

MODERN SPIRITUAL MASTERS SERIES

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH



Essential Spiritual Writings

*Selected with an Introduction by*

JOSEPH J. FAHEY

ORBIS  BOOKS  
Maryknoll, New York 10545

ORBIS  BOOKS  
Maryknoll, New York 10545

 Fathers and Brothers  
**MARYKNOLL™**

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at [www.maryknollsociety.org](http://www.maryknollsociety.org).

---

Copyright © 2019 Orbis Books

Introduction © by Joseph J. Fahey

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

---

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Rauschenbusch, Walter, 1861–1918, author. | Fahey, Joseph, editor.

Title: Walter Rauschenbusch : essential spiritual writings / selected with an introduction by Joseph J. Fahey.

Description: Maryknoll : Orbis Books, 2019. | Series: Modern spiritual masters series | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019017879 (print) | LCCN 2019020363 (ebook) | ISBN 9781608338108 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626983465 (print)

Subjects: LCSH: Social gospel. | Theology.

Classification: LCC BT738 (ebook) | LCC BT738 .R343 2019 (print) | DDC 230/.61--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019017879>

# Contents

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Preface</i>   | <i>ix</i>   |
| <i>Key Dates in the Life of Walter Rauschenbusch</i>         | <i>xiii</i> |
| <i>Sources</i>   | <i>xvii</i> |
| <i>Works Cited</i>   | <i>xix</i>  |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>  | <b>1</b>    |
| <i>The Kingdom of God</i>                                    | 3           |
| <i>Major Influences</i>                                      | 9           |
| <i>The Influence of the Social Gospel</i>                    | 13          |
| <i>Rauschenbusch and Catholicism</i>                         | 18          |
| <i>Conclusion</i>  | 20          |
| <i>Recommended Readings</i>                                  | 21          |
| <i>A Note on Language</i>                                    | 22          |
| <b>1. BENEATH THE GLITTER</b>                                | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>2. CHRISTIANITY REVOLUTIONARY</b>                         | <b>26</b>   |
| <i>Christianity Is by Its Nature Revolutionary</i>           | 26          |
| <i>The Kingdom of God</i>                                    | 36          |
| <b>3. THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b>                                 | <b>40</b>   |
| <b>4. THE NEW EVANGELISM</b>                                 | <b>45</b>   |
| <b>5. WHAT TO DO</b>   | <b>54</b>   |
| <b>6. PRAYERS</b>  | <b>74</b>   |
| <i>The Social Meaning of the Lord's Prayer</i>               | 74          |
| <i>Individual Prayers</i>                                    | 79          |
| <b>7. THE SUPERPERSONAL FORCES OF EVIL</b>                   | <b>94</b>   |
| <b>8. THE CHALLENGE OF THE SOCIAL GOSPEL<br/>TO THEOLOGY</b> | <b>98</b>   |