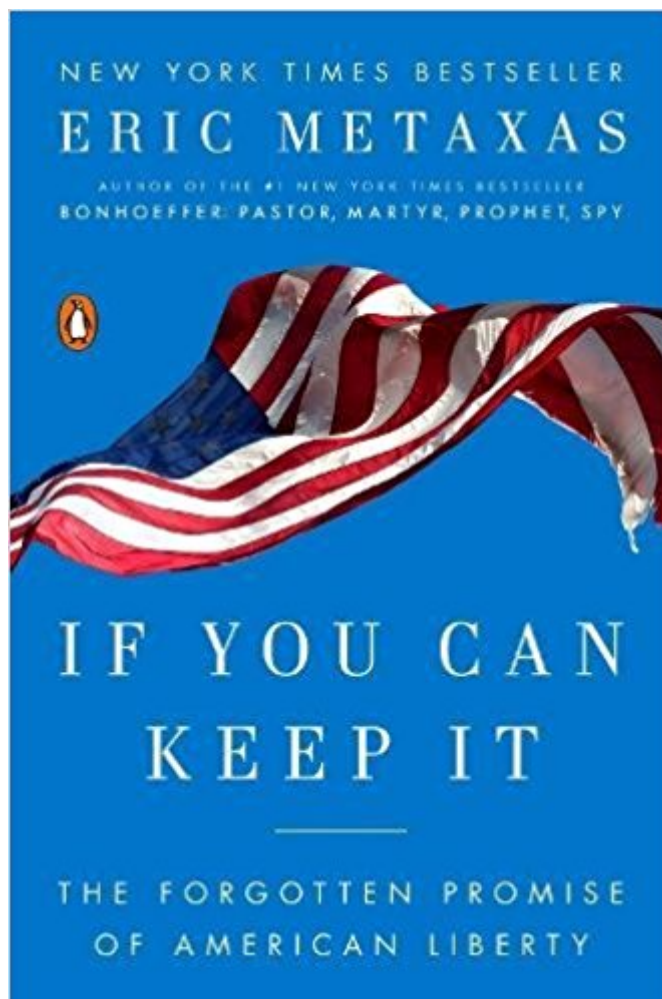


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# If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise Of American Liberty



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas delivers an extraordinary book that is part history and part rousing call to arms, steeped in a critical analysis of our founding fathers' original intentions for America. In 1787, when the Constitution was drafted, a woman asked Ben Franklin what the founders had given the American people. "A republic," he shot back, "if you can keep it." More than two centuries later, Metaxas examines what that means and how we are doing on that score. *If You Can Keep It* is at once a thrilling review of America's uniqueness—including our role as a "nation of nations" and a chilling reminder that America's greatness cannot continue unless we embrace our own crucial role in living out what the founders entrusted to us. Metaxas explains that America is not a nation bounded by ethnic identity or geography, but rather by a radical and unprecedented idea, based on liberty and freedom for all. He cautions us that it's nearly past time we reconnect to that idea, or we may lose the very foundation of what made us exceptional in the first place. Eric Metaxas's latest book, *If You Can Keep It*, will be available from Viking in Fall 2017.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *If You Can Keep It* "Profound and thoroughly entertaining . . . This book has made me think in ways that I haven't in years. Metaxas is a major writer. Not to be missed." —Dick Cavett "If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American

Liberty—along with such essentials as *Up from Slavery* by Booker T. Washington and *The 5000 Year Leap* by W. Cleon Skousen—must be front and center on every reading list."

The Washington Times "Everyone in every country, at every socioeconomic level, of every religious and secular persuasion, of every political bent, should read it. . . . It's the book you must read this year."

Martha Rogers, PhD, coauthor of *Extreme Trust: Honesty as a Competitive Advantage* "Eric Metaxas [is] one of our nation's most brilliant and morally serious public intellectuals."

Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University "Irresistible . . . compellingly written . . . important. Not only should every American read it—they should then reread it aloud to their children and grandchildren."

Dennis Prager "Eric Metaxas has done a great service to the country."

Gregory Alan Thornbury, PhD, president of the King's College, New York City "A faith-based argument for American exceptionalism . . . that will appeal to Christian readers."

Kirkus Reviews Praise for *Miracles* "Miracles is the sort of book that—once you've read it—you'll wonder where it's been all your life."

Kathie Lee Gifford, Emmy Award-winning host, *The Today Show* "If you're a skeptic, read this book with an open mind and you might just discover that miracles are real. If you're already a believer, be ready to be inspired."

Kirsten Powers, columnist for *USA Today* and *The Daily Beast* "Take the brilliant mind of Eric Metaxas, add the provocative topic of miracles, and get ready to change the way you see reality forever."

Erwin Raphael McManus, founder of MOSAIC and author of *The Artisan Soul: Crafting Your Life into a Work of Art* "Metaxas has done it again. . . . He presents hope for the tone deaf who cannot hear the splendor of the music of the spheres, and he brings in sunlight for modern cave dwellers who have become accustomed to only shadows on the wall of our increasingly windowless world."

Os Guinness, author of *Long Journey Home* "The miracles in *Miracles*—and Eric's own amazing miraculous experience—bring out the fact that the miraculous gift of eternal life that God provides can be experienced here on earth."

Luis Palau, international evangelist "Praise for *Bonhoeffer* "Eric Metaxas tells Bonhoeffer's story with passion and theological sophistication."

The Wall Street Journal "A captivating and inspiring read from start to finish. . . . Buy it. This book could change your life."

James N. Lane, founder of the New Canaan Society and former general partner, Goldman, Sachs & Co. "Eric Metaxas has written the kind of extraordinary book

that not only brings Dietrich Bonhoeffer, his times and his witness vividly alive, but also leaves us yearning to find the same moral character in ourselves. "No biographer can achieve anything higher." Archbishop Charles Chaput "Metaxas' Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy is a modern-day classic that should be on the best of lists for the decade." • Relevant Magazine "[A]n electrifying account of one man's stand against tyranny." • Human Events From the Hardcover edition.

Eric Metaxas is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy; Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery; and Miracles. His books have been translated into more than twenty languages. His writing has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and The New Yorker, and Metaxas has appeared as a cultural commentator on CNN, the Fox News Channel, and MSNBC. He is the host of The Eric Metaxas Show, a nationally syndicated daily radio show. Metaxas is also the founder and host of Socrates in the City, the acclaimed series of conversations on "life, God, and other small topics," featuring Malcolm Gladwell, Dr. Francis Collins, and N.T. Wright, among many others. He is a senior fellow and lecturer at large at the King's College in New York City, where he lives with his wife and daughter. From the Hardcover edition.

I cannot help but think many will dismiss Metaxas' latest as a simple political tome. After all, he's fairly well pigeon-holed on the "conservative" side of the fence in modern life. However, this is more of a historical review than a candidate advocacy book. First of all, Metaxas reviews the founding of the United States. Obviously, for the sake of time, he simplifies some of the history but does not take excessive liberty. I do think that some debate is valid over the religious views of the Founding Fathers (Jefferson, especially) but Metaxas is right that they were all convinced of the need for a morality based outside of human preference for self-governance. Second, the charge here is clear: liberty is the heritage of America but we are foolishly giving it away. He identifies both liberal and conservative errors that are confounding our heritage. In all, a good challenging read. May it inform not only votes but our approach to a republic and liberty as a whole.

To say this new book by Eric Metaxas is timely is an understatement. We all need to be encouraged to see something hopeful both in the past and in the future of our nation. "If You Can Keep It" is not written in the style of a history textbook, rather it is a passionate appeal to remember together some

of the inspiring stories of America, to celebrate our heroes, to become familiar again with the faithful intentions and beautiful writings of some of the great leaders of the past. After reading this book, I am inspired to re-read historical accounts and biographies of people like William Wilberforce, Hannah More, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, George Whitefield, and Nathan Hale. I'd love to read some original documents and letters written by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Winthrop. I'm reminded that what they valued and what they fought for was important then, and is still important now. Reading this book is like gathering around to listen as a great storyteller recounts the story of Squanto and the example of leadership from Cincinnatus. The chapter on the importance of moral leaders shows us that it is possible for leaders to care about setting a standard of light that shines in the darkness. I enjoyed references in this book to positive messages found in personal favorites such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, as a reminder of how the arts are important for encouraging a culture of virtue and exposing the vice in our society or system of government. (And I'd like to read Os Guinness' book that talks about The Golden Triangle of Freedom, since that idea inspired Eric to write this new book in the first place!) To sum up why this book is important, I'll share a quote: "By deciding that every potential hero is too flawed to celebrate and venerate, or that such stories are somehow corny, we have done a grave disservice to several generations and to the country. We've not only denied our citizens the inspirational stories of those who have made great sacrifices from which we benefit but have also denied several generations the knowledge of what it really means to be an American - and have denied them the appropriate sense of patriotism that everyone longs to feel. Love of one's country is among the fundamental joys of what it means to be human." Metaxas then describes beautifully what an appropriate love of country means: not jingoistic, but seeing the flaws along with the potential and promise of good. Having read four books by Eric Metaxas, this may be my favorite. The reason I didn't give this book 5 stars is because I was hoping for more citations, end notes or a bibliography to aid in the further reading that this book inspires! I received an early copy of this book to give an honest review. But I would have pre-ordered it anyway and would have written the same review!

I have not read anything in the past couple of decades that has stirred in me so much a sense of the fragile and awesome responsibility of what it means to be American. This is a book written to reach the hearts of Americans who love America but whose memory of our precious identity has been covered with tarnish. Citations for the many references would have earned this title a 5 star review, but even without them, I can say this is very likely the most important book you can read this year.

What Eric Metaxas does well, he does better than just about anyone. He stirs memory, longing, and calling while shining a light forward. Few books you read this year will give you a greater sense of hope or accountability! Buy it, read it, and give copies to your loved ones! Who of us does not need to remember how precious a gift and responsibility we have to uphold America?

This book is great! It should be required reading for any voter. This book explains the deeper and unknown critical parts of our democracy. These parts are the things most schools forget in the name of political correctness. This book will open up minds to new realities. What most people forget is that the founding fathers thought there was more to democracy than just voting and paying taxes. To put it in modern terms it is more than a purple finger to mark that you voted. Citizens needed to have certain values to make it work. Those values are so important it was there before the country started. The book shows that in great detail. The nation needs other things to keep man in check. As Ben Franklin said, "As nations become corrupt and vicious they have more need of masters." That master in other countries is the police state. Franklin found in his autobiography that "the secret to American Freedom was American virtue." That is checked here in America by an internal master in our hearts. John Adams said that, "The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue. He went on to say that if people did not have virtue in greater measure they would not have a liberty that would last. Eric Metaxas explains that to an average reader. He shows how the work of George Whitefield, before the country's inception set the ground. That revival he helped start gave America that virtue. America needed other things. A moral leadership is critical. Lack of that undermines citizen faith in the government. Metaxas also shows how it is important that people have a love for the country. That helps provide energy to keep things going forth in good times and bad. The book does what others don't. It shows why virtue is important. Why values keep man's sinful nature in check. The book shows that without a moral people our government is at stake.

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