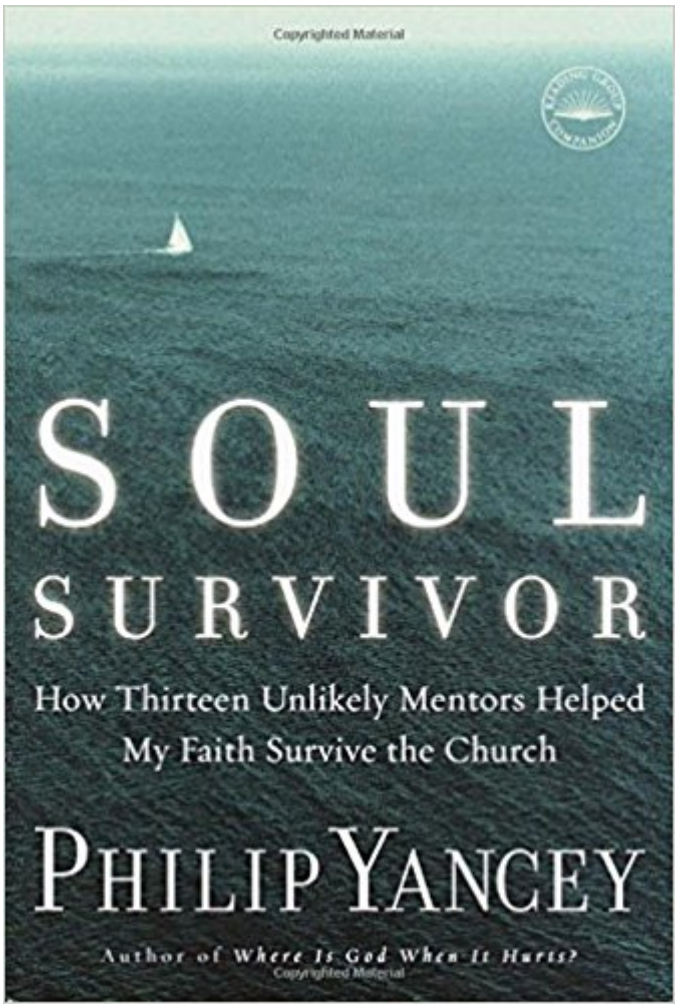
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Soul Survivor: How Thirteen Unlikely Mentors Helped My Faith Survive The Church



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Synopsis

Philip Yancey, one of America’s leading Christian thinkers and author of more than a dozen books with sales of more than five million copies, returns for his most profound and soul-searching books yet. Soul Survivor is the story of his own struggle to reclaim his belief, interwoven with inspiring portraits of notable people from all walks of life who have succeeded in the pursuit of an authentic faith."I became a writer, I now believe, to sort out and reclaim words used and misused by the Christians of my youth," says Philip Yancey, whose explorations of Christian faith have made him a guide for millions of readers. In Soul Survivor, he charts his spiritual pilgrimage through the influence of key individuals: "These are the people who ushered me into the Kingdom. In many ways, they are why I remain a Christian today, and I want to introduce them to other spiritual seekers."Yancey interweaves his own journey with fascinating stories of those who modeled for him a life-enhancing rather than a life-constricting faith: Dr. Paul Brand, G. K. Chesterton, Annie Dillard, Frederick Buechner, C. Everett Koop, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Henri Nouwen, John Donne, Mahatma Gandi, Shusaku Endo, Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert COles.Readers will find these inspiring portraits both nurture and challenge for their own understanding of authentic faith. Yancey fans will devour these new glimpses of how he has held onto faith while acknowledging with utter honesty its inherent difficulties. New Yancey readers will be drawn in by the theme of faith versus religion and drawn along a compelling narrative of signposts on a spiritual journey.Soul Survivor offers illuminating and critically important insights into true Christianity, which will enrich the lives of veteran believers and cautious seekers alike.From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages
Publisher: WaterBrook (October 21, 2003)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1578568188
ISBN-13: 978-1578568185
Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 159 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #107,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Educators #667 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Religious #1068 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian

Living > Inspirational

Customer Reviews

Like many Christians, Philip Yancey has often felt kicked around, abused, and damaged by the institutional church. And like many Christians, he has found solace in reading about and getting to know some extraordinary individual believers. He profiles 13 of those believers in Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church. "I became a writer, I now believe, to sort out words used and misused by the church of my youth," Yancey writes in the book's first chapter. The church of his youth, which described itself as "New Testament, Blood-bought, Born-again, Premillennial, Dispensational, fundamental," Yancey now describes as a frightening place where racism and bigotry were regularly preached from the pulpit. After graduating from Bible college, Yancey became a writer and chose to direct his attention to "people I could learn from, people I might want to emulate," such as C. Everett Koop and Robert Coles. He also read widely and passionately--Leo Tolstoy, Martin Luther King Jr., G.K. Chesterton, and Annie Dillard, to name a few. Soul Survivor offers probing, honest profiles of 13 individuals who have "helped restore to me the mislaid treasures of God." For most readers, these profiles will serve as starting points to explore the lives and minds of the individuals who have inspired Yancey. --Michael Joseph Gross --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fans of Yancey's bestseller What's So Amazing About Grace? may not know what to do with this book. In some ways, it is his darkest work ever, chronicling his own lover's quarrel with the institutional church specifically, the church of his childhood that promulgated racism and practiced a pharisaic legalism. In other ways, this book is one of his most hopeful, for in it he charts a spiritual path through all of the muck made by organized religion. As guides, he looks to "a baker's dozen" of thinkers, writers, doctors and activists who have taught him about Christianity. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life shamed Yancey into confronting his own racism and then helped his heart be transformed by Christ's love. Leo Tolstoy taught him self-forgiveness, while Fyodor Dostoyevsky modeled grace as a lived reality. John Donne taught him to wrestle with the ultimate enemy, death; Annie Dillard demonstrated ways to appreciate God in creation; Mahatma Gandhi showed him the power of one individual to change the course of history. The most moving chapter is perhaps the tribute to Paul Brand, an orthopedic surgeon whose work on leprosy helped Yancey to understand how pain can become a gift from God. It's not a perfect book; the chapter on G.K. Chesterton is too short, and the essay on former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop seems superficial in a book with such theological

depth. Despite these minor flaws, this multibiography is a much-needed signpost, stubbornly pointing to the life of faith. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I know, there were only 2 negative reviews up to this point. But if they keep someone who's interested from reading this book, it will be very sad.In my opinion, this book is a light in an overwhelming darkness . That darkness, to me, is the oppressive presence of most of the mainstream churches in America. Particularly those upper-middle-class mega-churches. I have a big problem with them. I've spent a lot of time in them over my lifetime, I have a lot of experience with them.This book discusses the people in history who have made a difference in the world they live in, because of their dedication to the teachings of Jesus Christ..1 Love God above all things..2 Love your neighbor as yourself.They made a difference in Mr Yancey's life, and eventually to me. Because I read this book.I recommend this book to my friends all of the time. I find it to be a breath of fresh air.So: Thanks to you, God, and thanks to those in the book who followed you, and thanks to Philip for writing the book.

This is the book I have been looking for!Philip yancey grew up in a Pentecostal church. Had a bad experience. But he dug deeper into Christianity, made his faith his own. Here he introduces us to 13 people who helped shape his faith. Martin Luther king, Henry nouwen. Shusaku endo and ghandi. Annie Dillard and everet Koop. Excellent list and great biographies with how they intersected with yanceys own story.Excellent, well written, I recommend to anyone who wants to have some community (as in, some helpful authors and well lived lives to point to) in their faith journey.A great place to start reading as well. The stories yancey tells will get you excited to read some of the works written by the 13!

So many people have been injured by 'spiritual abuse', often driven from the wonderful embrace of God by the very ones with titles of parent, pastor, coach, youth leader, priest.Phil was a product of a somewhat devastating religious sub-culture, but by God's grace, survived to discover God's grace.And has become a wonderful guide through the weeds and brush to the truth. Everyone considering this purchase knows others [probably too many others] who have similarly been injured.Buys these in quantity and share them freely--you may have the joy of 'setting the captives free'-and helping them truly meet the welcoming embrace of the Jesus that the 'Gospel' was meant to lead them to. That IS WHY it was first called GOOD NEWS.

Yancey confesses about religion and faith with great candor what Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once said about the mind: Once it is expanded by a new idea, it doesn't return to its old dimension. I see it as not returning to its old "dementia." The various people/authors Yancey reflects on opened his eyes, mind and heart to new ways of looking at, thinking about, and loving. It was an invitation to accept the wideness of God's love and mercy and a way to live that out in our relationships with one another. It is a most inspiring book which invites the reader to take another look at how s/he sees, thinks, hears and responds to what's "out there" and especially "who" people really are. It reminded me of another author's definition of faith: "It is not the prerogative of any religion. It is an attitude of trust in the original meaningfulness of life, even when beliefs are shattered." [ON BEING YOURSELF: Reflections on Spirituality and Originality by Adrian van Kaam]

As a Christian, I struggle constantly with the less-than-loving attitudes of our churches today. Each denomination has its weaknesses when it comes to Christian living and charity and they stem from dogmatism, tradition, and legalism. This book is enlightening and encouraging because the author shares how several great men in our modern history have inspired him in his walk of faith, have shown him a glimpse of Christ and His love , and affected the world around them for the better with the power of love. It is a thought-provoking and spiritually refreshing read. I highly recommend it.

very interesting to Christians and non-Christians alike. How to overcome 'church-itis" and make a difference

Extraordinary. Yancey describes the dark side of the church. Why didn't he reject his faith? Thirteen "real-people" mentors expose Jesus' teachings through their lives. Hard to put down.There are trends within the church of "missing the point." We all do it, and we all reinforce it by not rocking the boat. The misconceptions of the leaders give rise to unbalanced lives in the followers -- and these misconceptions are passed on in sunday schools and church meetings through generations. What to do about it? Only when we truly understand what Jesus was talking about, can we adjust our perspectives properly. Sometimes, though, we never get the chance to truly understand...As a youth, Yancey grew up in an incredibly conservative church that emphasized all the wrong things. He witnessed horrible crimes in the South between white and black Americans -- many done in the name of God! He has seen the results of these "misconceptions," and what a hell is created when they are not addressed.As he matured, and sought a true foundation (any foundation!) for his faith,

thirteen individuals touched his life.These thirteen were not all in the public spotlight, not all known for their "perfection," and not all even Christians. What touched Yancey about them were their lives. In their lives, their decisions and struggles, they painted a truer portrait of Jesus Christ than any number of pastors could. They knew Christ, and it showed.Helpful to any confused Christian or someone looking to go deeper. Yancey, like his mentors, has a gift for presenting the good news in an insightful and energizing light. In this book, it shines.

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