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God and the Victim: Traumatic Intrusions on Grace, and Freedom (Hardback)

By Jennifer Erin Beste

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2007. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Christian tradition holds that an individual s ability to respond to God s graceto love both God and neighboris not wholly vulnerable to earthly contingencies, such as victimization. Today, however, trauma theory insists that situations of overwhelming violence can permanently damage a person s capacity for responsive agency. For Christians, this theory raises the very troubling possibility that humans can inflict ultimate harm on each other, such that some individuals eternal destiny can be determined not by themselves but by those who do great harm. Jennifer Beste addresses the challenges that contemporary trauma theory and feminist theory pose to deeply-held theological convictions about human freedom and divine grace. Do our longstanding, widespread beliefs regarding ones access to Gods grace remain credible in light of recent social scientific research on the effects of interpersonal injury? With an eye toward the concrete experiences of trauma survivors, Best carefully considers the possibility that one can be victimized in such a way that his or her receptiveness to Gods grace is severely diminished, or even destroyed. Drawing on insights present in feminist and...



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