, unadorned counsel on fundamental aspects of the Christian life—love, prayer, rectitude, devotion to God and neighbor, rebirth in Christ—by the little-known eighteenth century mystic, Gerhard Tersteegen. His gentle voice blends the sweetness of Brother Lawrence, the innocence of Thomas Traherne, the soundness of Frances de Sales, and the apophatic surrender of Eckhart into a teaching profound and gracious, humble and vivifying.”  
—**Philip Zaleski**, editor of *The Best American Spiritual Writing* series

“[Tersteegen’s] ‘brooks and cisterns of gospel truths’ turned those to whom he ministered to ‘the living fountain, the Word of God itself.’”

—F. W. Krummacher, 19<sup>th</sup> century preacher and author, including *The Suffering Saviour*

“[Tersteegen is] the most fascinating character in the whole history of religious revival. . . . [He has skill in] the imaginative exposition of scripture in a class-meeting context which has probably never been equaled.”

—W. Reginald Ward, British Methodist historian

### *About the Author*



Gerhard Tersteegen was born in Moers, Germany in 1697. As a young man he gave up his life as a successful merchant and moved into an isolated cottage in order to search for God. In 1727 a revival took place and what started as a journey of solitude took a new direction as people began coming to him for spiritual guidance. Before long he was giving personal counsel from morning to night. The numbers seeking his guidance grew to the point that he was forced to move into a house to better accommodate them. In 1731 he published his first collection of hymns, *The Spiritual Flower Garden*. These hymns were so popular that they were sung at weddings, social gatherings, and even spoken as greetings. Thousands came to Tersteegen for spiritual counsel, many traveling great distances and sometimes waiting for hours in order to hear his words for a few minutes. He taught that God’s nature is in every man and it has only become obscured by focus on outward things. All who seek the “kingdom of Heaven” from within will find great joy his words.

### *About the Author of the Historical Introduction*

Peter C. Erb is a professor in the Religion & Culture department at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada. He received his B.A. from Wilfrid Laurier, his M.S.L. from the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Toronto University, and his Ph.D. from Toronto University. His scholarly interests include the following: Roman Catholic and Protestant writers of the Romantic period; 19<sup>th</sup> century British theology; 19<sup>th</sup> century British religious novels; German Pietism; the Radical Reformation; and late medieval spirituality. Among his numerous publications are the titles *Pietists: Selected Writings*; *Pietists, Protestants, and Mysticism: The Use of Late Medieval Spiritual Texts in the Work of Gottfried Arnold (1666-1714)*; *A Question of Sovereignty: The Politics of Manning’s Conversion*; and *Newman and the Idea of Catholic University*.



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