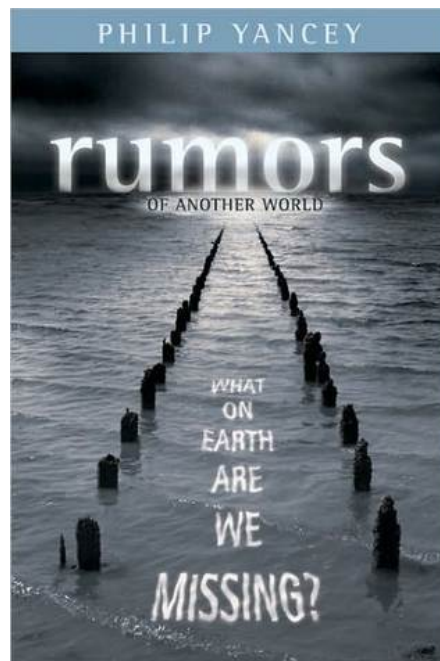




Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing?

Philip Yancey

Download now

Read Online ➔

Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing?

Philip Yancey

Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing? Philip Yancey

What on earth are we missing? Philip Yancey believes we are missing the supernatural hidden in everyday life.

In *Rumors of Another World*, Yancey investigates the natural world and discovers the supernatural hiding in plain view. He grapples with why God made the world and what our role truly is, and seeks to answer the question, “How do I live in the natural world while expressing the values of the supernatural?”

Philip writes, “I have come to understand faith as the highest form of integrated encounter. Faith puts together, assembles, re-orders, accepting the entire world as God’s handiwork. We live among clues, like rescuers sifting through pieces of stained glass shattered by a bomb, and only with a blueprint or some memory of original design can we begin to connect the shards, to assemble them into a pattern that makes sense of our world.

“Nature and supernature are not two separate worlds, but different expressions of the same reality. To encounter the world as a whole, we need a more supernatural awareness of the natural world.”

Yancey invites readers to join him on a journey of discovery. He challenges us to tune into “rumors of another world,” and connect the seen with the unseen. He promises that the grace-filled result will be a life of beauty, purpose, freedom, and faith.

Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing? Details

Date : Published May 18th 2009 by Zondervan (first published January 1st 2003)

ISBN :

Author : Philip Yancey

Format : Kindle Edition 438 pages

Genre : Christian, Religion, Christianity, Nonfiction, Spirituality, Theology, Christian Living

 [Download Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing? ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing? Philip Yancey

From Reader Review Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing? for online ebook

Danny says

Each one of Philip Yancey's books that I have read have made a personal impact upon me. It is as if the author knows how to get into my head and challenge me from the inside out. I had never even heard of this book before finding it on the store shelf, but I am glad I made the jump to purchase it.

In this book Yancey challenges himself to face his own doubts and preconceptions about faith to answer the question of why he believes. The book is fascinating because, unlike a lot of "Christian self-help" books follow the same formula of giving you the right things to say and or do to heighten your spiritual experience with God. Yancey on the other hand talks more about how most of that stuff just doesn't work for him and how he deals with that. I highly value honesty.

How does one convince themselves that what they believe is true? Yancy looks into many areas of life: addiction, sexuality, lifestyle choices, guilt and even questioning the very existence of God. I was moved most by Yancey's conclusions of pride's affect upon my choices and the balance between suffering for what's right and enjoying the pleasures of being alive. Throughout these pages I was forced at defining my own understanding of sin, guilt and pride.

I will put this on my shelf to read again because I am sure there is more wisdom within it's pages.

Allen Steele says

You should at the end of this book, longing not just for Rumors of another world, but wanting for His kingdom to come Quickly.

Ray says

I enjoyed this book because it gently leads one to see spiritual truths rather than forcing belief through fear tactics. The stories told and quotes used were especially effective in furthering the author's premise that God's world and kingdom exists now, in us and through us. Such hope and great faith!

Sherlene says

I loved this book. I struggled most of my life with a view of God as a terrible ogre waiting to strike me down for my least offense. And as offenses go, I really didn't really have a good understanding of what constituted an offense. My upbringing would have me looking down on wearing jewelry, going to movies, watching TV, dancing, smoking, drinking while I learned the incongruity of doing things like bring home items from work for use at home, cutting people off in traffic and ignoring the needy. I left the church of my youth when I was 40 and now I'm in my 50's I have started to really learn what offenses in God's world really are.

Like the rest of Yancey's books I've read I loved this. Easy to read and left me with a list of people I now want to find out more about as well as ideas that I need to apply to my life. A thoughtful, practical look at what it looks like to live life now without losing sight of 'another world'.

'In the life of faith, we no longer judge God and his kingdom through worldly eyes but, instead, view this imperfect world in the light of God. Vision will always be clouded and imperfect, at least until the day of unification promised... Then rumours will cease, transposed into praise.'

I thoroughly enjoyed the first two-thirds of this book. His insights and admonitions were stirring and thoughtful. But I felt that he went off track and devolved into way too much emphasis on social justice, (as if that was/is the primary expression of the Christian faith), and not enough of the miraculous nature of Christianity and the gospel. Nor did it help that he elevated some liberal politicians and activists as being worthy Christian exemplars when they have shown themselves to be undeserving of such positions.

Nermine Hosni says

???? ? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? : ? ???? ???? ???? ????
? ? ???? ? ???? ???? ???? ?

???? ????????? ?? ????????????? ?????? : ?????? ????????? ?????? ???? ??????? ??????? ?????? ????????? ??????

????? ? ???? ???? ? ???? ???? ? ???? ? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ????
 ????? ???? ???? ? ???? ? ???? ? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ????
 ?????? ?????

I thoroughly enjoyed Yancey's writing. Growing up in the church some of the first sermons I remember were more about fire, brimstone, and sin. Not so much about God being about love and forgiveness. That came later on along with more of a focus on grace, faith and its importance in a person's life. Yancey admits to struggling with his faith and how he should walk between this world and the next which gives me hope and the knowledge that I'm not the only one. It's not a dry read either but full of information and a dash of humor here and there. I'll be reading more of books.

In the tradition of C.S. Lewis, this author depicts the spiritual world and the physical world as separate, but parallel places or dimensions. The author suggests the majority of people fail to see the spiritual world because of other physical things they elevate above it.

One such distraction cited by the author is pornography, which can similarly draw a partner away from the real relationship via the lure of paper images. Another example the author cites is communism, which attempts to elevate humanity instead of God, but which has the ultimate effect of reducing freedoms and subordinating citizens. The author explains that such idols often become addictions that eventually begin to control the devotee.

6

has earned more for his endorsements than twice the combined earnings of all U.S. Presidents for all their terms. Jordan easily earned more just endorsing Nike shoes than all the workers in Malaysia who ever worked to make the shoes.

Most people seemingly cannot abstain from worshiping that which is false, while nearby, the real, living butterfly opens and closes her wings in vain.

The author proclaims the way to combat this problem is by being more attentive, listening, thinking, and discerning about what is real. Such reflection can help us avoid the traps handed to us by advertising, propaganda, and the unspiritual world. We must recognize the deception of pornography and pursue true, wholesome, loving relationships instead. We must see the merits of a politician instead of the showboat political party from which he heralds. We must choose a product, like tennis shoes, based upon comfort and quality, not the sports idol that commercializes it.

God has much more in mind for us than disembodied deceptions. The author cites George Orwell in explaining how these awful worldly deceptions destroy us:

“I thought of a rather cruel trick I once played on a wasp. He was sucking jam on my plate, and I cut him in half. He paid no attention, merely went on with his meal, while a tiny stream of jam trickled out of his severed esophagus. Only when he tried to fly away did he grasp the dreadful thing that had happened to him. It is the same with modern man. The thing that has been cut away is his soul.” –George Orwell

One way to avoid deceptions and allurements is to honor the world as God’s art. Presently we pave over fertile land for parking lots, we pump toxins into the sky and rivers, and we mindlessly cast untold species into extinction. We allow 24,000 children to die each day of preventable diseases and we abort 126,000 more. We allow other children to be brought up in families that are housed in cardboard shacks and under bridges. We manufacture weapons capable of exterminating most of humanity. We abuse God’s work of art the same way many people abuse their own bodies, infusing them with tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and permanently scarring them with tattoos, piercings, and abuse. Too often, we show our own bodies the same deep disrespect that we afford God’s world as a whole. And in so doing, we destroy the very things that house our souls: our bodies and the environment that sustains us. This is worse than going into the Louvre or some other art museum and purposefully mutilating a masterpiece like the Mona Lisa. This is more like suicide or self-mutilation. Destroying the environment that nurtures us is just plain dumb! Destroying our bodies is even dumber! Instead of destroying God’s art, we should be exhibiting awe and humility.

We wrongly approach life as a series of moments, scheduling our time, setting goals, and marching onward. Phone calls, encounters, or any unscheduled events are too often viewed as jarring interruptions. Think how different this is from the life of Jesus, who gave full attention to the person before him, whether it was a Roman officer or a nameless woman with a hemorrhage of blood. Jesus drew lasting spiritual lessons from the most ordinary things: wildflowers, wheat, vineyards, sheep, weddings, families.

We can better find the spiritual world when we give our attention to what God sends to us, instead of focusing exclusively on some schedule that we have devised for ourselves. Our scheduling is of the physical world. God’s scheduling is leading us into the spiritual realm. Our scheduling keeps us thinking about what has happened and what is going to happen, instead of experiencing the present moment. We are so caught up in our plans that we become hardened against those things that come before us moment by moment. Too often, we don’t even notice what’s in the present moment.

We should look carefully at every human relationship or potential relationship, including every encounter with a surly clerk, selfish neighbor, unruly co-worker, or demanding relative and think carefully about how God would have us react to such people. We are social creatures, by nature. We were created to be social creatures. Expressions of intimacy and relationship move us towards the spiritual realm. But relationships

involve mutual consent. We cannot interact with someone who is hurrying past us on a mission of self-accomplishment or abusing and exploiting us.

As humans, we all desperately want to grow in personal intimacy with others. The union of wholesome relationships, the process of bringing bodies and souls into unison, helps us to see what it means to have union with God. But lust can deceive us into an addictive self-gratification that becomes so controlling that it displaces true loving relationships with narcissism and deviate illusions.

We must come to clearly understand that sex is not only a physical union; it is also a spiritual union: *“the two become one flesh”*. Casual sex trivializes this spiritual combination. When sex is conducted with foreknowledge that the relationship is only temporary, it becomes a sacrilege that distorts the holy conception of love. Sex is intended for a relationship that is going to be lasting and permanent. The author quotes C.S. Lewis in illuminating this:

“We use a most unfortunate idiom when we say of a lustful man prowling the streets, that he ‘wants a woman,’. Strictly speaking, a woman is just what he does not want. He wants a pleasure for which a woman happens to be the necessary piece of apparatus. How much he cares about the woman as such may be gauged by his attitude to her five minutes after fruition.” –C.S. Lewis

When we turn a relationship into a, as Lewis says, “piece of apparatus”, we are taking an otherwise profound expression of spiritual union and converting it into something to be discarded, much like an empty carton. The humanity of the used person is discounted and discarded as something unworthy of a loving relationship; and the spiritual side of sex is degraded into something profane.

We cannot truly plant the interests of another in the center of our being until we toss our personal desires and lusts aside as triviality. When we can love beyond the lust, beyond selfishness, beyond the expectation of getting anything in return, unconditionally, then a new “oneness”, a bond, comes into being. It is a unity, a relationship that is so solid that what affects one partner, also affects the other.

It’s not only love that gets subverted by the falsities of the world. The author relates how other spiritual attributes can be diminished by the seven deadly sins: Instead of humility we are distracted by pride. Instead of thankfulness, we become envious. Instead of peace, we engender anger. Instead of compassion, we depict greed. Instead of work, we are beset by sloth. Instead of fasting, we are beset by gluttony. Just like the fake butterfly, these sins lure us away from the spiritual and diminish us. Just like the severed wasp, mesmerized in sin, the sinful suddenly recoil in horror upon realization of the horrible predicaments in which they find themselves! God wants to free us from enslavement to these jam-like distractions.

God has provided the cure for sin, but to get the cure, we have to see through the distracting lies. Addiction tempts the addict to reduce life down to the longing for alcohol or narcotics or whatever it is that has become more real and more urgent than all the rest of Gods fabulous creation.

Sin is the punishment for sin. The more I choose against God’s design, the more I suffer. If we give our loyalty to something besides God, we are the one who suffers, as any alcoholic or sex addict can attest. Every sin is selfishness that blocks relationships with other people and with God. Kierkegaard said: *“Living in sin is like having a three-story house but staying in the dank cellar”*.

Repentance is not something that God demands of you before he will take you back; it is simply a description of what going back is like. You don’t have to sit in a sweat lodge to come out of sin. You don’t have to embark on a pilgrimage to come out of sin. You don’t have to crawl around on your knees to come out of sin. You don’t have to sacrifice an animal to come out of sin. You only need to understand that you

are loved and therefore forgiven; and that it is the manifestation of your return love for God and others that is most effective in keeping you out of sin.

To the extent that you engender love, you will not be inclined toward sin. Engendering love is taking love into yourself. God is love. Harboring God within you is how sin is defeated.

Like a seed, the body that is sown is perishable. It must be nourished to be raised a spiritual body. We must transcend physical instinct by ingesting the love of God. Jesus demonstrated this growth and resurrection.

Jesus honored people who have little value in the visible world. Our eyes must be opened to a different kind of beauty that manifests in love and sacrifice. Instead of seeking out people who stroke our ego, we find those whose egos need stroking; instead of important people with resources to do us favors, we find people with few resources; instead of the strong, we look for the weak; instead of the healthy, the sick. We seek to recognize the Lord's voice, his face, and his touch in every person we meet.

Jesus saw money as something to guard against: *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*. Money works on us much like lust and pride, it attracts us toward fantasies that are untrue deceptions. Money binds us further and further to the visible world, thereby denying us true freedom. We must become indifferent to money.

The unseen world must become more real for us than the visible world. Aging slowly removes our physical world traits and gives us the opportunity to develop traits for the next world. Dying is our most important act for which life is a long journey of preparation.

We must not be overcome by evil, but instead overcome evil with good. We must learn that evil is overcome through forgiveness. In developing our spirituality, we must hone our propensity for forgiveness as an otherworldly grace.

The author contends the spiritual world exists in a parallel universe with low-level signals transmitted back and forth. The physical world bombards us with sensual and enticing signals, tempting us to lust, to consume, to exploit, and to dominate. We have to cultivate transmissions across the chasm: through prayer, thorough listening. We must not come to feel completely at home in this life and totally unaware of the spiritual realm.

The best proof to others of the reality of the unseen world is the evidence of transformed lives. Be a torchbearer. Be an impregnator of the world. Cast a new and different light on your surroundings. Disengage from American culture by visiting a foreign country, hiking into the wilderness, or whatever it takes to break the cycle! Do something to experience a jolt of true reality! Stop breathing the air of lust, consumerism, selfishness, and ambition! Refuse to breathe it, reject the lies! Let your spirit be deepened and enlarged. The beauty of Christ's world is restrained only by our rejection of it. It is ours to unveil. The kingdom of God is within us.

rachel says

Skip everything else if you want and read the chapter about sex.

Adam Nelson says

Very profound reading. I put Yancey up there with Donald Miller (actually, he surpasses him because Miller, while deep, struggles to have a point sometimes). And Yancey is one of the few Christian thinkers I've read that understands what sin does in the life of a believer. Many would foolishly have us believe that our sin indicates to us that we have fallen again or that we have somehow forfeited our salvation or otherwise have proven we never had it in the first place. Instead, Yancey pronounces that our sin instead is its own worst punishment, bringing down upon ourselves a worldview that keeps us from seeing God as we ought to. There's a lot more to this book than that, but that really stuck with me the most. And I love his discussion of science and how, in its tendency to reduce things to their basest perceivable properties, it deceives us into thinking that we can understand all there is, when we're not really even close without faith. I think such a statement is just as much a commentary on the modern church as it is on modern science, for the legalism of many modern denominations is reductionism in its most egregious form.

Anna says

This was a good book explaining about what is out there after death. IF you are a Yancey fan, this is really not one of his best writings, but it still leaves a sense of tranquility of the life that comes after death.

Jarkko Laine says

The book has some good moments as it points out how Christianity should really be about loving your neighbor and how doing things for "the invisible world" actually makes a difference in this world as well.

Where the book falls short, however, is that all the examples don't really show why another world is needed for explaining all these positive actions, dreams and hopes. It's as if Yancey had told himself, "OK, let's write a skeptical book -- but not too skeptical." There are clear boundaries that he is not ready to cross, and one of them is that there has to be another world.

Carsten Thomsen says

Again a well written book by Yancey - filled with interesting stories and quotes - the subject is very broad - about a deeper awareness of the rumors, hints, windows in this world that points to Another World, the invisible and supernatural world.

Marlise says

I really enjoyed parts of this book. I even highlighted some sections to return to later. But I have given it 3 stars because it didn't really come together fully. It flows like a writer's journal with ideas scattered and loose but not really organized. Still a good read if you are looking for a reminder that our world is the City of God and we are just transitioning through the City of Man for a short while.

