

1: Bringing God Back Home Tuesday, September 22,

*Praise for Bringing God Home "A profound book. As we set out to bring God home, we are the ones who return home."
--Archbishop Desmond Tutu "Forrest Church is a perfect guide through the oceans of belief." --Diane Ackerman.*

As we chatted about the holiday coming up, I learned that neither her husband, who is currently in Africa, nor her son, who is living with his dad, were going to be with her. I had been looking forward to taking a road trip down to see her and we both decided that the Christmas break would be the perfect time. When I got to her house, she had done everythingâ€”the living room had the huge leather sectional, the home office had the bookshelves up, the bedroom had the fluffy comforter and the mass of pillows. But there was one room just at the entrance which was in a shamblesâ€”boxes and chairs and fabric were strewn in this part of the house, quite in contrast to every other nook and cranny. We spent all week finding just the right fabrics, just the right lamps, just the right paint to create a beautiful room, inviting to the soul, conducive to prayer. I was drawn to her right away, and one of the first things I noticed about Stacy was how present God is in her world and in her speech. The way Stacy talks about God is the way she talks about her son who lives with his dad. No one doubts the existence of her sonâ€”no one would. In that environment, she was surrounded by people who shared many of her beliefs and experiences. Not long after I met her, her Christian faith led her to enter seminary. She did not finish seminary; instead, she converted to Islam. Although she changed religions, she never changed gods. She continues to experience and talk about God in the same basic way, but in a new and evolving context. Stacy, like so many of us do, went to seminary expecting to deepen her faith, and instead found it shaken up. In his book, *Bringing God Home*, Forrest Church describes how he began his life with a very simple and comforting notion of God, defined by the prayers that many of us grew up with. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. He attended seminary more out of a fascination with the idea of God than out of a desire to deepen a relationship with the divine. Nonetheless, I longed for the sense of place I had known as a little boy, both within myself and within my world. Even if we had very difficult childhoods, the notion of a God who keeps me while I sleep and will whisk me away should I die, is a world that seems orderlyâ€”safe in some ultimate way, if not safe in an immediate way. I said those same prayers that Forrest said as a child, although for me, they never translated into an understanding of God as the big daddy in the sky. I enjoyed saying my nightly prayers with my mom because it was a very sweet moment. It was a time when she was teaching me to hold people in my heart and wish them well even though they were far away. I just knew that praying for Nana and Grampa and Aunt Caroline and Cousin John and everyone else each night was the right thing to do. Perhaps the seed for that simple formulation was planted by his bedside in Idaho night after night. Forrest confesses in this book that although, as a minister, he developed a more mature understanding of God throughout his career, and though he did genuinely believe the things he preached, he kept himself from going home spiritually by denying his inner conflicts and self-doubts, often deadening such feelings with alcohol. He writes that even over the years, as he did well at All Souls Church in Manhattan, there was an emptiness inside. Some of us are utterly annoyed at the very notion of God. Some folks believe that idea of God is almost silly. Show me a God. Where was God on September 11, or on the day the waters began rising in New Orleans? Perhaps he was on vacation in a cooler clime. Some folks reject even at the notion of prayingâ€”praying to whom or to what? And that is OK. As cultures shifted to farming, there tended to be a shift toward the worship of goddesses, who represented fertility. As cultures shifted to cities with strong rulers at the helm, the notion of god tended to shift to a ruler whose command we obeyed for our own good. There is evidence in the Hebrew Bible of the earlier notions of god, and even of the goddess, but the predominant view of God in the Jewish scriptures is that of God the mighty ruler. Jesus, very much a rabbi of his age, saw God as present in daily lifeâ€”not a far-off ruler, but a loving father, urging us to live well and providing us our daily bread. Or they reject the god seen in parts of the New Testament, the God who also smites enemies, but now it is not whole peoples God smites but unacceptable individuals. Forrest points out that truth in religion is like truth in poetry. As the famous Christian scholar Marcus Borg puts it, "The bible is true, and some of it actually happened. And this simple wording works well for me, too. Like Forrest, much of

my life has been characterized by a process of moving through various understandings of God—or the lack thereof. But, of course, as a child, I was aware of the enormity and mystery of the vast world into which I had been born. For instance, a door would creak open, or something which no one had been standing near would fall. I knew they were simply the wind or other natural forces causing things to happen. That was so cute. I was really just sort of being silly. I think for her it captured the idea of presence and absence at the same time. The word only points, it does not touch. I just know that for me, conscious contact with God through prayer is what makes my life rich and fun and fruitful because it is what grounds me. It is not that God is in the sky—but I certainly know that God is outside of me. Reality is outside of me; life is outside of me; hope is outside of me; joy is outside of me. A simple wordless prayer brings me back to that reality and away from the distraction of fretfulness, sadness, despair and the push and pull of the battling wills inside me. If you tell me that for you, a non-theistic meditation practice does the same thing for you, then I would never ask you to insert my God into your life. Because Stacy is Muslim, her prayer room could have no images of living creatures, and because of her personal tastes, the room, when finished, gave me the feel of walking in Morocco—deep reds splashed with beaded fabrics with soft round lines. If someday I have my own prayer room, the colors and the fabrics and the furniture may be completely different. Forrest brought God home.

2: Prayer to Bring my husband home

However, this only makes the need for bringing ample amounts of grace into your home more crucial. A family that lives under a roof full of God's warmth is one that follows in his footsteps of love and deepest gratitude for one another.

This post may contain affiliate links. Read the full disclosure [here](#) Even the most faithful followers of God fall victim to hectic schedules and temptations of stress and negativity. With fall in full swing and the holiday season nearing, these stressful schedules are only amping up. However, this only makes the need for bringing ample amounts of grace into your home more crucial. Look back unto the word of God and the path He has mapped out for us, such as the seven heavenly virtues or the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Within them, you may find guidance for creating a closer home. To have faith is to strongly believe in all that is moral and good. To have hope is to remain positive throughout life, even in spite of hardships. Negativity can be an insidious energy and your children, as well as yourself, may find it particularly difficult to shake. Disappointment can cause a great deal of emotional strain and this can distract us from all of the blessings surrounding us. For every moment we are not focusing our energy on the small blessings in our lives, we are allowing ourselves to overlook God and be consumed by doubt. Before jumping out of bed and beginning your routine, thank God for three things that He has brought into your life. Establishing this as a part of your routine will help you start each morning on a positive note. Additionally, use faith as a means of reframing negative occurrences as blessings. Whenever your family becomes consumed by negativity, guide them in exploring what God is trying to teach them by bringing this difficult situation into their life. This will help your loved ones remain faithful in His vision and guidance. Now check your email to confirm your subscription. There was an error submitting your subscription. First Name Email Address We use this field to detect spam bots. If you fill this in, you will be marked as a spammer. Unsubscribe at any time. Powered by ConvertKit

Get into the Habit of Speaking to Him Those who do not become comfortable with speaking to God throughout their daily life will fall into the habit of only doing so when they need Him and His powers of healing or guidance. God wishes to be a part of our lives consistently, not just when we feel we really need him. Encourage your family to incorporate Him into all matters. And not just in times of need will provide a feeling of grace and safety into your home. Extend the process further by encouraging your children to end each night with God through prayer. This virtue pertains to actively caring for and attending to those less fortunate. In the midst of festivities, fun, and the overall commercialization of the holiday season, it can be easy for your family especially young children to become overwhelmed by materialism. Every time they give back to someone out of gratitude, have them write it down on a post-it note, and stick it to a board. At Thanksgiving, display the board and read through all the ways in which your family showed gratitude.

3: Bible Study Tools Bringing God Home to Your Heart - The Warming House

Find this Pin and more on bringing God home by Jessica Garnett. Drawing inspiration from the marshlands of South Carolina, the Low Country by Clayton Tiny Homes was designed with southern living in mind.

Are you overwhelmed with the cruelty in the global culture. Does it feel the world is spinning out of control? Do you have hope? Anything to guide you as you maneuver the rough terrain of life? Completely and totally in Jesus Christ and the extraordinary love God has poured over me – even in my most undeserving state at the beginning of my journey with him. Getting to know him. God is infinitely multi-faceted and so very, very good. It is absolutely impossible to comprehend him in the span of a lifetime. Raised in a home with a daddy who left us, and stepdads who had addictions and practiced abuse made it difficult for me to realize the kind of love God has for all of us. A God who cares deeply for my wounds even when the world brushes by without even noticing my struggles. Pursuing God in the Bible I have realized how desperately important it is to drink in the words of the Bible. Studying the Bible is a pursuit of God. We approach scripture for the deeply gratifying pleasure of knowing and enjoying God. Through the pursuit of the glorious character of God in scripture, we experience the wonder of his presence, the value of his wisdom, his complete reliability, and the truth of his promises. Oh the comfort in that knowledge. Bible study deepens our worship as we stand in awestruck wonder at the shameless, unfathomable goodness of God. The Bible leaves us breathless in wonder at the majesty of God. We come away from Bible study with a deeply satisfied soul that impacts every aspect of daily life. It changes our hearts – and our lifestyles. Or do you have more of a love affair with scripture? Do you get lost in its truths? How you approach the Bible directly impacts how you view God and yourself. It influences wisdom in the decisions you make and the quality of your relationships. It keeps you from getting lost in cultural influences. As I became more familiar with God, I began to process life differently. He reveals himself to you in so many ways. Bible study is intoxicating. Most importantly, you need yourself with an open heart ready to receive all God has to show you. God delights in the intimate moments teaching you his heart and giving you wisdom to discern what is pleasing to him so you can maneuver every situation you encounter with confidence and hope. Approach study with a humble heart. Ask God to show you offensive ways in yourself. Plead your poverty in your ability to understand the great truths in his word. Ask him to expose the treasures in scripture you have not yet uncovered. The process of digging evolves into intimate interludes with God the Father as he reveals more about himself, what makes him smile, and what grieves his heart. Allow his words to penetrate your heart. Ask him how those truths apply to you. Allow them to change you from the inside out. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us understanding. Our role is to make ourselves available, pray for understanding, then dig in. Literacy comes as truths from across the Bible begin to connect through a lifetime of study. Commit to the journey of adventure. You will feel inadequate. Refuse to give in when it becomes difficult, too repetitive or tedious. Feeling overwhelmed and confused is evidence God is getting ready to topple your current knowledge to teach you something new and real. Embrace that frustration expecting something good. Frustration is fertile ground for learning. Press through to find the treasure. Press the truth of scripture to your heart. Allow those truths to mesh with your soul. Pray for an awakening of wonder and the opportunity to be captivated by the splendor of God. Take advantage of secondary resources. God wants to teach you intimately and directly in the quiet moments. He has established a place for you directly at his feet. He is your primary resource for learning. Most of them are free. Jotting notes in sidebars, underlining, and highlighting actually help me learn.

4: March For Jesus Lawrence | Bringing God's people together

In his book, Bringing God Home, Forrest Church describes how he began his life with a very simple and comforting notion of God, defined by the prayers that many of us grew up with. At night, his mom tucked him into bed, and led him in the simple prayer, "God bless Grandma and Grandpa, and my friend Jimmy and my dog Smokey," and so on.

5: Bringing God Home

Bringing God Home: A Traveler's Guide by Forrest Church, Forrest Church, F. Forrest Church, The Reverend Forrest Church In times of crisis, we seek the consolation faith alone can provide. As Forrest Church reminds us in *Bringing God Home*, the Chinese ideogram for the word "crisis" means both "danger" and "opportunity."

6: best bringing God home images on Pinterest in | My children, Parenting and Sons

Bringing God Home has 23 ratings and 4 reviews. Elizabeth said: *This famous Unitarian Universalist Minister has a lot to say about God and finding him or.*

7: Bringing God and Grace into your Home this Fall - Blogs by Christian Women

Today, God's place in the home has been usurped by all manner of mindless diversions, busy schedules, poor education, fragmented families, inadequate leadership, blurred gender identity, inappropriate role models and many other factors.

8: Faith Lutheran Â» Bringing God's Children Home

Bringing God Back is a nonprofit organization. There are no paid employees. No one in the organization profits financially from the sale of *Bringing God Back* merchandise.

9: Bringing God Home: A Traveler's Guide by Forrest Church

As Forrest Church reminds us in Bringing God Home, the Chinese ideogram for the word "crisis" means both "danger" and "opportunity." The danger lies in surrendering to fear, love's true opposite; the opportunity is that crisis can bring us closer to God, and God closer to us.

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