

**Tribute by Frances Whitehead
John Stott's Secretary for 55 years**

As I thank God today for John Stott, and recall the many years during which I was privileged to know and work with him, many things stand out in my mind – his utter integrity and godly life; his great concern for the glory of God and desire to make Christ known by whatever means he could; his ability to expound Scripture, and the compelling nature of his preaching – indeed, it was through his preaching that the light of Christ first dawned on me and changed my whole life.

And then over the years I saw how his faith fashioned his whole life, giving him a servant heart, and a deep compassion for all those in need, always ready to encourage, support, and share his own resources with others – never sparing himself. Although his life was one of great discipline and total commitment, it was also one of true friendship extended to many people all over the world.

While the Scriptures lay at the heart of John's ministry, his ability to expound the Bible was not simply a matter of a fine intellect, but also of a heart of love for Christ, and a will that was submitted to the authority of the Word and the sovereignty of God. In his hands, the Bible became a living book, wonderfully enriching and deeply relevant for life today, and this found expression in the writing of his own many books.

So I thank God for the inspiration of John's whole life which pointed me constantly to Jesus – and this was a magnet that drew many others to put their faith in Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

And I thank God that John maintained his faith in God and the truth of the gospel, right to the very end - for his was a life of faith, hope and love, of grace and truth, and this is his legacy to us today, living on in our hearts.

Frances Whitehead
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