

SONJA CORBITT

# FULFILLED

*Uncovering the  
Biblical Foundations of Catholicism*



# FULFILLED

---

*Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism*

**SONJA CORBITT**



*Nihil obstat:* Rev. Stephen Gideon  
Censor deputatus

*Imprimatur:* + Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding  
Bishop of Nashville  
February 22, 2018

*Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism* is a faith formation resource of Ascension Publishing, LLC.

Copyright © 2018 Sonja Corbitt. All rights reserved.

With the exception of short excerpts used in articles and critical reviews, no part of this work may be reproduced, transmitted, or stored in any form whatsoever, printed or electronic, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Excerpts from the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for use in the United States of America. Copyright © 1994, 1997, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.–Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture passages are from the Revised Standard Version–Catholic Edition. Copyright © 1946, 1952, 1971, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

Scripture passages marked “NAB” are from the New American Bible. Copyright © 1970, 1986, 1991, 2010, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. All rights reserved.

Ascension  
PO Box 1990  
West Chester, PA 19380  
1-800-376-0520  
ascensionpress.com

Cover image (based on *Baptism of Christ* by Juan Fernández de Navarrete) and  
tabernacle illustrations: Jason Bach

Design: Rosemary Strohm

Printed in the United States of America  
22 23 24 25 26 7 6 5 4 3

ISBN 978-1-945179-28-0

*To St. Joseph, ex voto, for Bob.*



# CONTENTS

<b>PART ONE – CALLED INTO HIS PRESENCE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
INTRODUCTION .....	3
A HOME FOR GOD .....	9
KEEPING TIME WITH GOD.....	37
A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS .....	59
SACRIFICIAL LOVE.....	83
PERFECTED BY HIS PRESENCE .....	107
IMMERSED IN HIS GRACE .....	129
<b>PART TWO – DRAWN INTO THE DIVINE MYSTERY ...</b>	<b>147</b>
THE LIGHT OF TRUTH .....	149
THE BREAD OF LIFE.....	171
HOLY SMOKE .....	187
HOLY OF HOLIES .....	203
THE THRONE OF GOD .....	221
AT HOME IN THE TABERNACLE .....	239
<b>NOTES .....</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....</b>	<b>263</b>



---

PART ONE

---

# Called into His Presence

---







# Introduction



In my travels and interactions, I often hear how confused and flustered many Catholics feel when confronted with sincere questions from Protestants or fallen-away Catholics who measure the Catholic Faith against the Bible. Understanding the Faith accurately and concisely, especially in light of Scripture, has usually required cobbling apologetics material from multiple sources and authors—an arduous, confusing, and time-consuming endeavor.

Because of this inherent difficulty, many Catholics feel unable to defend the Catholic Faith and its practices with the Bible, while non-Catholic Christians can seemingly pick apart Catholic teachings with ease using the same Bible. It seems like Catholics and non-Catholics are speaking two different languages within the same book. As a result, Catholics' faith-sharing goes unheard, and under such passionate dismissal, they feel defeated and even question the veracity of their own faith. Many fall away entirely.

This reality is as intolerable to me as a fresh burn, one that I will work until my last breath to help alleviate as a matter of sweet penance. I was a non-Catholic who once made it her mission to “pick off” Catholics from the Church, and I was very good at it.

I used the “Roman Road” like a rapier:

- “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10).
- “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
- “The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).
- “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved” (Romans 10:9-10).

Did you see anything there about sacraments? It says *believe* and *confess*, and you will be saved. Confession to a priest? The Bible does not say that anywhere, and the Bible does not lie. Church attendance? Saints? Holy days of “obligation”? None of these are in the Bible either. You must accept Jesus and be saved; that is all. You just read it yourself. Have you been saved? Will you go to heaven when you die? “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him *should not perish* but have eternal life” (John 3:16, emphasis added). You must be saved or go to hell and perish. It is that simple ... or so I thought.

When my understanding of the Catholic Faith “clicked” (largely because of my understanding of the information I share in this book), I spent the long, dark hours of an entire night on my face before the Lord, sobbing at my zealous, self-righteous ignorance in leading people away from his Church—to the “valley of dry bones,” where the living breath of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments does not blow (see Ezekiel 37).

Writing these words brings tears all over again. With my head, heart, and faith now fulfilled in the Church, I see with painful regularity how quickly God’s people are “destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6), even as they yearn to share the beautiful practices that animate their lives with those they know and love.

I know you long to be able to explain the glorious, ever-ancient, ever-new Catholic Faith in a way that will not only intrigue but also inspire others to investigate and embrace the Church more fully.

Since I was once an adversary of the Church, by God’s gracious mercy I know how to answer this longing. I have begged God to give me back every Catholic I helped steal away from the Faith, number by number, and to make me an instrument in the Church for unity.

*Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism* is designed to equip you to share your faith concisely. You will discover the Old Testament Tabernacle as the perfectly packaged biblical model for conveniently understanding and explaining Catholic beliefs and practices, some of which baffle non-Catholics and Catholics alike.

The goal of *Fulfilled* is to help you acquire a thorough knowledge of the Tabernacle's design, facilities, and function as the blueprint for the fullness of faith we live in Christ and his Church. You will come to appreciate how the Catholic Liturgy is the fulfillment of the pattern followed in the Old Testament Tabernacle.

You will come to appreciate the Catholic Faith we profess and live as the fulfillment of the pattern followed in the Old Testament Tabernacle. There are special features at the end of each chapter to help you connect your faith and the practice of it with the Old and New Testaments. These include:

- A **Review**: Since “repetition is the mother of learning,” we briefly revisit the main points of each chapter.
- An **Invitation**, which applies the Scripture passages and the themes presented in the chapter to your life. *Note: This book quotes from the Revised Standard Version – Catholic Edition (RSV-CE) of the Bible.*
- A **God Prompt – LOVE the Word™** exercise that will help you practice getting in touch with God directly and personally.

The goal of this book is to arm you with a new apologetics resource and teach you how to answer false—or at least incomplete—interpretations of Scripture with the fullness of Catholic history and teaching. It is my hope that you will no longer be intimidated by a

lack of information and will be equipped with a clear, convenient way to communicate the truths of the Faith in light of Scripture.

The Bible, the glorious book we share with non-Catholic Christians, contains the blueprint of our whole, living Faith. This Tabernacle faith-sharing model gives you a starting place in Scripture that will help you claim souls for God's Church. I have passionately sought this important moment with you, and many prayers have preceded you here. Let's get started!

