



God Over Good: Saving Your Faith by Losing Your Expectations of God

Luke Norsworthy

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It's hard to say that God is good when God isn't always what we expect *good* to be. A good father wouldn't make it so difficult to get to know him, would he? And if God is all-powerful, wouldn't he ensure that we never suffered? Either our understanding of God is incorrect, or our definition of *good* is inadequate.

In a world that is messy and a church that is imperfect, it's easy to let our faith be lost. But that doesn't mean we have to lose God. It means we must consider the fact that perhaps our idealized expectations are just plain wrong. With transparency about his own struggles with cynicism and doubt, pastor Luke Norsworthy helps frustrated Christians and skeptics trade their confinement of God in an anemic definition of *good* for confidence in the God who is present in everything, including our suffering.

God Over Good: Saving Your Faith by Losing Your Expectations of God Details

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From Reader Review God Over Good: Saving Your Faith by Losing Your Expectations of God for online ebook

Kristi Hartman says

After listening to Luke's podcast, Newsworthy with Norsworthy, for a couple of years, I was excited when he announced he was publishing a book. I was intrigued from the first page, had to buy a new package of highlighters, & am going to have to purchase a new copy. Luke's honesty about his doubt was my story twenty years ago, and it occasionally rears its head now. His story is told in metaphors (parables?!), real-life examples, with some Luke-humor thrown in for good measure. His result is a beautiful, well-written tapestry of God's nature, where He is when we doubt and hurt, and what God thinks about our doubts.

The same day I finished the book, highlighted, dog-eared, & notated, I encountered a woman (a stranger) that was expressing so many of the doubts that Luke discussed. I reached inside my car & gave her Luke's book. She teared up & promised to read it. I believe she will. Great job, Mr. Norsworthy!

Rachel Davidson Schmoyer says

This book made me think. Not everything that made me think had to do with the goodness of God or what we understand about God and his goodness, but I'm glad I read the book because there was a lot that did invite me to understand more of who God is and to move beyond what I know about Him already. I also really liked the invitation to see the Bible not as a dry instruction manual, but as an invitation to a faith journey with imaginative, kingdom centered language.

Gina Fox says

I have hear Luke on his own podcast talk about the struggles he has had with his faith and how to process them. In this book, Luke does a good job of bringing faith around to the basics. It reminds us of how we should see God through His Word and not by what others say. I recommend this book to anyone who has questioned their faith and wants to become more solid in their thinking.

Amy Langmaack says

Luke Norsworthy is a new author for me. I heard Norsworthy first on Annie F. Downs That Sounds Fun! podcast, and decided I wanted to give God Over Good a shot.

Norsworthy tackles a lot of tough questions in the pages of this book. The questions are raw and real and entirely relatable. Some of the questions he asks were questions I didn't realize I had until I saw them written on the page.

But rather than leaving you with just a bunch of lingering questions, Norsworthy reminds that there's another side. A place where we don't have to have all of the answers. But we can still rest in complete faith in God.

This book was a reminder that we won't have all of the answers in this lifetime.

And yet.

And yet there is hope. There is a resurrected king who is loving us and caring for us despite what we see or believe.

"Maturity in faith has always required acceptance of how God doesn't fit into the mold of what we would like God to be."

We have to set aside our pre-conceived notions and expectations about God. He won't fit inside the mold we've created for him. But as we get to know Him more, we sit in the tension of the known and unknown. And our faith is greater and stronger because it can hold the tension of the questions of the unknown.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher. This review is my own, honest opinion.

Erin Henry says

4.5. Beautiful memoir of one man's struggle with his faith and how he hung on to God. I appreciated his honesty and his emphasis on hanging onto spiritual practices when going through times of doubt.

Dale Friesen says

Closer to 4.5

Maria says

An excellent book that I will read again. The author is a bit cynical and expresses dry humor which I greatly appreciate given the context of struggling through one's faith. There are some powerful sections that brought me to tears and other sections that brought clarity and I found myself saying "Amen" out loud. I highly recommend.

Joy Matteson says

Really enjoyed this one. His podcast is also a winner, and I really appreciated his thoughtful, warm commentary on faith and doubt. His pithy and hilarious stories will keep you turning the pages. A pastor not afraid to poke fun at himself and stay honest throughout his writing will keep me reading his works.

victoria says

This book had a beautiful truth story writing and compelling to read with also encouraging to all of us to finding our real faith and still fighting so hard to finding the answer. It because of we are all had to trapped by the system of humanity and trying to be better person with the world that not easy to make us to living. The story of this book will help and guiding us to understanding more about God that was always beside you and all we have to do is trust in God. I highly recommend to everyone must to read this book. “ I received complimentary a copy of this book from Baker Books Bloggers for this review”.

Karl Dumas says

‘Fess up! You’ve tried to put God in a box, we all have. Some of the lucky ones figure out fairly quickly that it doesn’t work, while others keep trying, long after any reasonable person would have given up. Sadly, many people give up on God when He doesn’t meet their expectations, but the lucky ones, give up on their expectations before giving up on God.

Luke Norsworthy tells his story of the struggles he faced trying to reconcile a good God, with the bad things that happen in our world. Not only the natural disasters, but the bad things that happen to people who are trying, to the best of their ability, to follow God, and walk with Jesus. Someone once said that the good is the enemy of the best, and when it comes to faith, truer words were never spoken.

In God over Good; Saving Your Faith by Losing Your Expectations of God (Baker Books, 2108) we are introduced to a way of understanding God that, because it asks us to think outside the box, at first seems to make little sense, but the further we travel with Norsworthy on his journey, the more we see that if we trust God rather than chase after what we think is good, our faith becomes stronger and stronger.

The theology is all here, and it’s written in an engaging style that most of us can identify with. You don’t have to be a theologian or bible scholar to understand Luke’s thought processes.

Does it answer all the questions you might have about God? Probably not, but in the end, God is not someone or something designed to fill a box of our making, and there will always be things about God that we don’t understand. And if we understand that, our desire to walk for God strengthens.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher as a part of their blogger program. I was not required to write a positive review.

Laura says

Luke's authenticity, his balance of vulnerability and wit, his honesty (except for the "assistant, Jonathan" characterization), and his ability to engage both intellect and emotion make this book very helpful for those of us who are pursuing a growing faith, or a resurrection of faith.

Patricia Pate says

God over Good by Luke Norsworthy is a book about changing your expectations of God. When we pray for a certain thing, we often have our expectations of what that certain thing will look like. Often we are wrong, and can even miss the answer to our prayers, because we don't see it, it doesn't look like what we expected. Also, there are sometimes circumstances in life, that we see as bad, but God sees as good. Take my health for example. If I haven't had such a bad year, health wise, then I don't think I would be as close to God as I am now. Something assumed bad, but actually turned out good. This book shows us how to change our

perspectives and look at things through God's expectations, and not ours. When we do that, we can enjoy life much more fully, than if we keep expecting our way. I really enjoyed reading this book, and it had changed the way I look at things, and the way I expect God to work in my life

Bethany Dufilho says

“Why do we worship God when God doesn’t always fit our definition of good? Because unlike the transience we’re surrounded by, the transcendent offers something eternal... We’ve experienced everlasting life, and where else can we go?”

Jason Herrington says

Luke Norsworthy shares the struggles of his faith journey and his wrestling with doubts that many have with faith but are too afraid to discuss or acknowledge. Luke’s vulnerability is extremely refreshing and the journey to the other side of hope is encouraging.

This book makes room for those of us who love God but also doubt as well as provides perspective and a challenge to those that may not realize that the two can coexist.

My only complaint...I wish I had been able to read this book 7 years ago.

Vertical2017 says

Faithful, disarmingly honest, stories. But Richard Beck, author of Unclean, Reviving Old Scratch, and Stranger God says it all:

<"Luke does such a brave job in this book--telling the truth, asking the questions many of us aren't willing to ask (but hear in our heads), and walking us all toward honesty and freedom and the person we really want to be. God over Good will rescue you in ways you didn't know you needed rescuing. That's what it did for me too. I'm forever grateful.">
