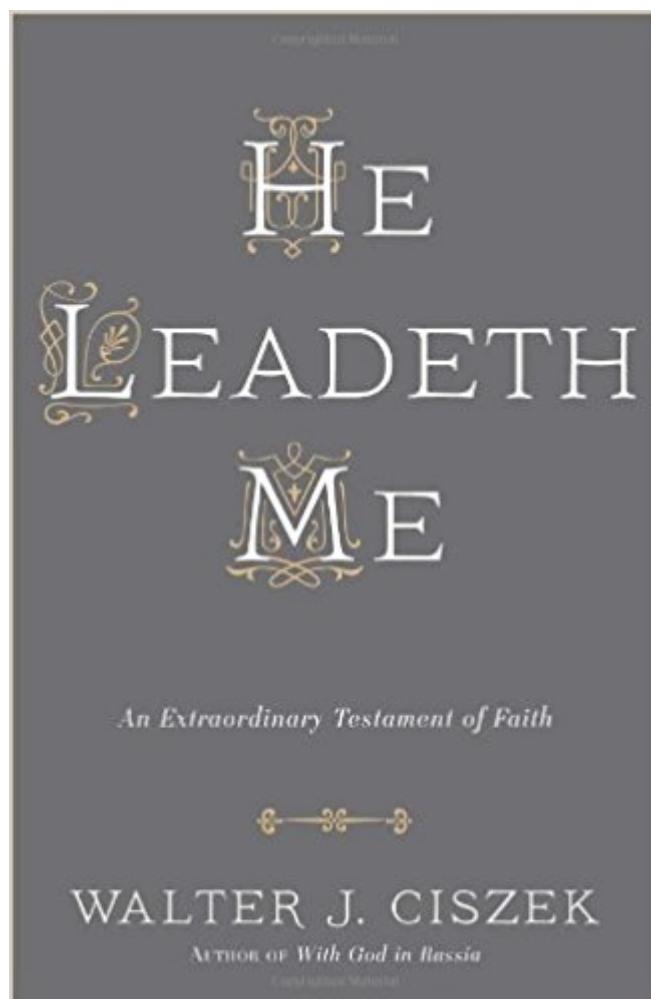


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# He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament Of Faith



## **Synopsis**

Captured by a Russian army during World War II and convicted of being a "Vatican spy," Jesuit Father Walter J. Ciszek spent 23 agonizing years in Soviet prisons and the labor camps of Siberia. Only through an utter reliance on God's will did he manage to endure the extreme hardship. He tells of the courage he found in prayer--a courage that eased the loneliness, the pain, the frustration, the anguish, the fears, the despair. For, as Ciszek relates, the solace of spiritual contemplation gave him an inner serenity upon which he was able to draw amidst the "arrogance of evil" that surrounded him. Ciszek learns to accept the inhuman work in the infamous Siberian salt mines as a labor pleasing to God. And through that experice, he was able to turn the adverse forces of circumstance into a source of positive value and a means of drawing closer to the compassionate and never-forsaking Divine Spirit. *He Leadeth Me* is a book to inspire all Christians to greater faith and trust in God--even in their darkest hour. As the author asks, "What can ultimately trouble the soul that accepts every moment of every day as a gift from the hands of God and strives always to do his will?"

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Captured by the Russian army during World War II and convicted of being a "Vatican spy", American Jesuit Father Walter J. Ciszek spent some 23 agonizing years in Soviet prisons and the labor camps of Siberia. He here recalls how it was only through an utter reliance on God's will that he managed to endure. He tells of the courage he found in prayer - a courage that eased the

loneliness, the pain, the frustrations, the anguish, the fears, the despair. For, as Ciszek relates, the solace of spiritual contemplation gave him an inner serenity upon which he was able to draw amid the "arrogance of evil" that surrounded him. Learning to accept even the inhuman work of toiling in the infamous Siberian gulags as a labor pleasing to God, he was able to turn the adverse forces of circumstance into a source of positive value and a means of drawing closer to the compassionate and never-forsaking Divine Spirit.

WALTER J. CISZEK, S.J. (1904-1984), was a Polish-American Jesuit priest known for his missionary work in the Soviet Union during and after World War II. He was eventually arrested by the Soviets as a spy and spent fifteen years in the Gulag. He was released and returned to the United States in 1963, after which he wrote two books, including the memoir *With God in Russia*, and served as a spiritual director. Since 1990, Ciszek has been under investigation by the Roman Catholic Church for canonization. His current title is Servant of God.

This is one of the best books I have read on man's search for meaning, and finding the Will of God. It doesn't have miraculous healings, or mass conversions. But it does have evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit both within and around a man who kept trying to go further with his vocation to find the will of God. It is beautifully simply written. He was clearly a man of uncomplicated thinking, a stubborn strength of character, and by also by grace, a strong enough physical constitution to survive 5 years solitary confinement and northern Siberian labour camps for 15 years!

This was one of the best books I have ever read. Fr. Ciszek's reflections on discerning the will of God and accepting every moment of every day, good and bad, as God's will has been a tremendous help in my spiritual life. I have already purchased another copy of this as a gift and plan on giving away several more copies. Highly recommend it for anyone seeking to know God's will in their life.

A truly inspiring account from a spiritual perspective of a Catholic Priest imprisoned and continually persecuted by the Communist Government of the Soviet Union for 23 years. In spite of this Fr. Ciszek recounts many instances that his Faith in God allowed him to survive and minister to others. He was particularly impressed with the Faith of the Russian people surviving in spite of continual persecution and indoctrination against their Faith. Don't miss reading this book.

Just an outstanding personal story of survival, fortitude, and faith. Very easy read. One of the best books I've ever read - so helpful and meaningful on every level. I will read this book many times, for I cannot make it through my days without His help. Fr. Ciszek has simply explained what worked for him and shows us how to apply these truths to our situations. While my struggles do not compare to his experiences in Russia, I'm humbled that I never knew pain and suffering until now (as a senior). My lesson learned: I need to pick up my cross and follow Jesus to the end. This is the test, the truth, which leads to redemption and life everlasting.

The best book I have ever read. Opens your eyes to the presence of God in every moment of your life. You do not have to look further for the will of God than the normal, mundane activities of your daily existence. If Walter Ciszek's faith can sustain him for over 15 years in the Russian gulag, his insight will change how you interact with others and go about your day. Words can not properly explain how this book has changed my life. Very well written; accessible; and interesting.

A really outstanding work of the personal experience of a Polish-American priest who was arrested and imprisoned in the notorious Lubyanka jail in Moscow and later on in several Siberian Labour camps. An inspirational spiritual account that was very engrossing for me. It has really helped me during tough times.

Wow, this book has brought me deeper into my faith. How can one do God's will in solitary confinement. I am in amazement. It is a must read. How can you love God in a work camp in Siberia? There are insights in this book.

There are many books of Christian spirituality and/or experiences with which the reader simply cannot connect. They are good, the lessons they teach are important, but the average layman has trouble seeing them as being part of his life. This is not so with Fr. Ciszek's book because Fr. Ciszek speaks from his heart and does not hide his own struggles. He freely admits to the same struggles that we all have -- struggles to understand God's ways in our lives, the temptation to just walk away from following the Lord, the discouragements and pain. He also gives us the victory he found in surrendering all to God and letting God control everything. It is easy for us to think that we have surrendered to God and have made Him the Lord and King of our lives when, in fact, we are not at all fully surrendered. Fr. Ciszek's book is an inspiration because he shows us the ordinary struggles that even a great man -- a man who will be canonized a saint one day -- have with

completely surrendering to God and letting Him take us wherever He knows is best for us.

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