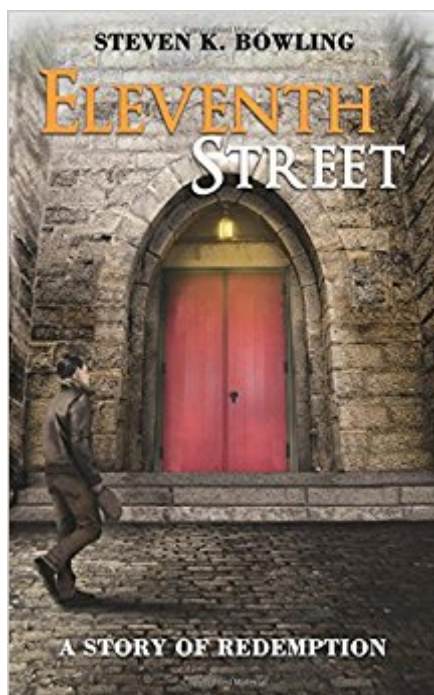


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# Eleventh Street



## Synopsis

#1 BESTSELLER! On Sunday morning, church services are broadcast on almost every TV channel in America. They are either presented as a live performance or in a carefully edited pre-recorded format. If you miss the television version, mega churches stream their programs on the internet. *Eleventh Street* will take you back to a time when a worship service had no television monitors in the lobby or microphones on stage. Sermons were not memorized and preachers did not deliver their message in exactly twenty-two minutes, timing their message to accommodate production guidelines. Preachers did not wear expensive suits or dress down in stylish pre-washed jeans and sandals. It was a time when the "greatest generation", as Tom Brokaw once called them, began to recover from a worldwide war; to begin their life anew. At *Eleventh Street*, the men who sat attentively in their pew had fought many battles, both abroad with weapons and at home with the tools of their trade. Wives and sweethearts had waited and prayed for them during the war. But now, they were reunited and sitting together in church. The congregation worshiped in the only way they knew, joyfully and with hope. Without a television audience to observe their every move, they rejoiced and sometimes shouted. The service may have lasted longer than twenty-two minutes, but they knew they had been to church. After the war, all Lucas Marcum wanted was peace, a genuine and lasting peace. First, he fell in love with Maggie. A wife who restored a love of life and hope for a family. Then he reunited with a preacher from back home in Kentucky, a man everyone called "Pastor". Through all of Lucas's trials and temptations both before and after the war, Pastor never forgot him or cast him aside. It was then, the time he stepped through the door of a small Baptist church in Hamilton, Ohio, that Lucas thought he had finally found the peace he sought. It was Pastor who led him to the altar of repentance. At church, he met Shorty who became his spiritual mentor, teaching him as much of the Bible as Lucas could absorb. With Shorty as a guide, the path to peace was in view. But Lucas was soon reminded that even a good man is vulnerable to the imaginations of evil and scheming men. Surviving hand-to-hand combat in World War II did not equip Lucas for the war of worship to follow at his new-found church. In the Pacific Islands, Lucas knew where the enemy hid. In church, he mistook murmuring between pews as the prayer of a penitent saint. Lucas was not trained or prepared to fight the wolves in sheep's clothing that would scatter the flock of *Eleventh Street*. These wolves hunted in packs and did not kill with the first bite. Rather, they tore at the very soul of their live prey, prolonging the agony of ultimate defeat. Though preachers and their pack of followers can inspire and nurture, they can also disillusion and destroy. *Eleventh Street* is a story of redemption revealing a struggle for the soul. Lucas is

tempted to backslide and to fight in his own strength, but is ever mindful of the lessons learned from Pastor and Shorty. Lucas seeks a lasting peace, but the fatigue of spiritual battle takes its toll.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Steven K. Bowling was born in Hamilton, Ohio. He grew up in a small church, loved and protected by family; motivated by pastors and laymen; encouraged by all. His high school years were in Oxford, Ohio where he was blessed by brilliant teachers and inspired coaches. In his youth and teenage years, the church and bible study became his primary focus. Attending church took precedence over school and sports. After high school, Steve captained the basketball team and graduated magna cum laude from Carson-Newman College with a Bachelor of Science in 1971. In 1973, he became a Certified Public Accountant. After years in government, public and private accounting, he attended law school. Enrolling at the age of thirty-six, he received his J.D. with honors from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1987. Upon graduation from law school, Steve's pastor in Knoxville, Tennessee asked him to lead a class on Sunday nights. He wanted Steve to discuss, from a lawyer's perspective, the trials of Jesus as portrayed in the Bible. Steve honored that request and has continued his study of scripture and the secular history of that period. After nearly thirty years of study, research, and teaching Sunday school, Steve believes that he has only just begun his quest to understand the story of Jesus as portrayed in the Bible. Many have inspired Steve through the years and for those good men and women, he will be forever grateful. But the encouragement to write was found

at home. Steve's wife and children have begged him for years to write down the stories of his youth, his church and the trials of Jesus. Though inspiration and encouragement abound, they are often confronted by deception and fatigue. These fabrics of daily life serve as the backdrop of Steve's story about growing up in a small church. Eleventh Street is his first novel.

A refreshing change from murder, abduction, nudity and the tiresome F word! Yet this memoir is hard to put down. Characters are memorable, as are the defining moments of the story. Writing is clear with no show-off language. Because I loved it, I recommend for BookBub.

Really enjoyed this book especially since I have known the author for many years. And I grew up in eastern Kentucky and very familiar with Harlan, London and Corbin. Write another Steven!

Very well written. Kept me wanting to read more. Waiting on a sequel. Steve Bowling should keep writing. I'm sold.

I greatly value having read this book! Anyone who enjoyed reading A Hillbilly Elegy, will like Eleventh Street also.

good

A must read for both the avid reader as well as the casual, just for fun reader. Hard to put down. There must be a second book or a sequel.

You may think I'm biased, but I'm not!! It's a great book and an easy read. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

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