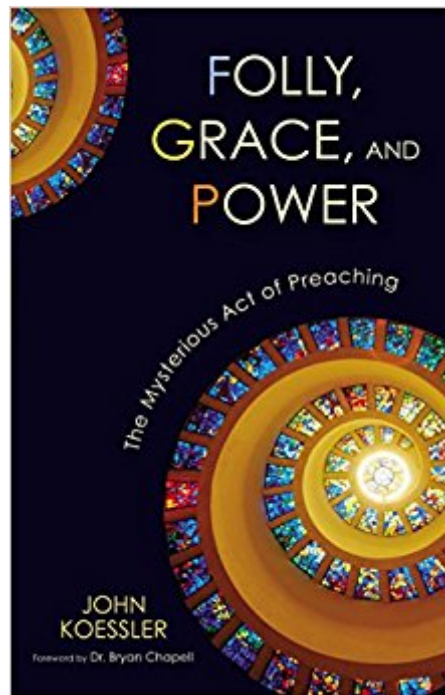




**Ebook Directory**  
the best source of ebook

The book was found

# Folly, Grace, And Power: The Mysterious Act Of Preaching



## Synopsis

When you stand before your congregation, what do you hope to accomplish when you preach the Word? If people have Bibles and the freedom to read and pray on their own—why do they need you? In short, what do you bring to the table? Author, pastor, and professor John Koessler answers those questions and many more. Why does one sermon have a powerful effect on the audience while another falls flat? Why should listeners heed what the preacher says? Is human language adequate for facilitating an encounter with God? What is the point of preaching a sermon? Folly, Grace, and Power is a must-read for pastors, seminarians, and lay leaders charged with the task of preaching God's word. This essential book is both a stern reminder of the sacredness of the awesome vocation of being a preacher, as well as a how-to that reveals the key to speaking powerfully on God's behalf.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Zondervan (September 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310325617

ISBN-13: 978-0310325611

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #217,132 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #210 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Preaching #4914 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology

## Customer Reviews

John Koessler has written for Discipleship Journal, Leadership, Moody Magazine, Decision, and Christianity Today. He has served as a pastor and currently is chair of the pastoral studies department at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He is the author of several books including True Discipleship and God Our Father. He holds degrees from Wayne State University, Biblical Theological Seminary, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He has made numerous radio and television appearances. He lives in northern Indiana with his wife and sons.

Most books devoted to exploring the mandate to preach the Word of God focus on homiletical

method. They help young preachers craft an introduction and a conclusion. They help young theologians with good exegetical skills. They discuss tone, body language, and eye contact. John Koessler's new book, *Folly, Grace, and Power: The Mysterious Act of Preaching* is different. Koessler's book is about the theology of preaching. The author explains, "Our preaching has the capacity to mediate the true presence of Christ. We display the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). This dignifies preaching. But it does not elevate the preacher beyond measure. The all-surpassing power comes from God, not from us. We are nothing. God is everything. This mindset permeates the remainder of the book as Koessler sets forth a biblical case for preaching. Central to the message of this book is the sovereignty of God. The author observes, "We have influence over the dynamics of delivery, but not the ebb and flow of the Holy Spirit. He breathes on whomever he wills, and there are many times when we are unable to sense his presence or easily discern his purpose." A sermon which thunders in one service falls flat in another, and we cannot tell why. In an age where propositions have for the most part been relegated to the cemetery, Koessler argues that good preaching includes both propositions as well as story: "God's Word, of course, includes both proposition and story, employing argument to address reason and narrative to affect the heart. Both exert an important influence on the will. But it is the Spirit, ultimately, who convicts." Here, the author stands with Jonathan Edwards who essentially argued the same in his magisterial volume, *Religious Affections*. The sovereignty of the Spirit of God is emphasized as well: "He (the Holy Spirit) works in the preacher to give words and boldness and then through what is preached to produce faith in those who hear." God's Spirit also uses the sermon to stir the heart. The Word of God gains entry by the gate of the mind, but its ultimate target is the heart, where faith is exercised (Rom. 10:10). This affection-oriented theme permeates the volume and makes it especially appealing to anyone convinced by the preaching methodology of Jonathan Edwards and the New England Puritans. The author explores the importance of authority in preaching, a subject that causes postmodern sympathizers to cringe. Koessler warns, "Preaching with divine authority does not guarantee a smooth path. We would like to think that God-given authority gives us leverage." But the same Bible that gives us our authority also offers ample proof of the congregation's capacity for discounting that authority. "Preaching with authority will, however, be costly. Thomas Long adds, "If the word comes from God in the biblical text, the preacher remains true to that word, regardless of the reaction or the cost." There is much to commend in this thoughtful volume. Preachers, young and old alike should devour this work and find encouragement in John Koessler's

fresh approach to preaching.

I've read a lot of books on preaching. This one is unique. It's not a "how-to" manual for how to craft or create a sermon. Nor is it a formula for producing sermons that will bring your hearers to their knees each week. This book is a theology of preaching. At its core Folly, Grace, and Power wrestles with the mysteries and paradoxes that preaching creates. Is preaching the word of God? Is it the word of man? Who should the preacher take his cues from to learn the art of preaching? Where does the gospel stand in the midst of preaching? Each of these questions is wrestled with by an excellent writer and preacher. Chapter 8 alone, Preaching as Gospel alone is worth the price of the book! I highly recommend this book for anyone who stands in the pulpit week after week as a source of encouragement in the task of preaching and exhortation to faithfully preach the gospel.

I really liked the way in which preaching is viewed in such high regard. It is a monumental task to help others prepare for eternity.

I was a bit skeptical of the title, but Koessler did it again. Great book, easy to read, packed with solid advice from professionals. This book takes the mystery out of preaching while also emphasizing the theological emphasis of preaching which is beyond human understanding.

More books need to be written encouraging pastors to be theologians in the pulpit. Preaching is not just another speech, but rather it is a way in which Christ is mediated to the congregation.

I really liked this book. I read it quickly and quite honestly, it was a refreshing breeze to my soul. I needed to be reminded about why my preaching is important, and also, all the paradoxes that exist in this process. I would highly recommend this to veterans and rookie pastors.

The book was as described, which is good. I have not had a chance to read it yet, but expect that it will help me.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Folly, Grace, and Power: The Mysterious Act of Preaching ACT Prep Book: ACT Secrets Study Guide: Complete Review, Practice Test, Video Tutorials for the ACT Test ACT Exam Flashcard Study System: ACT Test Practice Questions & Review for the ACT Test (Cards) Ruth: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching (Interpretation: A Bible

Commentary for Teaching & Preaching) Esther: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching (Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching) Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation (Elements of Preaching) (Elements of Preaching) Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art (Fortress Resources for Preaching) Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture: The Application of Biblical Theology to Expository Preaching On Preaching: Personal & Pastoral Insights for the Preparation & Practice of Preaching Determining the Form: Structures for Preaching (Elements of Preaching) Solar Power: The Ultimate Guide to Solar Power Energy and Lower Bills: (Off Grid Solar Power Systems, Home Solar Power System) (Living Off Grid, Wind And Solar Power Systems) Power Training: For Combat, MMA, Boxing, Wrestling, Martial Arts, and Self-Defense: How to Develop Knockout Punching Power, Kicking Power, Grappling Power, and Ground Fighting Power Power Pivot and Power BI: The Excel User's Guide to DAX, Power Query, Power BI & Power Pivot in Excel 2010-2016 Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination SAT and ACT Grammar Workbook (Grammar Workbook for the Sat, Act and More) 100 Great Operas And Their Stories: Act-By-Act Synopses Barron's ACT Math and Science Workbook, 2nd Edition (Barron's Act Math & Science Workbook) Essential ACT, 2nd Edition: Flashcards + Online: 500 Need-to-Know Topics and Terms to Help Boost Your ACT Score (College Test Preparation) ACT Prep Book 2017: ACT Test Prep Study Guide and Practice Questions Case Studies in Special Education Law: No Child Left Behind Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)