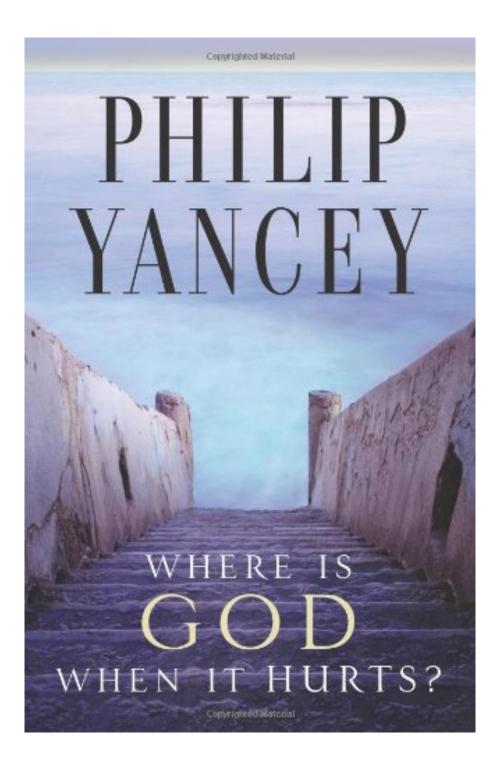


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If there is a loving God, then why is it that ... ? You've heard that question, perhaps asked it yourself. No matter how you complete it, at its root lies the issue of pain. Does God order our suffering? Does he decree an abusive childhood, orchestrate a jet crash, steer a tornado through a community? Or did he simply wind up the world's mainspring and now is watching from a distance? In this Gold Medallion Award–winning book, Philip Yancey reveals a God who is neither capricious nor unconcerned. Using examples from the Bible and from his own experiences, Yancey looks at pain—physical, emotional, and spiritual—and helps us understand why we suffer. Where Is God When It Hurts? will speak to those for whom life sometimes just doesn't make sense. And it will help equip anyone who wants to reach out to someone in pain but just doesn't know what to say.

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164 of 173 people found the following review helpful.

Paradigm Shift

By Bethany McKinney Fox

This book is not only about how God views our suffering, and how much we struggle with God in the midst of our suffering (although it does thoroughly discuss those things). The most interesting aspects of this book, in my opinion, were the stories and comments that Yancey makes on how Christians, though mostly goodintentioned, often respond to other people's pain in very unhelpful ways. There is an example of a woman who was very ill and then examples of a few different people who came to visit her and how their different approaches affected her. It shows you how to best try and comfort someone in great pain (although of course there isn't one universally right way to do it). One of Yancey's most interesting observations in this book is that the only cards made for sick people are "get well" cards--and how that shows what society's view is on sickness and how often times people are only considered valuable if they are well. Otherwise, they are considered invalids (as he points out, that word suggests that the person is considered "not valid"). This book should be read by everyone experiencing chronic pain, anyone who experiences any kind of pain, and anyone who ever expects to know anyone who experiences pain. Therefore, everyone should read this book, because pain continues to be a significant part of life.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Not the "whole truth", but OK stuff

By Gregory

In the first place, Yancey is a gifted wordsmith. His prose grips; he ought to try novels. In the second place, although he certainly can't claim to be a careful researcher, he does exhibit a journalist's penchant for digging into stories and skimming the surface of scientific knowledge relevant to his subject.

I can't imagine anyone reading this book without becoming better informed or adopting a more hopeful attitude toward suffering, or perhaps even both.

The reason for the missing fifth star, and the reason for this review's title, is the rather thorough-going absence of some important Christian perspectives on the act of human suffering. The redemptive value of

suffering is hardly mentioned, and certainly not in a positive way. It's a strange ommission. Likewise, the author's brief and decidedly snide comment on the mortification of the flesh was surprising, as well as his driving a wedge between rationality and "mystery", Perhaps these will be corrected in future editions. These objections notwithstanding, I know that I profited by reading this book. I would reccommend it to any one. (And I eagerly await Yancey's first novel.)

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

BEST discussion I have EVER heard on pain/suffering

By Craig Szwed

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND this book for anyone interested in or struggling with pain of any kind in their lives or in the lives of loved ones! I have been walking with the Lord for over 20 years, and in all that time I have never heard, until I read this book, such a helpful and clear significant presentation of how to cope with this (timely and critical) issue of pain in our lives.

Don't be fooled by the author's starting discussion of the physiology of pain. His exploration of the topic has GREATLY helped me to face some horrendous mental, spiritual, and emotional pains in my own life. Now I am more willing and able to trust God to help me THROUGH the difficulties of life, to help me move on with thanksgiving and praise for each small and large blessing that comes each moment. Thank God that His Holy Spirit has moved Philip Yancey to write this book!

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