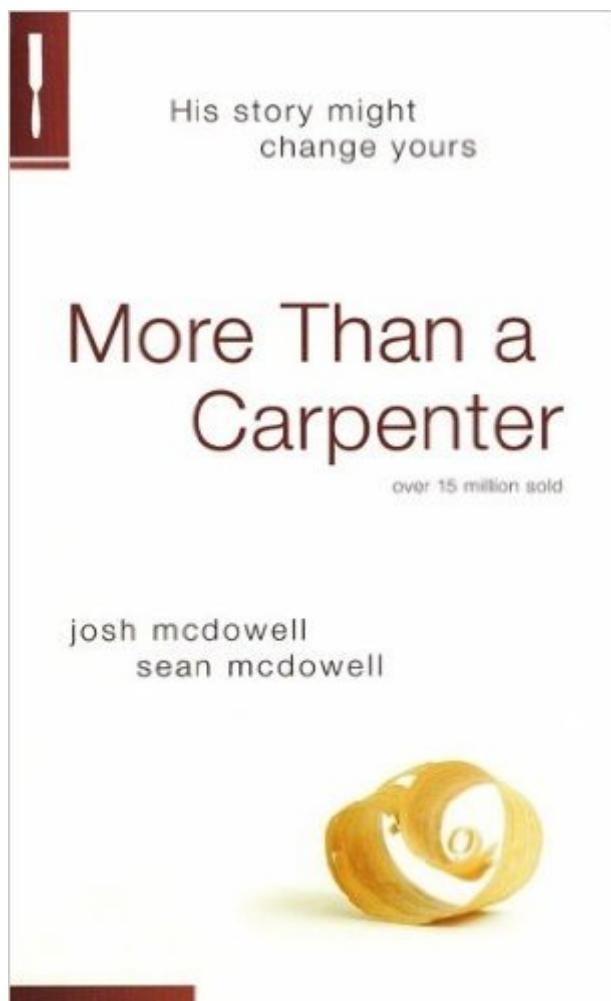


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More Than A Carpenter



Synopsis

The inspirational classic, More than a Carpenter, is now updated for a new generation of seekers with a fresh look, revised material, and a new chapter that addresses questions commonly raised today. Former skeptic Josh McDowell is now joined by his son Sean as they examine the evidence about Jesus. Is he really the Lord he claimed to be? How can we know for sure? More than a Carpenter offers arguments for faith from a skeptic turned believer. Since its original publication in 1977, this modern classic has sold over 15 million copies, been translated into dozens of languages, and introduced countless people to the real Jesus. Now with new content that addresses questions raised by today's popular atheist writers. Audio edition read by Sean McDowell.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (541 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I was raised a Roman Catholic as far back as I can remember. Tragedies in my life immeasurably challenged my belief in God. It was challenged to the point where I began to despise talk of religion, specifically the faith I was raised with -- Christianity. I began to consistently ask myself, "Is God real?" My "blind belief" wavered to the point where I found myself with a strong tendency to challenge religious believers, almost to the point of unconsciously trying to convince them out of their faith whenever I can. I became a man of logic and reasoning, and simply could not entertain "blind belief" in any way. Then I read this book. It was logical and compelling, and I found myself with no sound way to refute what Josh McDowell was saying. I could criticize his thoroughness, but diving into excruciating detail onto the sciences he employed would've been criticized as redundant.

It did not have the "hype" and "hoopla" of "Praise the Lord!" mentality. It was just plain scientific reasoning, logic, and common sense. I saw the criticisms other people had of this book, and I find it hard to understand how they could castigate this book as they did. I was very steadfast in my resentment towards Christianity, but I was influenced otherwise -- I just had to be because the logic that the author used, for me, made sense. For example, I lost a great deal of faith in Christianity when I learned how the Bible was written many years after Jesus' death, and that it was largely a result of "word of mouth". But the author points out that if the miracles of Jesus were farce, how can it withstand its persistence through all those years?

Throughout my life, I have been proud of being intelligent AND a Christian. But never until high school did I start hearing from non-believing peers that I MUST be blind; how can a Christian be in any way intelligent? I decided not to listen to them -- until one day during college, EVERY doubt I ever had of my faith emerged. The day the earth came down -- I ran to my Christian friends in desperate help, and the first book I came upon through recommendation was this book. Evidently, this was a Christian classic. And so I began to read, and from this experience, I learned a couple things and other points in hindsight, for viewers to know. 1) Josh McDowell has a powerful testimony. Just that made me feel a little better. However, my intellect told me I can't base my beliefs completely on other people's experiences. 2) I found out I was an extreme skeptic, and I had no idea how powerful my doubts were. I even wondered if I had EVER been a Christian. 3) This is a great introductory book into apologetics. It outlines the basics of most arguments an apologist can give. It's almost a mini-handbook, insightful and a comfort. 4) However, the very fact that I was not completely assured or fully convinced afterward says something. The book only made me want to run right to Jerusalem and start doing my own personal research; why? The book's arguments were 80% of the time decent and challenging enough to keep you encouraged you may be on the right track, but the other 20% was vague and lacking in thought of other possibilities. Yet, in hindsight, I would still recommend this to skeptics as an introductory book and helpful in your search for truth (good enough to get 3 stars from me!!), but this should not be your sole source to the evidence of Christianity.

If you want someone to really understand why they can actually believe in the Bible and the message that it contains (the Gospel of Jesus), my experience has been that getting them to read this book is one of the best ways. While in the US Air Force, I was stationed on Guam, where a friend of mine had a copy of this book, which he had borrowed from a friend. He explained a little

about it and told me he really enjoyed reading it. He said that his own faith was greatly increased. I thought that sounded pretty good, so I asked him to let me borrow it. I did, it was awesome, my own faith grew tremendously, and I couldn't help but to tell another friend of mine all about it. So, this next friend borrowed it, he thought it was great, it made a great impression on him (he was a newborn Christian, at the time, and 12 years later he still has a very close walk with the Lord), and then a friend of his borrowed it! So, finally we had to get the book passed back up the food chain, from friend to friend to friend to friend to friend, just to get it back into the hands of the original owner (I can only assume that he hadn't borrowed it, too). That was around 1989 or 1990. 12 years later, I was thinking about how great of an impact that little paperback book had on me and was telling my wife how grateful I was to have ever come across it. She decided to buy 18 copies of it for me, for Christmas. So I gave copies to some family members and friends from work. A recent incident was a few months ago.

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