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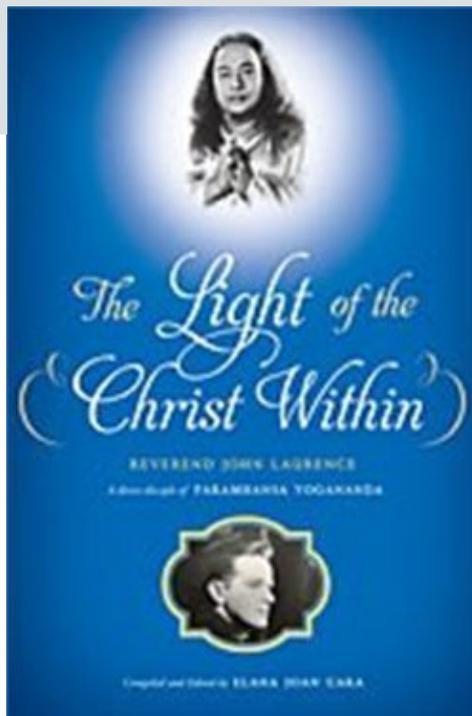
## BOOK REVIEWS:

### *THE LIGHT OF THE CHRIST WITHIN*

*Reverend John Laurence,*

*a direct disciple of PARAMHANSA YOGANANDA*

*Inspired talks compiled and edited by Elana Joan Cara*



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## WHAT READERS ARE SAYING:

A direct disciple of Paramhansa Yogananda, *Reverend John*

**L** Laurence was a modern mystic, world teacher, and founder of the Metaphysical Design for Living Church in San Francisco. His joyful spirit, humor, and compassion are evident in every page of this book, a treasure trove of his talks compiled and edited by Elana Joan Cara. Based on the Psalms [and other scriptural readings], these uplifting messages are universal and non-denominational. As a young man Reverend Laurence studied the lives of the saints, fascinated by their special powers. He reminds us that we are all a spark of the Infinite, capable of living like spiritual giants. In a straightforward and lively manner, he offers guidance on how to return to our natural state of joyous light. This inspiring collection includes stories from the lives of saints East and West, and compelling discussions about life after death. **Diane Holcomb**, *East West Bookstore, Mountain View, CA*

I was introduced to Rev. Laurence in San Francisco. Though in his eighties, John was energetic, kindly, and the soul of generosity as he graciously told me how he had met Paramhansa Yogananda in 1933, and of his later connections with the great teacher. One could sense John's expanded consciousness and his deep awareness. This book captures John's spirit and brings the reader in direct contact with an advanced disciple of a spiritual master. It is as if John were right here, talking to you directly through these pages, answering your questions and directing you ever inward and upward to the great goal: oneness with Spirit. **Richard Salva**, *author of Walking with William of Normandy*

Privileged to have known JL (if briefly), I find it is a joy beyond measure to have this collection so beautifully edited with true devotion by Ms. Cara. I can hear JL's voice speaking clearly with his undaunted enthusiasm and uncompromising certainty. This is not another book of how-to-overhaul-It-All; rather, it is a book that puts "It" all out there with clear conviction and unfailing good humor, reaffirming that Heaven on Earth is a reality, not a dream. What could be a greater gift than that? Every time I read one of the talks, something within the course of the day is changed for the better, life is made more radiant. And JL makes it all so simple, which it really is. I cannot thank Ms. Cara enough for what she has given to all of us with this joyful book, and I hope it finds its way to a wide audience. They will find themselves that much more assured, their hearts that much more filled with love.

**Music Lover**

Everything John Laurence presents in his talks is about balance and integration of all world religious views and how the Love of God is everywhere. His humor and wit come out in every page, making these talks so thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining that the religious matters that are the discussion of the presentations are full of light and love and a deep understanding of humanity. This has become one of my favorite books, and I often turn to a chapter to get a bit of clarity and a breath of fresh air. Highly recommended to anyone who loves God, wants to know more about God. It is perfect for anyone of any faith. **Melinda Elwell**

This book definitely speaks my language when John Laurence talks about peace, light, and hope in a world of transition and

uncertainty and how we need the peace of a calm center for our own transition and that of the world. We need the light of spiritual healing. The inspirational stories by this spiritual master, preserved by Elana Joan Cara, come alive on the page. I felt like I too was sitting there listening to his wisdom, even though I have not had the privilege to meet this wonderful man in person. One important message that comes through is that most of all we need hope, and John's words give us that by reminding us that all of us have the power to choose the most important influences on our consciousness - our spiritual music, friends, environment, and above all, our thoughts. The words written are wonderful reminders of what I think of as Universal Truth.  
***Sherry Swiney, Columbia, Kentucky***

I love to read this book before going to sleep at night. I often open at random to any chapter and am immediately drawn in to the deceptively simple stories which move me on a deep level. John Laurence's wisdom seems to stay with me into my dreams and I awake feeling calm and well taken-care of. ***Virginia Gilstrap***

This is one of the most delightful spiritual books I have ever read. It is as though John Laurence is in your living room, having tea while sharing life changing pearls of wisdom on how to live. I would recommend this to everyone, regardless of any religious affiliation. It is profound, yet very easy to read... a must for any spiritual seeker. ***Carol Calvert, Santa Fe, New Mexico***

While reading this book I will be crying one minute then in hysterical laughter the next. It gives such a feeling of truth and raw understanding. You can't help but feel it as you read. It is as if John were talking to you in person with his joking and booming operatic voice...and maybe in a way he is. I found that things in my life came together while reading this book. Everything seemed to make better sense. I felt more concrete in life, and that catapulted me into learning more and doing more in my spiritual practice. Thank you for being, John, and thank you even more, Elana, for keeping him alive with this book. ***Colleen Lawrence, Santa Rosa, California***



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