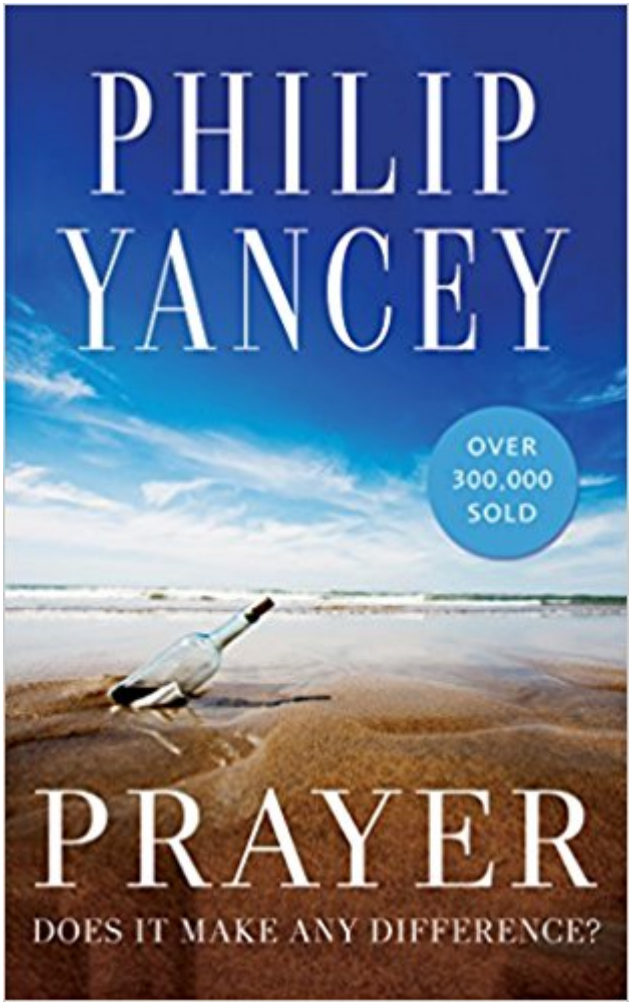
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Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?



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Synopsis

In his most powerful book since WhatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s So Amazing About Grace? and The Jesus I Never Knew, Philip Yancey explores the intimate place where God and humans meet in Prayer.Polls reveal that 90 percent of people pray. Yet prayer, which should be the most nourishing and uplifting time of the believerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s day, can also be frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery. Writing as a fellow pilgrim, Yancey probes such questions as:Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Is God listening?Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Why should God care about me?Ã¢â ¬Â¢ If God knows everything, whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the point of prayer?Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Why do answers to prayer seem so inconsistent?Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Why does God sometimes seem close and sometimes seem far away?Ã¢â ¬Â¢ How can I make prayer more satisfying?Yancey tackles the tough questions and in the process comes up with a fresh new approach to this timeless topic. Ã¢â ¬Å“I have learned to pray as a privilege, not a duty,Ã¢â ¬Â• he says, and he invites you to join him on this all-important journey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Yancey strikes a moving chord with this book that is more full of yearning and wonder than it is of easy answers. Prayer, he writes, is our partnership with God, our chance to join forces with God’s power to confront suffering and evil head-on. Yancey is candid about his nagging sense of failure in prayer, but the book is suffused with a cautious hope; he writes of his growing confidence and joy as his prayer life has deepened from a spiritualized to-do list to a conversational communion with God. The key, Yancey writes, is that prayer is a window into knowing the mind of God, whose kingdom is entrusted to all of us frail, selfish people on earth. As with his other books,

Yancey draws upon his international travels to bring a fresh perspective to the topic, detailing, in nations such as Romania and South Africa, how he believes prayer has transformed hearts and permitted bloodless change. The book's strength lies in its balance, with Yancey holding equally important ideals in a beautiful tension: action and meditation, doubt and certainty, and the unchanging God with the God who appears so moved by people's petitions in the Bible that he changes his mind. Yancey also offers some startling and insightful observations about Jesus' own prayer life. (Oct.) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

'...a new and powerful effort....Philip Yancey asks the tough questions about prayer that many are afraid to ask....Yancey writes as a friend and fellow-struggler, giving voice to the questions we may ponder but never bring up....This questioning process...inspires us to pursue prayer more earnestly....[This book] will encourage you as you meet with God daily and bring the details of your life before Him. You'll develop a stronger prayer vocabulary and a richer sense of the mystery and joy of prayer....' -- Presidential Prayer Team (Presidential Prayer Team)'[Prayer] is well researched, captivating, and meets the reader right where he/she is at in the moment....If you are like me and have difficulties in praying then this book is a must for you.' -- 1340MAG.com (1340MAG.com)'...a reader-friendly book...subtle, elusive, and evanescent, inviting readers to discern their own meaning....'Prayer' can help reinvigorate a prayer life. It invites us to believe that God is listening. -- The Cleveland Plain Dealer (The Cleveland Plain Dealer)'...the author's exploration of the topic includes a candid assessment of his own sense of failure, along with his growing sense of wonder at the possibliities of conversation with God....' -- Today's Christian Woman (Today's Christian Woman)'...offers readers' compelling insights about the topic of prayer, exploring the mysterious intersection where God and humans meet and relate....' -- Homecoming (Bill and Gloria Gaither) (Homecoming (Bill and Gloria Gaither))'Philip Yancey approaches the mysteries of communicating with God in this thoroughly researched yet highly accessible book....[He] skillfully interweaves Scripture with insights from Christian thinkers of many traditions, cultures, and eras....Fresh anecdotes and relevant testimonies of ordinary people give the book a compelling quality.' -- The Banner (The Banner)'He knows that the main purpose of prayer is not to make life easier, but to know God.' -- Christian Science Sentinal (Christian Science Sentinal)'Yancey strikes a moving chord with this book that is more full of yearning and wonder than it is of easy answers....[It's] suffused with a cautious hope....The book's strength lies in its balance, with Yancey holding equally important ideals in a beautiful tension...' -- Publishers Weekly (Publishers Weekly)'Yancey's

combination of talent, research, and openness about his own struggles make 'Prayer' worth looking into if you...have ever felt frustrated with your prayer life.' -- Relevant Magazine (Relevant Magazine)'...Yancey writes...as a journalist, with a sharp eye for detail and an investigative unwillingness to force conclusions. Chapters are short, but brimming with juice. Stories abound. Part of the time, Yancey just wonders about prayer. And Yancey...is a mighty fine wonderer.... -- Christianity Today (Christianity Today)'...the experience of reading 'Prayer' is similar to the experience of prayer itself: a meandering journey with streaks of brillance, communion, illumination, and satisfaction....'Prayer' is a reader-friendly book, peppered with vignettes and sidebars from people attesting to the power of prayer....[It] is subtle, elusive, and evanescent, inviting readers to discern their own meaning....'Prayer' can help reinvigorate a prayer life. It invites us to believe that God is listening.' -- The Plain Dealer (The Plain Dealer)'...theological substance, quality of biblical reflection, and readability...make it accessible even to those coming to faith, Bible reading, or prayer for the first time....Yancey writes more as a journalist, with a sharp eye for detail and an investigative unwillingness to force conclusions....One of the chief benefits of Philip Yancey's work is that he'll go where the evidence leads....' -- Christianity Today (Christianity Today)'Philip Yancey is that rare example of a self-proclaimed recovering fundamentalists who is actually a spiritually healthy human being.' -- Birmingham News (Birmingham News)'Gently and with intelligence and compassion, Yancey works toward a vision of prayer as a kind of 'awkward rehersal' and, ultimately, toward the kind of conversation humankind had with God at the beginning of creation.' -- Library Journal (Library Journal)'...one of the many small evidences of this book's forcefulness is the number of times I did put it down -- the number of times I interrupted my reading because I was inspired to pray....[This] is the rare book about prayer that, rather than inadvertently distracting me from the pursuit of a praying life, actually prompts me to pray....' -- Books and Culture (Books and Culture)'Philip Yancey has done it again: taken a much-written-about topic and infused it with freshness and deeply mined relevancy....This is a valuable read for anyone: youth worker, pastor, parent, mature teen -- anyone.' -- YouthWorker Journal (YouthWorker Journal) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is one of the most amazing books that looks at prayer giving reason upon reason for the benefits of prayer. Whether or not you are struggling with a question or two or the entire concept of prayer, Philip Yancey's book will meet you where you are at and convince you of the importance of making prayer a priority in life. It gives ideas and guides for how to make it a relationship-building opportunity and not just one more "act" that needs to steal you away from other more important

tasks. Prayer is of utmost importance!

I'll write something about Prayer in a moment, but first I feel it necessary to write something about one of Yancey's other books, What's So Amazing About Grace?Back in 1971 I was involved in some pretty terrible situations, as many of my generation found themselves. I had other choices (for instance, I could have gone to Canada), so I really can't blame anyone but myself for what happened to me. When it was all over, I no longer believed that God could possibly love me. I felt this way for over 30 years, until my cousin, who is like a brother to me, suggested I read What's So Amazing About Grace? Reading that book changed my life: it brought me back to a relationship with God, because I once again was open to His love. Until that time, the only thing I ever prayed for was forgiveness, which brings me to Prayer.This book answered my questions about prayer ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ too many to go into here, but the book, as wonderful as What's So Amazing About Grace?, enabled me to feel even closer to God; have a continuing conversation with Him.Because of What's So Amazing About Grace? I once again know God loves me, and because of Prayer I know He hears me. It doesn't get much better than that!I would definitely buy the two books together, and read them in the above order. You might be eternally thankful you did!

Prayer is the intimate act of building a relationship with God. It's not a philosophical act; it's an act of love that can only be done with humility, integrity, and honesty. Philip Yancey shares his and others struggle to pray through the noise, spiritual, and mental obstacles that a fallen world places before all of us. Each example provides a different perspective of prayer. If you are struggling to get started; overcome the sophistry of the world's wisdom: or you just need some inspiration, Prayer is a great place to start.

This is a fantastic book that has been painstakingly researched to do a masterful job at giving Christians the best possible answers that all of us have, or have had at some point, about the mysteries of prayer. The very fact that questions I've had are not necessarily answered, but are, in fact, authoritatively addressed and shared by many others, I find most encouraging. That is, I haven't been alone in having these questions. These questions, in fact, appear to be part of being "Christian" and are just another good reason to press on and keep the faith. This book will occupy a rarified position with the "best of the best" on my shelves devoted to theology.

This book is very helpful. There are many good examples and stories and it allowed me to begin a

new period of growth behind the scenes of everyday life.Read this book if you:Wonder what is the point of prayer.Are stale or confused about prayer.Are curious about what Christians mean when they say "Pray about it." or "Let me pray for you."If you don’t believe in God, then sure, prayer is strange or might be seen as a healthy relaxation technique. But I ask you to read this book with the question in your mind, "What if God is real and there is something to this practice of communicating with him?" That is not a very wide opening for an open minded person, is it? May God bless you in this.

Outstanding book. Practical without being lofty. The chapter on Why Pray opened our eyes. Easy to read and easy to understand. Plus, it’s well written with numerous real life examples interspersed. We’re going to give several for Christmas gifts this year. It’s that good.

This book is almost as much a page-turner as a good mystery. The author does not hesitate to point out that prayer IS a mystery but an essential part of who we are. His writing is very clear and engaging, and it has opened up new ways of thinking for me, as well as new ways to talk about prayer with anyone with whom the subject might come up.

Philip Yancey has been a mentor to me through his books, particularly in the area of pain, suffering, injustice and Where is God in the midst of all of these questions and issues of life. This is a book that encourages us to pray and does not skirt the thorny issues as to why we do not. He uses people that he knows personally that have had prayers answered, been challenged or who have difficulties with God.He covers 5 sections in this wonderful resource on prayer: Keeping company with God, unraveling the mysteries, the language of prayer, prayer dilemmas and the practice of prayer. He also has other good resources on prayer which are of benefit. I so appreciate his honesty and what happens when things do not turn out like one has expected.He also draws insight from many different perspectives and many different ways to pray such as the following Franciscan Benediction;May God bless you with discomfortAt easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationshipsSo that you may live deep within your heart.May God bless you with angerAt injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.May God bless you with tearsTo shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them andTo turn their pain into joy.And may God bless you with enough foolishnessTo believe that you can make a difference in the world,So that you can do what others claim cannot be doneTo bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.AmenGod

spoke to me, encouraged me and challenged me to pray more through this book and he will do the same for you.

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