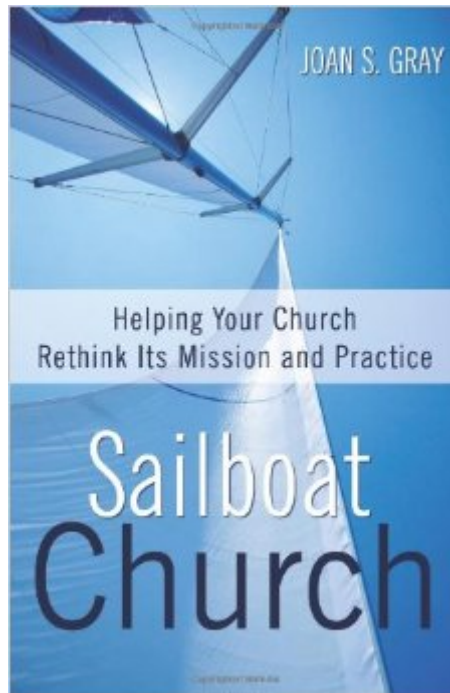


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# Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission And Practice



## Synopsis

Is your church a rowboat church or a sailboat church? Rowboat churches depend largely on human effort. When church budgets shrink and membership declines, rowboat churches frantically row harder against a current, often frustrated and disappointed at their efforts. Sailboat churches, on the other hand, take up the oars, hoist sails, and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them. Arguing that churches should be "sailboats," Joan S. Gray encourages readers to shift concern from the many daily, practical concerns of their local church to fresh ideas that can be found using the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The book includes forty days of sailing prayers, quotes from Scripture, brief reflection questions, and an extensive bibliography that is arranged by theme. Perfect for groups to read together, this book will help leaders reframe their church's mission and practice with the Holy Spirit as their guide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is about doing Church either the â œrowboatâ • way or the â œsailboatâ • way. Using the metaphor of rowing vs sailing, the author tries to emphasize the key point that Godâ ™s work done in Godâ ™s way will never lack Godâ ™s supply. The Church is not meant to be one that is anchored on human wisdom. It is meant to be led by the Spirit, empowered by Godâ ™s wisdom, and enthusiastically lived out according to the wind of the Spirit, to sail where God wants to sail. Gray, an elder of the Presbyterian Church first points out the follies of the â œrowingâ • mentality. Despite the best efforts, money, human wisdom, non-stop energy and resources poured

into doing Church, Churches that â œrowâ • will quickly lead to discouragement, distressed leadership, and declining churches. The root of the problem is human wisdom and human strength to do the ministry that needs Godâ™s power. Going back to the early Church in Acts, Gray points out the main difference in terms of â œattitudeâ • not numbers. Do church members serve out of their own strength and cleverness? Is Church merely a human religious organization? Are lives transformed? Do Churches believe in the supernatural, the spiritual reality of the kingdom of God? No. The rowing mentality is the tendency to fix things as if we are the masters of our own future. Such a mentality believes that the right person hired will lead to the right result planned. The right resources poured in will lead to the right fruits. Success becomes the key measurement yardstick rather than spiritual transformation. Gray proposes a â œdivine-human partnershipâ • for churches. Human effort is just one part. Rather than results driven, churches must prioritize their relationship with Jesus as the top.

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