



Benefit of the Doubt: Breaking the Idol of Certainty

By Gregory A. Boyd

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Bestselling author counters the unbiblical notion that faith means lack of doubt, offering practical ways to live as disciples in a world of uncertainty.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Influential theologian and pastor Boyd (*Letters from a Skeptic*) is not, per se, a confident Christian. Indeed, he wrestles with doubt, and believes other Christians should also. The author inveighs against Christian environments where questioning matters of faith is suspect, and expressing doubt is considered "misguided, self-indulgent, idolatrous, and even dangerous." An autobiographical and theological refutation of the glorification of Christian certitude, this book is a narrative of skeptic solidarity and essay on Christian doubt. It proves a comforting read for anyone struggling with the faith handed to them and a challenge to Christians who rely on cognitive conviction. Boyd bluntly argues that a covenantal relationship with God through Jesus is preferred to psychological certainty, developing his argument solidly with reference to his own story and the narrative of Scripture. Although a bit long and occasionally tedious, this book is highly recommended for skeptic and Christian alike; it could well breathe new life into the dwindling embers of a person's faith.

From the Back Cover

Let your questions lead you to a stronger faith

Have you ever struggled with doubts about your faith? Has the Bible sometimes felt like a shaky foundation? Are you afraid to talk about it for fear of judgment from those who seem to have it all figured out?

Gregory Boyd knows how you feel. For him, faith has been anything but certain. In *Benefit of the Doubt*, he invites you to embrace a faith that doesn't strive for certainty but rather for commitment to Christ in the midst of uncertainty. Join him as he shares with poignant honesty his own inspirational journey, offering reassurance that you can experience a life-transforming relationship with Christ, even with unresolved questions about the Bible, theology, and ethics.

"Even when certainty is inaccessible, commitment remains an option. Greg Boyd is incapable of uninteresting thoughts. And this book is not merely thoughtful; it will be a tremendous help to doubters (and non-doubters) everywhere."--**John Ortberg**, author of *Who Is This Man?*; pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church

"Boyd has gotten used to exploring new territory, and in this book he dives into the issue of doubt and certainty--and recovers the lost treasure of Christlike humility and childlike wonder. Enjoy."--**Shane Claiborne**, author, activist, and lover of Jesus; www.thesimpleway.org

"*Benefit of the Doubt* is a deeply personal yet profoundly theological look at the important role of doubt in the Christian faith. Prepare to feel a little less crazy, a little less alone, and a lot more challenged to take the risk of following Jesus with your head and heart engaged. Boyd is the best sort of company for the journey."--**Rachel Held Evans**, blogger at www.rachelheldevans.com; author of *Evolving in Monkey Town* and *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*

"If you're a Christian who wrestles with doubt or you know someone who does, *Benefit of the Doubt* is one of the best books ever written on the subject."--**Frank Viola**, author of *God's Favorite Place on Earth*; www.frankviola.org

Gregory A. Boyd (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is the senior pastor at Woodland Hills Church in

St. Paul, Minnesota, and the founder of ReKnew. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books, including *Letters from a Skeptic, Is God to Blame?, Repenting of Religion, and Across the Spectrum*.

About the Author

Gregory A. Boyd (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary), formerly professor of theology at Bethel University, is senior pastor of Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, where average attendance has grown to 5,000 since he helped plant the church in 1

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