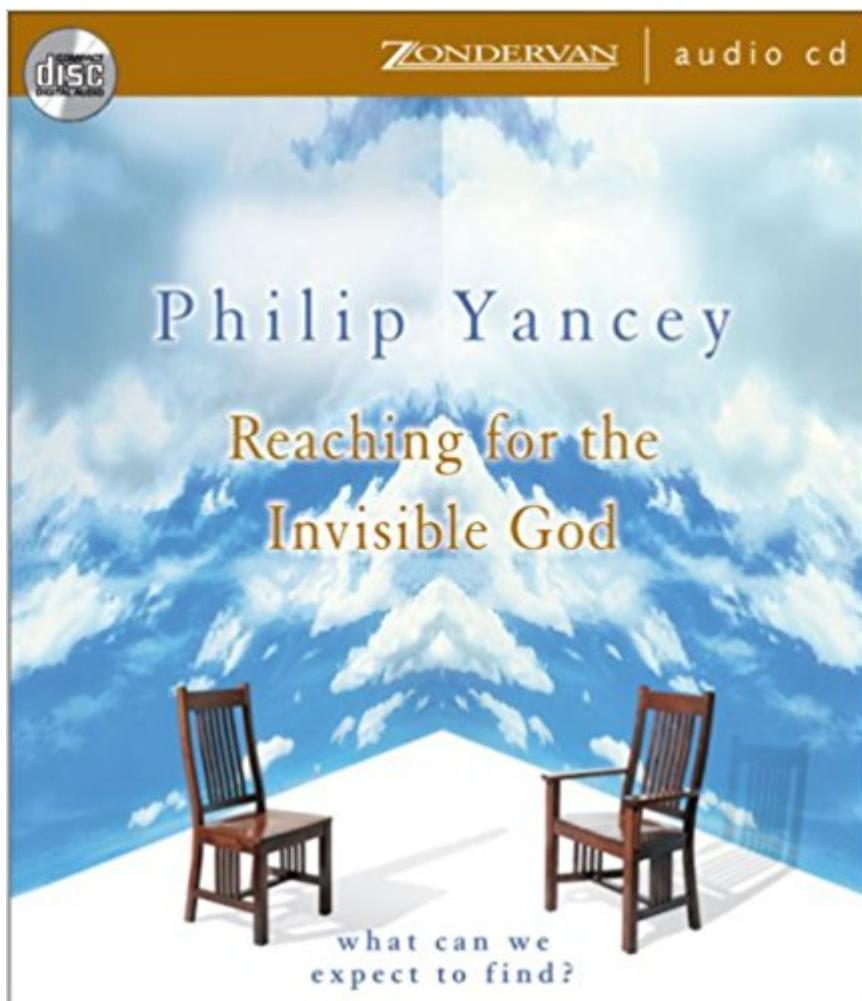


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# Reaching For The Invisible God



## **Synopsis**

The audio CD version of the complete text of this best-selling book helps Christians encounter and establish an authentic relationship with the invisible God. 'How do I relate to a God who is invisible when I'm never quite sure he's there?' In his honest and deeply personal style, award-winning author Philip Yancey ponders questions like this to men and women who want more than pat answers to life's imponderable questions. Ultimately, though, he shifts the focus from our human questions to the One who offers himself in answer--the God who invites us to reach for him and find him. Now available in an unabridged audio CD, the best-selling *Reaching for the Invisible God* explores six foundational areas: the thirst for God, God himself, the Holy Spirit, faith, growth, and spiritual transformation. Read by Jay Charles.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

Publisher: Zondervan; Unabridged edition (November 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310241685

ISBN-13: 978-0310241683

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.5 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 121 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,314,455 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( Y ) > Yancey, Philip #4534 in Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Christianity #8130 in Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > General

## **Customer Reviews**

In a sea of books that promise certainty, award-winning author Philip Yancey (*What's So Amazing About Grace, The Jesus I Never Knew*) is not afraid to write about the mystery of belief, about letting risk and faith go hand in hand. *Reaching for the Invisible God: What Can We Expect to Find?* is Yancey at his best--wrestling with difficult questions and refusing to give pat answers. In our quest to know God, he offers this caveat: "The more personal conception of God we have, the more unnerving are the questions about him." Yancey quotes extensively from classic writers and sketches scenes of doubting biblical figures as he grapples with making sense of a God who is personal, yet sometimes so elusive. Six different aspects of the Christian life are explored: our longing for God, who God is, the Holy Spirit, our faith, growth, and spiritual transformation. In his

explorations, he reassembles the difficult and perplexing events of life around an ability to trust in a loving God. Trust is pivotal. Admitting that God's style "often baffles me," Yancey leaves no doubt that his framework of faith is still in place, that he sees "evidence of (God's) long-suffering, mercy, and desire to woo rather than compel--I have learned to trust God." Here is the clear, concise writing mixed with deeply personal and authentic insights that won Yancey nine Gold Medallion Awards for previous books. Expect a 10th. --Cindy Crosby --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

HPopular theologian Yancey (The Jesus I Never Knew; What's So Amazing About Grace?) steers clear of trite detours, inviting readers to travel through some of the most difficult aspects of nurturing a human relationship with a transcendent God. Drawing upon wide experience and a rich well of stories, Yancey considers honestly the predicaments of human existence. We are distracted with the daily grind, checking our e-mail more often than we meditate. We banish doubts in the name of more streamlined versions of success and self-fulfillment. Christians in particular, Yancey says, are often guilty of worshipping the impossible while failing to believe in the possibleDthat relationship of grace God extends to humankind daily. With common sense and a poetic sensibility, Yancey poses fruitful questions and offers real insights. In the search for signposts of the invisible God, Yancey beckons readers to the Bible to encounter God's loving and gracious personality. Without clich s, he reminds us that doubt and difficulty can be catalysts for intimacy with God. And with humor and fair wisdom, he talks about seeking the Holy Spirit: "To reach for the Spirit is like hunting for your eyeglasses while wearing them." In conversation with the many sages he citesDC.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton and Umberto Eco, to name a fewDYancey is at once pastoral and provocative. Meet a friend. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm so grateful to Philip Yancey for writing this book. I'm coming to it late but at a perfect time in my life - a time when questions and doubt have dimmed my light, like a lantern with too much accumulated dust. Coming to Christianity with no background there are countless things I've noticed, contradictions and hypocrisies and just plain odd questions I couldn't answer. His depth of knowledge is so vast I feel this book is a treasure trove. (He literally surveys ideas throughout history, in pop culture, art, philosophy, psychology, it's truly amazing to me.) I'm going to go through it and highlight it and meditate and pray on it. In short, as a Christian for 30 years there are answers in here I never expected to receive. How I value this unsentimental, real-world look at life, love, God,

falling short but being in good company, having a "reverse snobbery" against judgmental Christians, understanding how God can Himself be lonely, and hundreds of other things. I realized that I have chastized myself for years over many of the behaviors that he unsparingly points out as common, widespread, normal even. Yes, it's a book for thinkers but it's also a classic, invaluable book for anyone who wants to know how Christianity really works, how it should work, and how to reach God from such a broken place as this.

Yancey is the kind of author who seems to be aiming more at preaching to himself than convincing anyone else. Here is a guy who is so open and honest that that is what draws you in. The book feels more like a conversation with a close friend rather than someone telling or teaching you something out of their vast resources of knowledge. In the book Yancey seeks to tackle the ambiguities and difficulties of how Christians can have a relationship with an invisible yet present God usually by investigating what that relationship often looks like in the lives of regular and phenomenal people. Chapters wander through topics such as doubt, faithfulness, confusion, mystery, contradiction, tragedy, God's hiddenness, the God of the old Testament, the Trinity, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, and spiritual dryness and darkness. He rounds things out with a look at stages of growth in this relationship and finally with what he calls the irony of redemption. Yancey begins by walking through the myriad of difficulties facing most anyone seeking a relationship with God, but he ends up shifting his focus onto how God relates to us. And just like God, Yancey makes something useful out of something really messy.

The best book I've ever read about how God finds us, and reveals Himself. God "found" me. I thought I had a relationship of some sort with Him, kind of cold and distant.. until I'd screwed my life, what I thought was irretrievably. Just when I thought there was no going back, He brought me low so as to lift me high - closer to Him. I ain't perfect and won't be until my sanctification is complete and I finally become who He created me, without spot or blemish. I believe God will find those predestined to be with Him, unaware to us. Please read this book if you're looking for Him and He doesn't seem to be around.

In my continuing study of the mystery that is Faith, I ran across this book and looked forward to reading it. I'm a voracious reader--but I could not bring myself to finish it. Anecdotes and some well-selected quotes from wise theologians did not make up for the frankly-depressing overlay of the message, which seems to boil down to: "God does not answer prayers, and most people cannot

hope to feel His presence." In my view, Faith and Hope go hand-in-hand; I got no message of Hope here.

I bought this copy as a gift for someone who wanted to read it. Philip Yancey is really masterful at addressing in a simple but profound way those nagging questions of faith that we all experience, like "How do I relate to an intangible God?" or "Why doesn't He just do something spectacular so we won't have any doubts about His existence?" I re-read this, and two of his other books, What's So Amazing About Grace, and The Jesus I Never Knew, every year or so -- and I find something new and meaningful each time. These aren't "preachy" books full of theology and religious jargon; they are intelligent books written by a real-life Christian who has thoughtfully researched and grappled with common issues that Christians face. And those who lament the lack of cultural literacy in much of the religious media will also appreciate his references to literature and philosophy. He makes me think of a modern day, everyman version of C. S. Lewis. I just love these books and recommend them highly.

Philip Yancey never disappoints! His insights into the human heart are fresh and thought-provoking. I am impressed by the breadth of familiarity with so many theologians, historically, geographically, and culturally. I was not acquainted with Martin Buber, Julian of Norwich, Fyodor Dostoevski, or Dorothy Sayers until I met them in this and some of Yancey's other books. He makes excellent use of their quotations to make his own points, as well as citing pertinent scripture passages. Because of his own (his term) 'abusive' evangelical upbringing, his bluntness about God and His ways sometimes seem to border on cynicism. That makes me a little nervous. I can't tell if he does this to make himself more relate-able to those who doubt, or if this all part of his journalistic curiosity. An example of this is his characterization of God as 'shy.' Still, there are many passages that articulate concepts so profound, they literally take my breath away. He told of Viktor Frankl's experience in a Nazi concentration camp, thinking of his wife, as he was being marched by the guards, presumably to his death. Yancey's summary was this: "A thought transfixated me: For the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth - that love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which men can aspire." Somehow, this resonated with me in a way that will stay with me the rest of my life.

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