



Author and Bible teacher Beth Moore is beloved among those who read her books, attend her conferences and simulcasts, and view her television broadcasts. She is also a champion in Christian book sales, frequently appearing on best-seller lists. She has been labeled by fans as “a straight-up Twitter prophetess”<sup>1</sup> and as one review noted, Moore “uses all her homespun charm and folksy anecdotes to convince Christian followers to throw off their characteristic unbelief.”<sup>2</sup> Without question, it is that trait that helps endear Moore to her followers.

And some even take their loyalty to and descriptions of Moore to a degree suggestive of divine inspiration. In her blog about Moore’s latest book, *Chasing Vines*, Melissa Elsner wrote:

“The woman knows her Bible and, I truly believe, *God speaks through her in powerful ways*. I am so thankful for her obedience and faith and courage to walk in her calling. ... Each page had words that seemed to grab me. *I knew it was the Holy Spirit speaking* and reminding me WHO I belong to and WHO cares for me so deeply and intentionally.”<sup>3</sup>

In her new book, Moore explores the subject of viticulture (the scientific study of the cultivation of grapes and grape vines) to draw upon the Old Testament metaphor of the nation of Israel being a choice vine planted in a vineyard, and that in the New Testament this imagery is taken to a new level when Jesus referred to Himself as the true vine. About this volume, it is said:

“Moore gives us fresh hope, revealing the abundant secrets of a fruitful, God-delighting life. Tracing the images of vine, branch, and fruit through Scripture, and sharing stories from her own journey, Beth shows us that nothing in our lives is wasted. Not the place we’ve been planted — or even the painful pruning. Nothing is for nothing.”<sup>4</sup>

And “sharing stories from her own journey” is what Moore is good at. Additionally, another aspect of Moore’s homespun charm is that in all her inspirational books she has the propensity to play down to her readers. She wants them to know that she’s just one of the girls with all their same problems and emotions. For example, in *Chasing Vines*, she relates:

“I know what it’s like to fear not being seen. I know what it’s like to worry that I’m not of use. I know how easy it is to feel giftless in a gift-driven society. If you’re anything like me, you long to contribute. You long to matter.”<sup>5</sup>

And she admits:

“Over the years, I’ve had the hardest time figuring out where I belong. I’ll think, *‘This is it!’* and the next thing I know, that hostile dog of insecurity starts nipping at my heels again, telling me I’m out of place. I’m either not enough or too much almost everywhere I go.”<sup>6</sup>

Then she confesses:

“I’ve spent so much of my life wondering if God was ashamed of me. I won’t scandalize you with all the reasons why, but you can trust me on this: they’re legitimate.”<sup>7</sup>

While such confessions ingratiate Moore with those striving to live a victorious Christian life, the disconnect they fail to see is that she is advertised as one who has the an-