

# So Long, Beth: Your Precepts Have Been a Bad Friend to Us

## Beth Moore's Latest Book on Female Insecurity

by G. Richard Fisher with M. Kurt Goedelman



Popular author Beth Moore writes in her latest book, "I've never written a single book out of expertise. I usually write to discover something I myself am yearning for. Even desperate for. ... God has spent this last year systematically exposing every ugly insecurity I had and testing these methods in circumstances too uncanny to be coincidence."<sup>1</sup>

Moore, author of *So Long, Insecurity: You've Been a Bad Friend to Us*, founded Living Proof Ministries in 1994 and today is one of the best-known teachers and speakers on the evangelical circuit. Her teachings can run the gamut from quirky, sensational, subjective, and questionable, all the way to somewhat helpful.

The Apostle Paul urged, "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). In looking discerningly at Moore's books and the teachings therein, we are doing what the Bible commands. Sadly, those who do so often are accused of being mean-spirited, harsh, and judgmental.

### ALL SHOOK UP

Moore opens *So Long, Insecurity* by writing, "I'M SERIOUSLY TICKED" and "Maybe what I am is peeved."<sup>2</sup> Near the end of the book, she writes,

"The writer of Proverbs talked of words 'fitly spoken,' but I'm afraid what you've gotten here were words spoken in a fit."<sup>3</sup> When we find out why she is in such a state, one can't help but wonder if all of her previous books meant nothing. She seems almost desperate when she pleads, "we need help. *I need help*. Something more than what we're getting."<sup>4</sup> This book, she divulges, "is the closest I'll ever come to an autobiography."<sup>5</sup> Her complaint is that no one seems to be helping women with their problems and insecurities.

Moore asserts, "Insecurity among women is epidemic, but it is not incurable."<sup>6</sup> She states, "I'm feeling ticked for the whole mess of us born with a pair of X chromosomes,"<sup>7</sup> and adds to that a description of being "irrationally irritated to oblivion" and "feeling scorned."<sup>8</sup> She narrows the problem down to the question, "Can we still feel adequate in our media-driven society?"<sup>9</sup> The thrust of her book then seems to be, *How can I begin to feel adequate?* Moore apparently does not grasp that feeling "adequate" may be more a result of something else than a pursuit in itself. The other issue is that if we felt totally adequate all the time, we would have no need of dependence

on God or a desire to grow in the faith. We can be content in Christ and still be discontented as to where we are in our Christian growth. Paul expressed it this way: "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me" (Philippians 3:12).

### MORE OF MOORE

Moore has claimed in her books and lectures that her teachings come directly from God. These precepts were said to be the way to deliver us from the past, breaking our bondages, getting us out of our pits, binding the enemy, and giving us the wherewithal to demolish all our strongholds.<sup>10</sup> If all of Moore's other books really worked and delivered what was promised, there would be no need for this new book.

Moore lacks in two critical areas. First, she has no formal Bible training, which lends itself to a subjective, do-it-yourself hermeneutic. Her Website states that her degree in college was in Political Science and that she formerly taught "Christian aerobics." It also mentions that she took a Bible doctrine class at her local church. Second, it appears from the book's