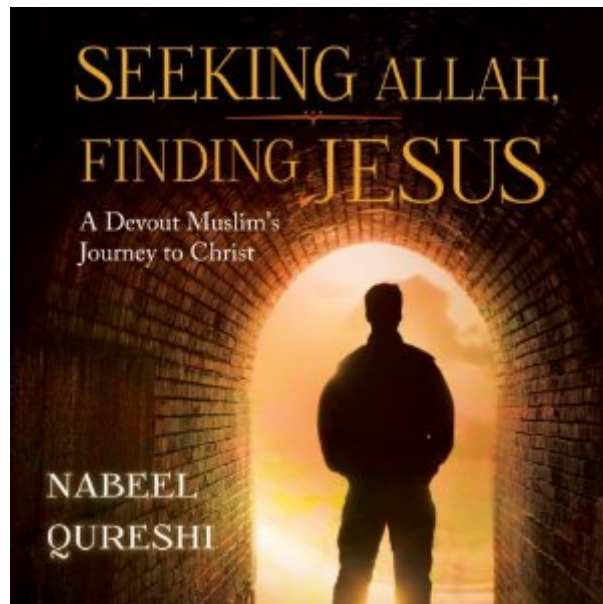


The book was found

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity



Synopsis

Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams along the way. Providing an intimate window into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, Qureshi's inner turmoil will challenge Christians and Muslims alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus is the true tale of Nabeel Qureshi's journey from being raised a devout Muslim to his conversion as a follower of Jesus. I knew I was in trouble when I had only listened a few seconds. The dedication at the beginning of the book, read by the author himself, had me bawling like a baby. It is dedicated to his parents, who are still in the Muslim faith. It is so honoring and beautiful, you can't help but cry. The entire book is read by Qureshi and it is read very well. His voice is clear and soothing; his accent is soft and mesmerizing. Obviously, the story is very personal to him and his emotions come through in his reading perfectly. The story itself is also incredible. It was beautiful to soak in his loving childhood. It was very informative as to the beliefs of his family. I was unaware of how much disagreement about doctrine that there is within different Muslim beliefs and Qureshi walks through them carefully and respectfully. I found his descriptions of East vs. West thoughts about guilt/shame societies to be very illuminating. It truly is a completely different perspective and makes an incredible difference for anyone with the opportunity to be a witness to a

Muslim.

I have to say that as a Christian, before reading this book, I had very little knowledge of the Muslim faith and how Muslim children are raised. This book gave me a peek into that world in a very personal and moving way, helping me better understand what they really believe and how to reach them. Two key points I found very convicting: as a Muslim, Nabeel was never invited into a Christian home AND, until meeting David Wood, he never encountered a Christian who knew his/her Bible or theology well enough to defend it. As a Muslim, Nabeel prided himself on being able to take on any Christian on any biblical topic and eviscerate their feeble arguments, which is sad to think about, since apologetics gives us so many concrete, historically based reasons to believe. We're not befriending our neighbors and we're not educating ourselves or our children. We're not obeying II Timothy 4:2 by being ready in season and out to share our faith with those who so desperately need to hear the Truth. This book is helpful on so many levels. I highly recommend it to anyone who is serious about obeying the Great Commission.

Full disclosure - I write this review as a friend and colleague of Nabeel's - on the one hand, this lowers my ability to be objective, on the other hand, I know from personal experience that *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* is written with authenticity by a man of great character and love. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* is a powerful autobiography with great relevance to some of today's hottest questions - the meaning of 9/11, the dialogue between Islam and Christianity, and the need for real friendships in our diverse world. A longer review of the book is at my site *Reasons For God*, but briefly, some of the key take-aways from the book are: 1. Gaining empathy for the inner beauty of a worldview - leading to new appreciation for how others think and live. 2. Understanding the cost of judgment, fear and exclusion - and the importance of really understanding one another. 3. Seeing anew the value of caring friends as we wrestle with questions of ultimate concern. 4. "Getting" the reason we need to engage with a historical search for answers to our religious questions. 5. Finding out why Jesus is compelling - both as a reasonable conclusion and as a profoundly satisfying completion of our existential longings. I strongly recommend *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*. The book comes with a significant amount of additional content from expert contributors. And... it is fun to read! Get a copy today.

Full Review can also be found at www.theologicalinklings.blogspot.com One of the greatest challenge for evangelism in the modern age is the profound lack of intimate relationships with those

outside of our "group". Whether it is politics, lifestyle, or, religion, it is a far deal more comfortable to talk "about" another person/group than it is to talk WITH them. Christians have become far too comfortable with talking at people and doing what I like to call, "Drive by Evangelism". My purpose is not to unpack the whens, why's and hows for how this came to be. What matters is that it is wrong. Deadly wrong. And if Paul's letters in the New Testament are to be considered Scripture, then we must to be willing to engage our hearts and lives with the people who are in desperate need of the Gospel. And, not just for the sake of the Gospel, but for the reality that the "other" is someone who is made in the image of God and we are called to love them regardless of the artificial and man made walls that may exist between us. With that in mind, Nabeel Qureshi's new book, "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus", is an insightful and challenging personal story that does much, for me at least, to engage hearts and minds with the message of the Gospel in a "foreign" culture. Regardless of the interesting information a book may provide, it is important to understand the purpose and themes the author intends to convey to be able to accurately informed by that information. My reading of "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus"(SAFJ) led me to believe that Qureshi had three main themes he was trying to communicate; 1) Insider perspective on Islamic culture, especially that of 1st and 2nd Generation immigrant culture and families. 2) Apologetic argumentation. Primarily for Biblical Christianity, but also for comparable Islamic apologetics. 3) Personal biography that served as a backbone for the "nuts and bolts" of Nabeel Qureshi's journey from Islam to Christianity. To best evaluate the book I think it is important to understand and address each of these themes separately. Review of Theme 1: Insider Perspective on Islamic Culture As a Pastor of a small rural Church in the corn fields of west central Ohio, my personal familiarity with Islamic culture is very limited. "SAFJ" was like drinking information from a fire hose.....in a good way. In college I had taken an early Islamic literature course and had a very brief exposure to the culture. On nearly every page I felt I was being provided with insights and information that blew away some of my misconceptions. I would contend, after reading this book, that most Westerners have a very caricatured understanding of Islamic culture, and for that alone I would recommend reading this book. Qureshi did a fantastic job of not just explaining the information regarding his culture, but detailing how it practically influences behavior and familial relationships. What was especially interesting was the explanation and examples of how Personal Authoritative structures(people that must be respected), and honoring those structures, take precedence over the Western ideals of Logic and Reason superseding personal relationships. Coupled with a deeply interwoven Honor and Shame system of reinforcement it illustrated the great difficulty that trying to communicate across cultural lines creates. The main weakness I have with this theme of the book is that Qureshi's heritage is far from

normative for worldwide Islam. Most people know that there are a number of "sects" within Islam, but learning the depth of those differences was very interesting. And, Qureshi, in his journey discovered how much different his particular doctrinal and theological influences were than the majority of Islam. It was eye opening to hear him retell a story where he listened to an Islamic Apologist(of his "tribe") go on a rant about how terrible it was that other Muslims claimed that their group were not truly Muslim.

Review of Theme 2: Apologetics If one is coming to this book antagonistically, I do not believe that they will appreciate his frequent, and limited, references to Christian Apologetic arguments. While Qureshi is currently on staff with Ravi Zacharias ministries, I do not think his main point was to make an airtight case for Christianity. So, if that is what you were hoping to find, look elsewhere. The apologetics served mainly as a narrative engine to assist in driving the biographical journey forward. If you already are on board with Christian Apologetics you will find it very refreshing to see how the reasoning for Christianity played a large part in Qureshi's faith journey. But I would caution anyone to take passages from the book whole cloth as future arguments with non-believing or Muslim friends. One of the strengths of the book is that each chapter leads you to review more in depth resources regarding that chapters particular theme. If you are looking for more Gospel apologetics, utilize those resources, not the book. As more Islamic apologetics work their way into the narrative it was helpful to see how the Authority structures within Muslim thinking and scholarship effect the way they even approach answering "tough" questions. Whether you agree with Qureshi's sentiments about the inability of Muslim history and scholarship being unable to withstand careful scrutiny, it can be very helpful to see how the typical Western thinking approach to apologetics is not necessarily helpful in "debate".

Review of Theme 3: Biography The backbone of the book, that which all the other points hang on, is by far the best part. Qureshi does not desire to simply give you "facts and figures" to make a case for Christianity vs Islam, he wants to change your heart about Muslims. There are many touching and heartbreaking stories that give real life to what really hangs in the balance. If this book was just an apologetic or a cultural primer, it would not be that helpful. By interpreting all the information through the lens of deep personal experience what changes will not be your mind, but your heart. The end of the book brought tears to my eyes as I was deeply moved by the personal trials that this journey has brought to Nabeel.

Conclusion: This book is a great read regardless of your intentions for reading it. It was engaging, entertaining and very insightful. In my life there are a number of books that I wouldn't recommend to people at certain places in life, but this is a book that I feel is universally valuable regardless of where they are currently.

Full Disclosure: I received "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus" as an advance copy for the purpose of reviewing it. I do not personally know Nabeel Qureshi, or, any of

his associates. Nor have I ever read anything else by him, or heard him speak on any topic. Other than receiving the book for free, I will receive no compensation for reading and reviewing.

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