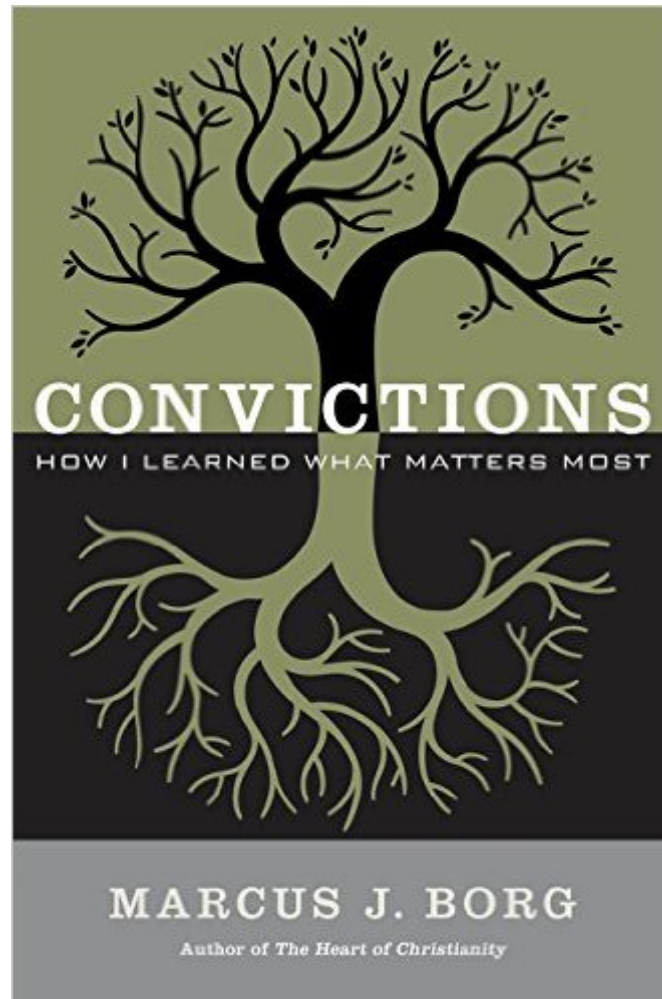


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Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most



Synopsis

On the occasion of his seventieth birthday, the renowned scholar Marcus J. Borg shares how he formed his bedrock religious beliefs, contending that Christians in America are at their best when they focus on hope and transformation and so shows how we can return to what really matters most. The result is a manifesto for all progressive Christians who seek the best path for following Jesus today. With each chapter embodying a distinct conviction, Borg writes provocatively and compellingly on the beliefs that can deeply ground us and guide us, such as: God is real and a mystery; salvation is more about this life than an afterlife; the Bible can be true without being literally true; Jesus's death on the cross matters "but not because he paid for our sins; God is passionate about justice and the poor; and to love God is to love like God. Borg calls all American Christians to reject divisiveness and exclusivity and create communities that celebrate joy, possibility, and renewal. Throughout, he reflects on what matters most, bringing to earth the kingdom of God Jesus talked about and transforming our relationships with one another. Rich in wisdom and insight, *Convictions* is sure to become a classic of contemporary Christianity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Convictions" is sort of a theological autobiography, in which Marcus Borg recounts his theological journey into what he calls "Progressive" Christianity, and explains the central ideas and convictions (hence the name of the book) which led him to the central beliefs he now holds. I recognized that much of the early questions and studies that led Borg to where he now finds himself are the same questions and studies that I am currently facing. It could be. And if so, I accept it,

because as I look at Borgâ™s convictions, I find myself almost there already. Among his convictions which Marcus Borg explains in his book is the idea that salvation is about way more than just going to heaven when we die. As I have argued for years, the Gospel is about all of life, not just what happens to us after death. Salvation is not just about how we will live in the hereafter, but also how we live in the here and now. Another conviction Borg unfolds is the idea that Jesus is the lens by which we must read and interpret all of Scripture. This too is something I have been writing about for two years or more, and am always thrilled when I encounter other writers and scholars saying the same thing. Then he has a chapter on how the Penal Substitutionary view of the atonement leads to some bad theology about God and our sin. Borg argues that the cross still matters and is central to Christianity, but the cross was not some sort of blood sacrifice as a payment for sin or a strange way of God dealing with His own anger by killing His Son. There are other chapters as well, all of them good. There was an excellent chapter on Borgâ™s conviction about peace and non-violence.

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