



Shining a light on exemplary Christian books.

With more and more people searching for inspiration and answers to life's tough questions, books dedicated to Christian belief and spiritual development are a fast-growing segment of publishing and bookselling today. Books have always been powerful tools for helping us understand Scripture and explore various aspects of faith in a complicated world.

How does one choose the "winners" from the huge array of new titles released each year? The Illumination Book Awards are designed to "shine a light" on the best of these new titles written and published with a Christian worldview. We use expert judges from a wide array of related fields to choose winners based on specific criteria.

Illumination Award categories range from Bible Study and Devotional to family-oriented subjects like Education and Children's Picture Book. The purpose of the Illumination Book Awards is to bring award recipients the credibility and publicity they need to further their book marketing and sales success.

The 2025 Illumination Awards are open to all Christian-themed books written in English. The contest is for published books only, as our judging criteria include cover design, layout, etc. Books from all methods of publishing are welcome, and authors of royalty-published books are welcome to enter their books themselves. Entry fees start at \$79 per category and go up to \$89 and then \$99 as the final deadline approaches, with the early-bird discounts along the way to encourage early entry.

HOW TO ENTER

Entry into the Illumination Book Awards is fast and convenient, either through our online entry site or by printable entry form. Online entry requires using a credit card and following instructions via our website. The printable mail-in entry form below to pay by check or money order in U.S. funds. PayPal payment is available by request. Visit the online entry site at www.IlluminationAwards.com.

WHO CAN ENTER

Authors and publishers around the world who publish English-language books appropriate for the North American market may enter. Books with 2023-2025 copyright, or that are released between January 1, 2023 and early 2025 are eligible for general categories. Any book published since 2000 is eligible for Enduring Light categories.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Entry fee is \$79 per title, per category, until the first early-bird deadline of July 5, 2024. Fee is \$89 until the second early-bird deadline of September 30, 2024. Regular entry fee of \$99 runs until the final entry deadline of January 6, 2025. Enter one book in one category for a single entry fee; enter one book in two categories, pay two entry fees.

WHAT DO WINNERS RECEIVE?

Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded in each category. Each medal-winning book receives a packet including the medal, a certificate, 20 foil award seals, and awards marketing material. The award is designed as a marketing tool, so we hope the most valuable aspect of the award is in its promotional value and as a book sales stimulator.

WHAT DO I SEND IN MY ENTRY PACKAGE?

Please send one copy for each category entered. When entering a title in two categories, send two copies; entering three categories, send three copies, etc. Please include your online registration receipt or a completed entry form and check/money order tucked inside the front cover. You need not send any marketing kits, reviews or any other supporting material, as our judges are not allowed to see anything but the book itself. If you are sending separately from a warehouse, please pay online so payment and entry can be easily matched upon arrival.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A DIGITAL MEDIA ENTRY?

Because Digital Media entries require uploads, sending gifts from host platforms, and/or emailing PDF files separately we ask entries for this category be paid online. See the FAQ page on our website for more information.

JUDGING PROCESS

Judging will be based on content, design, and production quality, with emphasis on innovation and creative ways of expressing a Christian worldview. Our judging panel includes experts from the fields of education, clergy, bookselling, etc. Medalists will be named on or about February 9, 2025.

CONTEST DEADLINE

All entries must be paid online OR postmarked by January 6, 2025. There is a 10 day grace period for books to arrive after.

CONTEST ENTRY CONFIRMATION AND UPDATES

We will confirm your entry via email and send judging updates and results announcements by email as well, so submission of a valid email address is mandatory. Add illumination@jgibookawards.com and notifier@independentpublisher.com to your contacts. Please inform us of any email address changes or additional contacts you'd like added to our contest update list.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Amy Shamroe, Awards Director 231.933.0445 x1000 - amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com

2025 ILLUMINATION AWARD CATEGORIES

ENDURING LIGHT MEDALS

As most book award contests recognize only titles released during the previous calendar year or two, we've created the Enduring Light medals to reward exemplary Christian-themed books published since the year 2000. The Enduring Light medals are presented to books with enduring messages in five categories: Christian Thought; Devotional; Inspirational; Christian Fiction; and Christian Children's Book. Entry fees are the same as in regular categories, and one judging copy per category is requested.

CHOOSING ILLUMINATION AWARD CATEGORIES

Categories for the Illumination Book Awards and the Enduring Light Medals are listed below. Remember that books released prior to January 1, 2023 are eligible in the Enduring Light categories only. Keep in mind that we often move a book from one category to another during judging when the judges determine it will score better that way. We want each book to do its best!

CATEGORIES

1. Bible Study
2. Christian Living
3. Devotional
4. Theology
5. Ministry / Mission
6. Catholic
7. Family / Parenting
8. Education (Home School, Bible School, etc.)
9. Spirituality
10. Illness / Dying / Death
11. Self-Help
12. Biography/Memoir- Inspiration
13. Biography/Memoir- Personal Struggle
14. Holiday
15. Children's Picture Book
16. Juvenile/Young Adult Fiction
17. General Fiction
18. Romance Fiction
19. Mystery/Thriller
20. Keepsake/Gift/Specialty Bible
21. Poetry
22. Digital Media

ENDURING LIGHT CATEGORIES

- L1. Christian Thought
- L2. Devotional
- L3. Inspirational
- L4. Christian Fiction
- L5. Christian Children's Book

2025 ILLUMINATION AWARDS ENTRY FORM

Please include this form with your entry and payment, preferably folded and inserted inside the front cover.

title info

Title

Author

Publisher Name (as you'd like it to appear in results listing and publicity)

Category(s) Entered (You may list multiple categories, but don't forget to pay the fee and send two books for each category entered)

Early-bird entry fee #1 – Open date until July 5, 2024 _____ @ \$79 = _____

Early-bird entry fee #2 – July 6, 2024 until Sep. 30, 2024 _____ @ \$89 = _____

Regular entry fee – Oct. 1, 2024 until January 6, 2025 _____ @ \$99 = _____

(All Fees to be submitted in U.S. Funds)

Contact Person

Email Address

Company / Publisher (for mailing purposes)

Mailing Address (for mailing packets if awarded a medal)

City, State, Postal Code, Country

Telephone

Method of Payment

check in U.S. funds payable to Jenkins Group

To enter with credit card, visit our online entry page:
www.illuminationawards.com

How to Send

Ship books with entry fee(s) and entry form(s) to:

Illumination Awards 2025
1129 Woodmere Ave – Suite B
Traverse City, MI 49686