

LEGACY Philip Yancey

Scripture readings: James 1:5-8; Matthew 21:21; John 20:26-28; Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 22:12; Matthew 5:48; Romans 7:21-8:2; Hebrews 10:14; 2Cor 5:21; Romans 8:28-39; Mark 9:14-24, 1Peter 3:15.

1. Over the centuries the church has often been described as legalistic or intolerant. Do you think this is a valid criticism and in what way have think this has changed? Is this true in any way today?
2. Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. Do you agree? What challenges (if any) do you think this understanding of Grace presents?
3. Yancey writes that he gradually came back to faith through his experience of the beauty of the natural world, the gift of music, and the goodness of loving relationships. Do you agree that such things alone can bring a person to faith in God?
4. Yancey was influenced by his encounters with President Jimmy Carter, Millard Fuller the founder of Habitat for Humanity and Dame Cicely Saunders the founder of the modern hospice movement. Who has been a rich influence on your Christian faith?
5. The Bible is full of people of doubt as well as faith. How easy do you find it to air your fears, doubts, uncertainties and questions? Do you think it is a good thing to share our concerns with each other?
6. Have you ever been on the receiving end of the Bible used as a weapon, rather than as an instrument of grace and encouragement? How did this make you feel? What lessons do you think we can learn for this?
7. In the letter to the Hebrews 10:14 we read "By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made Holy. Do you feel that you are being made Holy? Can you share any experiences of this in your own life?
8. The father in Mark 9 tells Jesus "I do believe, help my unbelief. What do you think he meant and how do you relate to this apparent paradox yourself?
9. Do you feel confident in explaining your faith to anyone who asks and happy with their questioning and doubts? Is there anything we could be doing as a church to help equip us further in this? How do you feel about welcoming belonging before believing?

Take time to pray for each other, for the challenges we all face in our lives, the fears and doubts we may have, giving thanks for the Grace of God which is given to us in Christ. Pray that we may be good witnesses for Christ with grace and truth.