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Qureshi's "Seeking Allah, finding Jesus: A devout Muslim encounters Christianity" (Book Review)

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Allen gathered Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entity heads Paige Patterson, Frank Page, Thom Rainer, Ronnie Floyd, and R. Albert Mohler Jr. along with other influential Southern Baptist leaders including David Dockery. These addresses along with additional contributions from SBC leaders like Daniel Akin, David Platt, Kevin Ezell, Owen Strachan, Tony Merida, and Walter Strickland II who were unable to attend the symposium form the corpus of this volume.

Allen's overall purpose in the book is to further the cause of Southern Baptists and their calling "to be a people standing on the Word of God and moving forward together to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ" (p. 6). To this end, he had the contributors address issues distinctive to the SBC like the Cooperative Program, state conventions, church membership, Southern Baptist identity, ecclesiology, missions, and Baptist history as well as issues related to a broader evangelical base like the SBC's relationship to evangelicalism at large, current issues in the sexual revolution, and ethnic diversity. Every contributor writes in his own distinctive style, but the content across the spectrum is phenomenal. It is difficult to elevate one particular essay over another because they all successfully serve their purpose. This book is critically important for anyone wanting to better understand Southern Baptist history, the SBC as it stands today, and where it must head for the future. Allen's book is essential reading for any Southern Baptist leader or those aspiring to be a leader, whether it be at the national, state, associational, or local church level.

Reviewer

Charles Huckaby, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Qureshi, N. (2016). *Seeking Allah, finding Jesus: A devout Muslim encounters Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 363 pp. \$17.99. ISBN 9780310527237

As the child of Pakistani immigrants to the United States, Dr. Nabeel Qureshi absorbed the beliefs and practices of Islam from birth. His close friendship with a Christian classmate at a Virginia university led Qureshi to explore the foundations of Islam and to compare the teachings of Islam with the Christian faith. Qureshi gave his life to Christ during medical school. Since completing medical school, Dr. Qureshi has earned degrees in Christian apologetics and religion, and he has been a speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. His first book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, became the first double-category winner of the Christian Book Award in 2015, winning in both the Non-Fiction and New Author categories.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus is more than a Christian autobiography. In his introduction, the author states three purposes for the book:

1. To tear down walls by giving non-Muslim readers an insider's perspective into a Muslim's heart and mind (p. 17).
2. To equip the reader with facts and knowledge, showing the strength of the case for the gospel contrasted with the case for Islam (p. 18).
3. To portray the immense inner struggle of Muslims grappling with the gospel (p. 18).

The structure of the book allows for multiple methods of reading, depending on the reader's purpose. While Qureshi's life story is largely chronologically told, its chapters are arranged topically into ten sections. Ten expert contributors, including scholars such as Daniel B. Wallace and Gary Habermas, respond to one section each in an appendix. The author recommends reading the expert contributions upon the completion of each section. Qureshi has further organized the sections into three units: "Understanding Islam and Muslims in the West," "Weighing the evidence for Christianity and for Islam," and "Confronting the cost of conversion."

The glossary includes both Islamic terms and Christian theological terms, such as "soteriology," that may be unfamiliar to many readers. As a Muslim, Qureshi adhered to the Ahmadi sect. One of the appendices addresses the question "Are Ahmadis Muslims?" The extended epilogue in the 2016 paperback edition includes more information about Qureshi's life after his conversion, added in response to reader requests.

Qureshi's training and experience in forensic debating informed his investigation into the foundations of his Islamic faith and his evaluation of the claims of the Christian faith. The rhetorical form will likely be more persuasive for readers with a Western worldview. This book compares favorably with apologetic classics such as Josh McDowell's *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* and *More Than a Carpenter* and Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christ*. In fact, Josh McDowell is one of the ten expert contributors to this book, and Lee Strobel provided its foreword.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus may be read for personal inspiration or for group study, or it may be used as a text or as supplementary reading for college or seminary courses. Most libraries in Christian institutions will want to add this book to their collections. Qureshi's respectful approach to a potentially divisive subject makes this book suitable for many public library collections as well.

Reviewer

Carrie Beth Lowe, Johnson University