
Leaving Church A Memoir Of Faith Barbara Brown Taylor

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[You Lost Me Piatkus Books](#)

After spending twenty-five years as a devout member of the United Pentecostal Church, the author shares her experience of leaving the community she once called "family". This debut memoir dives into the core legalistic doctrines of the United Pentecostal Church and shares scripture references along with Biblical revelations of God's grace. The author goes into personal details exploring the oppression and low self-esteem women especially face in the grips of this kind of organization. Follow her on her journey as she overcomes the feelings of inadequacy and low self-worth as she discovers who she truly is as a child of her

Creator and breaks free from the bondage of religious traditions.

Undivided Canterbury Press

In this long awaited follow-up to the best-selling *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor explores 'the treasures of darkness' that the Bible speaks about. What can we learn about the ways of God when we cannot see the way ahead, are lost, alone, frightened, not in control or when the world around us seems to have descended into darkness?

Post-Traumatic Church Syndrome Fortress Press

From the Preface: "My name is Flora Jessop. I've been called apostate, vigilante, and crazy bitch, and maybe I am. But some people call me a hero, and I'd like to think they're right too. If I am a hero, maybe it's because every time I can play a part in saving a child or a woman from a life of servitude and degradation, I'm saving a little piece of me, too. I was one of twenty-eight children born to my dad and his

three wives. Indoctrinated to believe that the outside world was evil, and that I resided among the righteous, I was destined to marry a man chosen for me by the Prophet. I would then live in harmony with my sister-wives, bear many children, and obey and serve my future husband in this life and throughout eternity. But my innocence didn't last long. While still a child, I understood that the church of the righteous was nothing but a church of lies. When I was eight years old my father sexually molested me for the first time, raping me when I was twelve. I tried to kill myself. Beaten, molested, taunted, and abused by family members alleging they only wanted to save my soul became a daily routine, I ran from this abuse more than once in my early teens--even attempting to cross the desert on foot. My family hunted me down. I thought government agencies would provide me safety if I reported my father. Instead, police and social services colluded with the FLDS to return me to my family and I ended up back inside polygamy, right where I started." Flora goes on from there to tell the dramatic true story of how she ultimately escaped and has been fighting against frustrating obstacles with hard fought successes in rescuing women and children from the FLDS. It's a story you can't put down.

Learning to Walk in the Dark NavPress

In the strange, us-versus-them Christian subculture of the 1990s, a

person's faith was measured by how many WWJD bracelets she wore and whether he had kissed dating goodbye. Evangelical poster child Addie Zierman wore three bracelets asking what Jesus would do. She also led two Bible studies and listened exclusively to Christian music. She was on fire for God and unaware that the flame was dwindling—until it burned out. Addie chronicles her journey through church culture and first love, and her entrance—unprepared and angry—into marriage. When she drops out of church and very nearly her marriage as well, it is on a sea of tequila and depression. She isn't sure if she'll ever go back. *When We Were on Fire* is a funny, heartbreaking story of untangling oneself from what is expected to arrive at faith that is not bound by tradition or current church fashion. Addie looks for what lasts when nothing else seems worth keeping. It's a story for doubters, cynics, and anyone who has felt alone in church.

On Her Knees Convergent Books

"Read it for twists on twists, meditations on faith, and a deeply thoughtful treatment of an evangelical community." — Glamour, Beach Reads That Are Like Summer in a Book "A thoughtful and candid meditation on faith, family, and forgiveness . . . fabulous." —Claire Lombardo, New York Times bestselling author of *The Most Fun We Ever Had* Recommended by Good Housekeeping, Elle, Parade, Real Simple, Glamour, Refinery29, Bustle, Oprah Daily, The Millions, Shondaland, Yahoo!, Literary Hub, and more! A mesmerizing debut novel set in northern Texas about two sisters who discover an unsettling secret about their father, the head pastor of an evangelical megachurch, that upends their lives and community—a story of family, identity, and the delicate line between faith and deception. Luke Nolan has led the Hope congregation for more than a decade, while his wife and

daughters have patiently upheld what it means to live righteously. Made famous by a viral sermon on purity co-written with his eldest daughter, Abigail, Luke is the prototype of a modern preacher: tall, handsome, a spellbinding speaker. But his younger daughter Caroline has begun to notice the cracks in their comfortable life. She is certain that her perfect, pristine sister is about to marry the wrong man—and Caroline has slid into sin with a boy she's known her entire life, wondering why God would care so much about her virginity anyway. When it comes to light, five weeks before Abigail's wedding, that Luke has been lying to his family, the entire Nolan clan falls into a tailspin. Caroline seizes the opportunity to be alone with her sister. The two girls flee to the ranch they inherited from their maternal grandmother, far removed from the embarrassing drama of their parents and the prying eyes of the community. But with the date of Abigail's wedding fast approaching, the sisters will have to make a hard decision about which familial bonds are worth protecting. An intimate coming-of-age story and a modern woman's read, *God Spare the Girls* lays bare the rabid love of sisterhood and asks what we owe our communities, our families, and ourselves. "A deeply felt book about love — love for family and community, for people who sustain you and people who disappoint you. And love for God, too, which Kelsey McKinney writes about with humane and incisive frankness."—Linda Holmes, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Evvie Drake Starts Over* "The accomplishment of this canny novel is in positing coming of age itself as a loss of faith—not only in the church, but in our parents, our family, and the world as we thought we understood it." — Rumaan Alam, *New*

York Times bestselling author of *Leave the World Behind* and *Rich and Pretty*

Leaving the Witness Baker Books

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Deacon King Kong* and *The Good Lord Bird*, winner of the National Book Award for Fiction: The modern classic that Oprah.com calls one of the best memoirs of a generation and that launched James McBride's literary career. More than two years on *The New York Times* bestseller list. As a boy in Brooklyn's Red Hook projects, James McBride knew his mother was different. But when he asked her about it, she'd simply say 'I'm light-skinned.' Later he wondered if he was different too, and asked his mother if he was black or white. 'You're a human being! Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody!' she snapped back. And when James asked about God, she told him 'God is the color of water.' This is the remarkable story of an eccentric and determined woman: a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the Deep South who fled to Harlem, married a black preacher, founded a Baptist church and put twelve children through college. A celebration of resilience, faith and forgiveness, *The Color of Water* is an eloquent exploration of what family really means.

An Altar in the World Canterbury Press

Kent Dobson climbed Mount Sinai in search of the God who had eluded him. Instead he got bitten by a camel. Dobson was climbing the ladder of Christianity, too: a worship leader, teacher, and ultimately senior pastor of one of the largest and most prominent churches in America. But he was growing disillusioned with the faith, at least inside the shell of organized religion. One Sunday morning, he preached to his congregation, "I don't know what the word God even means anymore." He soon left the church, but his quest for God became more intense than ever. In *Bitten by a Camel*, Dobson deconstructs much of what passes as Christianity, but on the foundation of Jesus and the Bible, he reconstructs a faith that is fulfilling, life-giving, and true—true to himself and true to God. Dobson's message is funny, poignant, and winsome. And it is ultimately, like the message of Jesus himself, hopeful.

Mormon Boy A&C Black

For anyone who has ever felt like they don't belong, Sigh, Gone shares an irreverent, funny, and moving tale of displacement and assimilation woven together with poignant themes from beloved works of classic literature. In 1975, during the fall of Saigon, Phuc Tran immigrates to America along with his family. By sheer chance they land in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a small town where the Trans struggle to assimilate into their new life. In this coming-of-age memoir told through the themes of great books such as *The Metamorphosis*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Iliad*, and more, Tran navigates the push and pull of finding and accepting himself despite the challenges of immigration, feelings of isolation, and teenage rebellion, all while attempting to meet the rigid expectations set by his immigrant parents. Appealing to fans of coming-of-age memoirs such as *Fresh Off the Boat*, *Running with Scissors*, or tales of assimilation like Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Displaced* and *The Refugees*, Sigh, Gone explores one man's bewildering experiences of abuse, racism, and tragedy and reveals redemption and connection in books and punk rock. Against the hairspray-and-synthesizer backdrop of the '80s, he finds solace and kinship in the wisdom of classic literature, and in the subculture of punk rock, he finds affirmation and echoes of his disaffection. In his journey for self-discovery Tran ultimately finds refuge and inspiration in the art that shapes—and ultimately saves—him.

There I Am John Wiley & Sons

"I saw some parents at Liberty Park who were chasing their kids around. The dad was smoking a cigarette and I had such

overwhelming pity for those poor kids because I assumed their dad must have been a terrible person, and it only stood to reason that he was an awful father who didn't love his children. I was able to quickly deduce all this because he was smoking. I watched him push his kids on the swing, wondering when he might push them too far, something only a wicked person would do." *Mormon Boy* is an unforgettable peek into the world of a young Warren Driggs--his wonderful family, his loving parents, nine siblings, and a supportive, tight-knit community. What could possibly be wrong with that? This honest, heartwarming, and at times hilarious coming-of-age-and-out-of-religion memoir will leave you laughing, smiling, and cringing until the last page.

The Preaching Life Harper Collins

D. A. Carson's father was a pioneering church-planter and pastor in Quebec. But still, an ordinary pastor--except that he ministered during the decades that brought French Canada from the brutal challenges of persecution and imprisonment for Baptist ministers to spectacular growth and revival in the 1970s. It is a story, and an era, that few in the English-speaking world know anything about. But through Tom Carson's journals and written prayers, and the narrative and historical background supplied by his son, readers will be given a firsthand account of not only this trying time in North American church history, but of one pastor's life and times, dreams and disappointments. With words that will ring true for every person who has devoted themselves to the Lord's work, this unique book serves to remind readers that though the sacrifices of serving God are great, the sweetness of living a faithful, obedient life is greater still.

Your Story Matters Crown

The critically acclaimed author of "Leaving Church" continues her

spiritual journey by revealing how she learned to encounter the sacred everywhere in the world.

Leaving Church HarperCollins

"Rosaria, by the standards of many, was living a very good life. She had a tenured position at a large university in a field for which she cared deeply. She owned two homes with her partner, in which they provided hospitality to students and activists that were looking to make a difference in the world. In the community, Rosaria was involved in volunteer work. At the university, she was a respected advisor of students and her department's curriculum. And then, in her late 30s, Rosaria encountered something that turned her world upside down -- the idea that Christianity, a religion that she had regarded as problematic and sometimes downright damaging, might be right about who God was. That idea seemed to fly in the face of the people and causes that she most loved. What follows is a story of what she describes as a train wreck at the hand of the supernatural. These are her secret thoughts about those events, written as only a reflective English professor could."--Back cover.

Leaving the Fold Crossway

For more than twenty years, Charles Templeton was a major figure in the church in Canada and the United States. During the 1950s, he and Billy Graham were the two most successful exponents of mass evangelism in North America. Templeton spoke nightly to stadium crowds of up to thirty thousand people. However, increasing doubts about the validity of the Old Testament and the teachings of the Christian church finally brought about a crisis in his faith and in 1957 he resigned from the ministry. In *Farewell to God*, Templeton speaks out about his reasons for the abandonment of his faith. In straightforward language, Templeton deals with such subjects as the Creation fable, racial prejudice in the Bible, the identity of Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus' alienation from his family, the second-class status of women in the church, the mystery of evil, the illusion that prayer works, why there is

suffering and death, and the loss of faith in God. He concludes with a positive personal statement: "I Believe."

Farewell to God Penguin

A gripping story of how an entire family, deeply enmeshed in Mormonism for thirty years, found their way out and found faith in Jesus Christ. For thirty years, Lynn Wilder, once a tenured faculty member at Brigham Young University, and her family lived in, loved, and promoted the Mormon Church. Then their son Micah, serving his Mormon mission in Florida, had a revelation: God knew him personally. God loved him. And the Mormon Church did not offer the true gospel. Micah's conversion to Christ put the family in a tailspin. They wondered, Have we believed the wrong thing for decades? If we leave Mormonism, what does this mean for our safety, jobs, and relationships? Is Christianity all that different from Mormonism anyway? As Lynn tells her story of abandoning the deception of Mormonism to receive God's grace, she gives a rare look into Mormon culture, what it means to grow up Mormon, and why the contrasts between Mormonism and Christianity make all the difference in the world. Whether you are in the Mormon Church, are curious about Mormonism, or simply are looking for a gripping story, *Unveiling Grace* will strengthen your faith in the true God who loves you no matter what.

God Spare the Girls Simon and Schuster

Close to 60 percent of young people who went to church as teens drop out after high school. Now the bestselling author of *unChristian* trains his researcher's eye on these young believers. Where Kinnaman's first book *unChristian* showed the world what outsiders aged 16-29 think of Christianity, *You Lost Me* shows why younger Christians aged 16-29 are leaving the church and rethinking their faith. Based on new research, *You Lost Me* shows

pastors, church leaders, and parents how we have failed to equip young people to live "in but not of" the world and how this has serious long-term consequences. More importantly, Kinnaman offers ideas on how to help young people develop and maintain a vibrant faith that they embrace over a lifetime.

Wiving Simon and Schuster

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Named one of Entertainment Tonight's Best Celebrity Memoirs of 2023 As seen in The New York Times, People, The Cut, Vulture, The Daily Beast, Today, Bustle, Us Weekly, Life & Style, and Interview "No stone goes unturned" (People) in this memoir about The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City star Heather Gay's departure from the Mormon Church, and her unforeseen success in business, television, and single motherhood. Straight off the slopes and into the spotlight, Heather Gay is famous for speaking the gospel truth. Whether as a businesswoman, mother, or television personality, she is unafraid to blaze a new trail, even if it means losing family, friends, and her community. Born and bred to be devout, Heather based her life around her faith. She attended Brigham Young University, served a mission in France, and married into Mormon royalty in the temple. But her life as a good Mormon abruptly ended when she lost the marriage and faith that she had once believed would last forever. With writing that is beautiful, sad, funny, and true, Heather recounts the difficult discovery of the darkness and damage that often exists behind a picture-perfect life, while examining the nuanced relationship between duty to self and duty to God. "An eye-opening firsthand account of religious indoctrination told with candor and sincerity" (Interview magazine), *Bad Mormon* is an unfiltered look at the religion that broke her heart.

Unveiling Grace McClelland & Stewart

From beloved writer and renowned preacher Barbara Brown Taylor comes a new collection of stories and sermons of faith, grace, and hope. Taylor, author of the best-selling books *Holy Envy* and *An Altar in the World*, among others, finds that when you are the invited guest speaking of faith to people you don't know, one must seek common ground: exploring the central human experience. Full of Taylor's astute observations on the Spirit and the state of the world along with her gentle wit, this collection will inspire Taylor's fans and preachers alike as she explores faith in all its beauty and complexity.

The Color of Water Rowman & Littlefield

This Sunday Times bestseller is a memoir about faith and doubt, with a strong meditative and philosophical heart

Empty the Pews Harmony

Are you a Catholic or were you a Catholic? Do you know someone who is Catholic? Then this book could save your spiritual life or their spiritual life. Whether you read this book or not could mean the difference between life and death and heaven or hell. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest denomination of professed believers in Jesus Christ in the world, but do they preach the Gospel and the truth of the Bible or do they mislead parishioners with false doctrines and edicts not found in the Bible? Dr. Gauss is a former Catholic who discovered the truth of the Bible and was set free from the spiritual bondage of the Roman Catholic Church. You can also be set free by knowing the truth taught by Jesus and His Apostles. In this expanded edition, Dr. Gauss explores additional non-biblical traditions of the Roman Catholic Church.

Holy Envy Bethany House

How one woman's soul-searching journey led her to the Mormon church and how her discovery of Jesus, helped her leave despite horrific persecution.