



On Asking God Why: And Other Reflections on Trusting God in a Twisted World

Elisabeth Elliot

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God does many things we do not understand. When faced with suffering, sickness, death, and confusion, most people can ask only one question: why? Elisabeth Elliot, one of the outstanding women of present-day Christianity, knows too well this feeling of uncertainty. But she also knows that God will answer.

Now releasing with a fresh cover, *On Asking God Why* is a perceptive collection of Elisabeth Elliot's own meditations that confront the many issues we must deal with in our daily lives, from the ordinary occurrence of another birthday to serious topics like funerals, abortion, and divorce. With great insight and candor, Elliot reminds readers that we can overcome our fears when we decide to question God, because in Him we can find every answer we need.

On Asking God Why: And Other Reflections on Trusting God in a Twisted World Details

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Jordan Carlson says

Elisabeth Elliot is always challenging. I like the length and focus of these short pieces. Her husband's addition is especially poignant and well written.

Becky Pliego says

Note to self: There should always be an Elizabeth Elliot's book on my nightstand. Her words are always timely and encouraging. I am so grateful for her writings.

Chapters 4-7 might be my favorite ones. In those she writes about the blessing of getting old. Chapters 12 and 16 are also important; both deal with the -not easy- topic of judging others.

Some of my favorite quotes:

"A true faith must rest solidly on his character and his Word, not on our particular conception of what he ought to do."

"I prayed about several things for which I could not give thanks. But I gave thanks in the middle of each prayers because I was still sure that underneath are the everlasting arms."

"Prayer is the first thing -asking God to do what I can't do. The second thing is get busy and do what I can do."

""Judge not that ye be not judged' has come to mean that if you never call anything sin, nobody can ever call you a sinner."

"I believe there are indeed some simple ones [answers], but they are not easy."

"Nearly always it is possible for most of us, with effort and planning and the will to do his will, to set aside time for God alone."

"Your present discontent is a mercy, affording opportunities to repent."

"We must quit bending the Word to suit our situation. It is we who must be bent to that Word, our necks that must bow under the yoke."

"Love is no pleasing sentiment but a fiery law; thou shalt love."

Erin Henry says

The first few essays are amazing. Read those & skip the rest.

Kathleen says

Felt as though I got a real glimpse into the heart & mind of Elisabeth Elliot after reading this book. She really dug deep & laid out her thoughts & opinions on some very important life issues. I developed such an admiration & respect for her after reading this book & she isn't afraid to show weakness either which helped me identify with her all the more. An easy book to read & would highly recommend it!

Ruth says

I didn't realize when I picked this up that it's just an updated edition of *Trusting God in a Twisted World* (I guess the subtitle didn't give it away...?). In any case, I was glad for the refresher. The read seemed a bit uneven this time around; perhaps because the essays, while working well thematically, are not tonally consistent.

Rachel M. says

Not as good as her other works...basically a bunch of essays/observations/thoughts/opinions on random topics...

Stephanie says

A collection of essays on trusting God and thinking through some of life's difficult issues and questions. Most chapters were full of wisdom and Elisabeth's no-nonsense encouragement, although there were a couple that felt more like filler - these I enjoyed less and might not read again.

My favorite quote from the book:

"The lesson is thus set for Christ's followers: If we believe that God is God, our faith is not a deduction from the facts around us. It is not an instinct. It is not inferred from the happy way things work. Faith is a gift from God, and we must respond to Him with a decision: The God of the universe has spoken, we believe what He says, and we will obey. We must make a decision that we will hold in the face of all opposition and apparent contradiction." (from "The Christian's Safety", pg 142)

Pilar says

I love all of Elisabeth Elliot's books, and this one is no exception. Her writing is rich and solid. I do not find the writings of other contemporary female Christian authors of today to compare to her wisdom.

Susan says

Since this book consisted of a collection of writings, it is hard to rate. Some of the pieces I would rate higher, as fives, and others just threes, so I just chose a middle rating of four as an average.

Elizabeth says

This book would be best described as a series of essays on varying topics. Elisabeth Elliott tackles such subjects as loss, abortion, divorce, and looking for a spouse in this one. Some of her impassioned writing is related to what was happening in the culture at the time, but in completeness, it holds relevance today.

I didn't grab a strong unified message from this book, in so much as one simple illustration to take away. In one of her final chapters, Elliott shares a memory of a young boy (grandson or nephew) as he road through a car wash for the first time. He was visibly frightened by the darkness and the objects pressing in around the car and making loud noises, but he looked to the face of his father, who was calm and smiling, and he did not cry.

Leah says

It's been years since I've read anything by Elisabeth Elliot and now I wonder "why"? She is such a deep, thought provoking, genuine, and hard hitting author. She loves the Lord Jesus and wants to seek Him and obey His word. This book is a hodge podge of reflections on trusting God in the midst of varying circumstances. I highly recommend any christian to read this, it is well worth the read.

Angela says

I love Elisabeth Elliot's books! She always brings such a godly perspective to the situations we face in life.
