



## God in the Dark

*Os Guinness*

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"A profound and excellent book for doubters and their friends who want to help." --James W. Sire, Author; campus lecturer for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

"Clear, steady explanation of what doubt is and how it is to be dealt with. There is nothing like it in print." --Dallas Willard, Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern California

Do you have significant doubts about God? Are you afraid to doubt, much less admit to anyone that you aren't fully convinced of God's faithfulness? Are you so torn by your questions that life is losing its meaning?

This forthright but compassionate book works to tear away the layers of misunderstanding about doubt to reveal not only its dangers but its great value. As author Os Guinness explains: "If ours is an examined faith, we should be unafraid to doubt... There is no believing without some doubting, and believing is all the stronger for understanding and resolving doubt."

For those who are unsure of God's trustworthiness--and for those who are in a dark place, wanting to know "Why?" or "How long, O Lord?"--*God in the Dark* is a must. It puts a human face on the problem of doubt and examines it thoroughly. In a way that will respond to your questions, settle your fears, and strengthen your faith.

## God in the Dark Details

Date : Published January 5th 1996 by Crossway Books

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Author : Os Guinness

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# From Reader Review God in the Dark for online ebook

## Jonathan Labrecque says

Bon livre pour orienter notre réflexion par rapport aux sources de nos doutes. C'est aussi un bon outil pour nous aider à formuler et identifier les types de doutes auxquels nous pouvons faire face.

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## Mano Chil says

Although reading Os Guinness is a difficult task, once I got used to his style of phrasing sentences, I got to understand and enjoy his intellect.

Os thinks that somewhere along our Christian living we all get to doubt and provides us with different methods to handle the doubt that may arise.

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## mike stensrud says

### What a book

Please read this if you are a Christian you will not regret taking the time to reread many portions. Faith

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## Joe Oaster says

I loved this book and read a chapter a day over the period of 11 days. I took numerous pages of notes and found this to be among the best of all the Guinness books I have read thus far. Well written, and book really makes you think. Highly recommend.

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## Mark says

"This is an updated version of ""In Two Minds"". The book starts with a discussion about the role of doubt in the life of faith. Doubt isn't the enemy of faith, unbelief is. Doubt relationship to faith/unbelief is like fear in relationship to courage/cowardice. The rest of the book examines seven common roots of doubt."

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## Debbie says

A wonderful expose on what constitutes doubt in the Christian heart and mind. Thoughtful and well written. Worth the time to read.

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## Jon says

Highly recommended for those whose faith has been shaken by doubt. As I was reading this, I was playing random music, and the song "Love in the Dark" by Adele began playing. The lyrics to the song fit perfectly with the title and theme of this book ... "I can't love you in the dark. It feels like we're oceans apart. There is so much space between us. Maybe we're already defeated ..." This book will get you back on track.

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## Paul says

Prefer the older version called "Doubt" - not listed in Goodreads

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## Daniel Bastian says

OS Guinness' *God in the Dark* could have alternatively been titled *The Philosophy of Doubt*. In it, Guinness engages with grand, philosophical magniloquence 9 different brands of doubt which often characterize man's struggle with the Christian conception of god. Make no mistake; this is a decidedly dense, high-level read. OS Guinness is clearly an accomplished philosopher and fervid Christian, but I found his dense prose to be somewhat of a detriment to the message he intended to convey. High-level prose certainly has its place in works of this kind, but not at the expense of clarity. What's more curious, his literary style seems at odds with the importance of what is discussed. As momentous as Guinness likely deems the subject matter discussed here, it seems accessibility would be assigned greater importance than eloquent prose.

No matter what specific types of doubt one has faced or is currently facing in one's search for the meaning and source of existence, it is likely engaged here. Guinness describes in comprehensive detail doubt arising from faulty conceptions of god, doubt from a stagnation of faith, doubt from unruly emotions and several others. As these doubts are approached from a philosophical perspective, do not expect many real-world scenarios and arguments. Much of the doubt "flavors" are discussed abstractly, which is understandable given the genre, but the work as a whole might not be sufficiently satisfying for someone looking for analysis of specific reasons for doubts.

While the "intelligent design" (or teleological) argument is often the most cogent argument for the atheist, it's the problem of evil that is traditionally the most difficult issue with which theists must contend, present company included. I wasn't fully engaged in the book until the final two chapters when the problem of evil was discussed, albeit cursorily, and doubt arising from waiting and impatience. Indeed, the majority of the book failed to address any of the problems I am most interested in, and I found the final two chapters to easily comprise the greatest substance the book had to offer.

As an impassioned skeptic of theism and Christianity in particular, I found his arguments lacking just as much as others I've encountered. In my view belief in the theistic, personal conceptions of god is the suspension of reason in the form of faith. Faith, as used in the religious sense, is the adherence to a notion that is unsupported by evidence and thus belief cannot be derived through reason.

His battle with the problem of evil within a worldview predicated on an omnibenevolent, omniscient and

omnipotent being ends in a stalemate as is so often the case. Guinness advocates a suspension of judgment because we don't have all the facts, with the unstated but obvious assumption that evil must be somehow good. In the face of untold evil, devastation, starvation, sickness and mass extinctions in our evolutionary past, we simply do not have enough information to judge objectively, he asserts.

Ironically, he inserts a quote in the final chapter which I think rather handily undermines his problem of evil argument. It's a quote by Dostoyevsky's Ivan, and its poignancy is undeniable:

"All the knowledge in the world is not worth a child's tears."

I couldn't agree more.

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## **Jay Lloyd says**

### **Solid read.**

This book was very encouraging. If you are prone to doubt this is a book that you will read several times and highlight often. There is plenty of truth in it to take hold of.

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## **John Martindale says**

One problem with reading a book over a period of 6 months, is that one forgets most all of what went before, once one gets to the end. Though I can't remember much, I recall the first part of the book as meriting 4 to 5 stars and the middle section, earning itself 1 or 2 stars and the last part of the book calling for 3 or 4 stars.

Sadly, as one dealing with doubt, I don't feel any better off having read it. There is good material here though. Guinness defines what doubt is and then shares what he calls the seven families of doubt. Which are doubt from ingratitude, doubt from a faulty view of God, doubt from weak foundations, doubt from lack of commitment, doubt from lack of growth, doubt from unruly emotions and doubt from hidden conflicts. He finishes off the book with the "Two torturing questions"; why, O Lord (doubt from inquisitiveness) and How long, Oh Lord (doubt from impatience).

Os Guinness doesn't really seem like someone who naturally deals with doubt (of course I know he deals with some, we all do). I could be wrong, but I get the impression his temperament is more geared down certainty. And this is perfectly fine, but it just meant I didn't really Kytch with him. Books like "Oh me of little faith" by Jason Boyett or "Disappointment with God" by Yancey really ministered to the depths of my being, its like we speak the same language angst and doubt and yet somehow we stay Christians. But with Guinness, he seemed like a confident professional and an expert and therefore, I think its a bit hard for us doubters to truly grab on to his words. Though much of what he wrote is true and important, its like we speak a different dialect.

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## **scott says**

This was like being served a steak on a full stomach. Good stuff - funny timing. I'm full and curiously

delighted with simple moments of faith and peace this summer - like a duckling waddling through the shallows. This book articulates aspects of past insecurities I've harbored, let go, and given precious rightside-out meaning. I'm thankful for the many doubts I've troubled myself with over the years (relatively early in my life) because the surprising resolutions provide me with a thick, rhino-like faith. God knows what he's with me doing after all. Sucks, though, when you have divergent thoughts and your feet begin to step on eachother. This is a good book if you're in such a predicament and you're willing to step back and judge yourself.

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### **Claire says**

Very helpful read. Contrary to the front-cover summary, this book delves way past simply doubting your salvation or doubting there is a God, but attempts to look at all the different causes for doubt to shake both believers and non-Christians, and ways we attempt to mask doubt, or struggle in faith, or judge doubt too harshly. Doubt has been an obstacle in the way for every human on earth in one way or another, and this book not only helps you identify the true cause and nature of specific doubts, sometimes lying underneath actions, but also offers steps to reconcile doubts and strengthen faith.

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### **Eli says**

An excellent book on doubt, which helps us think about doubt accurately.

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### **Sean Smith says**

I really enjoyed this book and found it very insightful and expect to find it very useful in helping others. It was a delight to read for me and I would definitely recommend it.

One minor critique: I did feel that his last chapter on doubts that arise in waiting could have been more helpful in that I found it a little too focused on our need for "visionary faith" and what we can accomplish through it rather than really walking through the real pain of waiting that we all often experience. I found this was a strength throughout most of the book, but a bit lacking in the last chapter.

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