

JEN WILKIN



10 WAYS GOD CALLS US TO REFLECT  
HIS CHARACTER

“*In His Image* is an invitation to become like the God we worship, to see his characteristics become true of us, the people he has created and redeemed. Jen Wilkin’s work provides a solid and accessible overview of a crucial part of Christian theology. Any believer who reads this book will benefit from its truth.”

**Trevin Wax**, Bible and Reference Publisher, LifeWay Christian Resources;  
author, *This Is Our Time: Everyday Myths in Light of the Gospel*

“I have one big problem with this book: people will assume it’s only for women. This couldn’t be further from the truth! God has given Jen Wilkin the gift of making big truths easily understandable, which is great news for a person of average intelligence like myself. All who desire to increase their knowledge of and passion for God should read this book. All who desire to grow in holiness and be conformed to the image of God need to add this to their library. I highly recommend it.”

**Stephen Altrogge**, author, *Untamable God*; creator, The Blazing Center

“A. W. Tozer famously said that what we think about God is the most important and most formative thing about us. Jen Wilkin shows us how the best answers to what we should do are found in what we become, and what we become is determined by our view of God. There is no more important subject matter, and few authors are as capable at communicating such deep truth in simple, engaging ways as Jen Wilkin is.”

**J. D. Greear**, Pastor, The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina;  
author, *Not God Enough* and *Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart*

“*In His Image* is packed full of theological insight, pastoral wisdom, real-life application, and plenty of self-deprecation. Along with its predecessor, *None Like Him*, it is essential reading for understanding what God is like and what it looks like for us to live in light of that.”

**Sam Allberry**, Apologist, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries;  
Editor, The Gospel Coalition; author, *Is God Anti-Gay?* and *Why Bother with Church?*

“This book is for every woman who stresses over her decisions, constantly wondering whether or not she’s in God’s will. Jen Wilkin graciously turns these questions upside down by encouraging us to know and behold the character of God, allowing that to inform and transform our actions as image bearers. *In His Image* presents a biblical and practical explanation of God’s communicable attributes that anyone can grasp, enjoy, and apply!”

**Emily Jensen**, Cofounder, Risen Motherhood; Cohost, *Risen Motherhood* podcast

“*Who should I be?* This is a question many of us don’t explore, at least not that explicitly, and yet the answer to this question is essential to everything about us as Christians. Jen Wilkin helps answer this question in her outstanding book *In His Image*. Wilkin takes us through God’s communicable attributes, teaching us how we can reflect our Creator God. Her careful study of God’s Word and theology makes *In His Image* a must-read.”

Trillia Newbell, author, *God’s Very Good Idea; Enjoy; and United*

In His Image



# In His Image

*10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character*

Jen Wilkin

 **CROSSWAY**<sup>®</sup>  
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

*In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character*

Copyright © 2018 by Jen Wilkin

Published by Crossway  
1300 Crescent Street  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher, except as provided for by USA copyright law. Crossway® is a registered trademark in the United States of America.

Published in association with the literary agency of Wolgemuth & Associates, Inc.

Cover design: Connie Gabbert

Cover image: ola-la / shutterstock.com

Typesetting: Inspirio Design

First printing 2018

Printed in the United States of America

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked KJV are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked NET are from *The NET Bible*® copyright © 2003 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. [www.netbible.com](http://www.netbible.com). All rights reserved. Quoted by permission.

Scripture references marked NIV are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture references marked NKJV are from *The New King James Version*. Copyright © 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

All emphases in Scripture quotations have been added by the author.

Trade paperback ISBN: 978-1-4335-4987-8

ePub ISBN: 978-1-4335-4990-8

PDF ISBN: 978-1-4335-4988-5

Mobipocket ISBN: 978-1-4335-4989-2

---

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Names: Wilkin, Jen, 1969– author.

Title: In His image : 10 ways God calls us to reflect his character / Jen Wilkin.

Description: Wheaton : Crossway, 2018. | Includes bibliographical references and index. |

Identifiers: LCCN 2017052040 (print) | LCCN 2018011739 (ebook) | ISBN 9781433549885 (pdf) |

ISBN 9781433549892 (mobi) | ISBN 9781433549908 (epub) | ISBN 9781433549878 (tp)

Subjects: LCSH: God (Christianity)—Attributes.

Classification: LCC BT130 (ebook) | LCC BT130 .W549 2018 (print) | DDC 231/.4—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017052040>

---

Crossway is a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

LSC            28   27   26   25   24   23   22   21   20   19   18  
15   14   13   12   11   10   9   8   7   6   5   4   3   2   1

In memory of R. C. Sproul,  
who taught profound truth in plain speech,  
and who dignified everyday disciples as capable theologians.





# Contents

Introduction: Asking the Better Question .....	11
1 God Most Holy.....	19
2 God Most Loving .....	31
3 God Most Good.....	45
4 God Most Just.....	57
5 God Most Merciful.....	71
6 God Most Gracious .....	85
7 God Most Faithful .....	97
8 God Most Patient .....	109
9 God Most Truthful.....	121
10 God Most Wise.....	135
Conclusion: Engraved with His Image.....	147
Notes .....	155
General Index.....	159
Scripture Index.....	163



## Introduction

# Asking the Better Question

If you've ever said, "I just want to know God's will for my life," this book is for you. If you've ever gazed at the trajectory of your life and wondered if you were headed down the right path or off a cliff, keep reading. By the time you finish these pages, I hope you will never have to question what God's will is for you again. Or, at least, not the way you may have asked it in the past.

It's a uniquely Christian musing, this question of God's will. Those who have never called on the name of Jesus Christ are not the least concerned with discovering its answer. It reveals a believer's awareness that, to be a follower of Christ, not every option is open to me: whatever the way forward, it is not wide but narrow. God has a will for my life, and based on my unsuccessful history of trying to follow the way that seems right unto man, I had better do my best to discern what that will is.

But that discernment piece is tricky. When we reflect on what our lives were like apart from Christ, we tend to focus on the poor decisions we made and their ensuing consequences. How we spent our time, our money, and our efforts plays before us like a blooper reel, but instead of making us laugh it forces us to whisper, "Never again." Before we believed, we did what felt right or

what seemed rational to our darkened minds. But now we know our feelings deceive us and our self-serving logic betrays us. No worries, though. Now we have a direct line to God. We'll just ask him what we should do.

Without meaning to, we can begin to regard our relationship with God primarily as a means toward better decision-making. We can slip into a conception of God as a cosmic Dear Abby, a benevolent advice columnist who fields our toughest questions about relationships and circumstances. Because we do not trust our judgment, we ask him who we should marry or which job we should take. We ask him where to spend our money or which neighborhood to move into. "What should I do next? Keep me away from the cliff, Lord. Keep me on the narrow path."

These are not terrible kinds of questions to ask God. To some extent, they demonstrate a desire to answer the question "What is God's will for my life?" They show a commendable desire to honor God in our daily doings. But they don't get to the heart of what it means to follow God's will for our lives. If we want our lives to align with God's will, we will need to ask a better question than "What should I do?"

We Christians tend to pool our concern around the decisions we face. If I pick *A* when I should have picked *B*, then all is lost. If I pick *B*, all will be well. But if Scripture teaches us anything, it is this: God is always more concerned with the decision-maker than he is with the decision itself. Take, for example, Simon Peter. When faced with decision *A* (deny Christ) or decision *B* (acknowledge him), Peter failed famously. But it is not his poor decision-making that defines him. Rather, it is the faithfulness of God to restore him. Peter's story serves to remind us that, no matter the quality of our choices, all is never lost.

This makes sense when we pause to consider that no decision