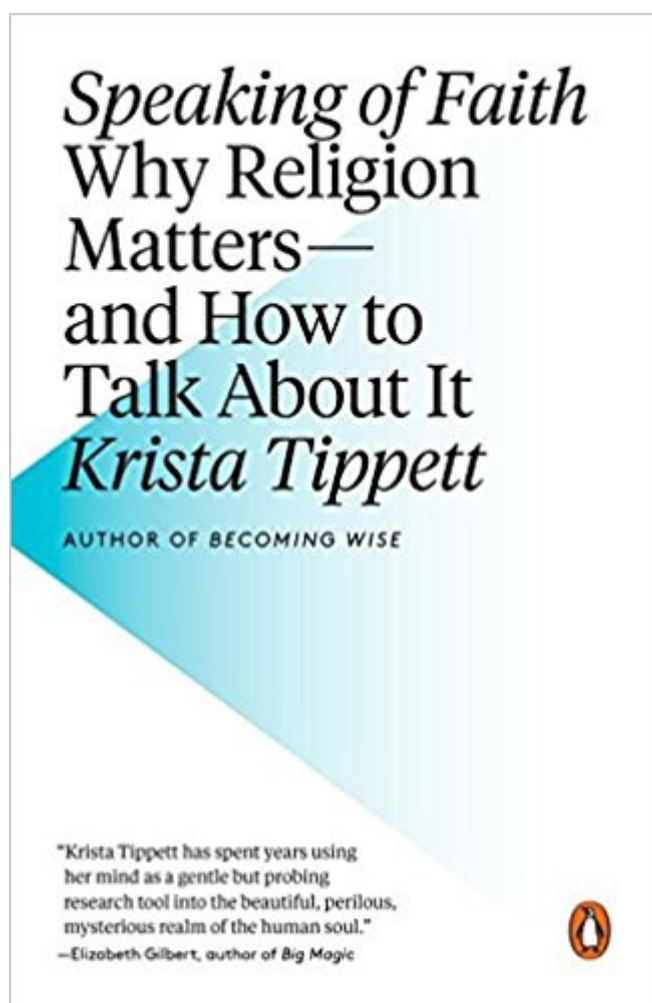


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# Speaking Of Faith: Why Religion Matters--and How To Talk About It



## Synopsis

A thought-provoking, original appraisal of the meaning of religion by the host of public radio's *On Being* Krista Tippett, widely becoming known as the Bill Moyers of radio, is one of the country's most intelligent and insightful commentators on religion, ethics, and the human spirit. With this book, she draws on her own life story and her intimate conversations with both ordinary and famous figures, including Elie Wiesel, Karen Armstrong, and Thich Nhat Hanh, to explore complex subjects like science, love, virtue, and violence within the context of spirituality and everyday life. Her way of speaking about the mysteries of life--and of listening with care to those who endeavor to understand those mysteries--is nothing short of revolutionary.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (January 29, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143113186

ISBN-13: 978-0143113188

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 61 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #125,593 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Psychology #156 in Books > History > World > Religious > Religion, Politics & State #164 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Church & State

## Customer Reviews

Tippett, host of the weekly NPR radio show *Speaking of Faith*, offers a challenging book that is part intellectual autobiography, part rumination on the issues of the day. It begins with a fairly detailed discussion of the death of "secularization theory" as outlined by Harvey Cox and others--not a typical opening salvo for a spiritual memoir--and then reveals Tippett's own intellectual and spiritual formation. She discusses at length how her views were shaped not only by her Southern Baptist grandfather in Oklahoma, or by her adolescent rejection of his rigidity, but by the time she spent in East and West Germany in her 20s, first as a journalist and then as a diplomat. She followed this period with marriage and a stint in England before taking the plunge and enrolling in divinity school in the early 1990s. More than a personal chronicle, however, this is a rigorously brainy piece of

work, as informed by the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reinhold Niebuhr, Charles Darwin and Annie Dillard as it is by Tippet's fascinating interviews with figures like Elie Wiesel and Karen Armstrong. As Tippet takes on issues from the science-and-religion debates to the future of progressive Islam, she shows herself to possess the same "imaginative intellectual approach" that she admires in some of her interview subjects. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"In a day where religion-or, rather arguments over religion-divide us into ever more entrenched and frustrated camps, Krista Tippet is exactly the measured, balanced commentator we need."

-Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love* "Tippet's prose is lyrical and profound; her arguments should move the secularist and the dogmatist alike to a new vision of peace." -Andrew Solomon, author of *The Noonday Demon*

Krista Tippet has a unique, loving and nonjudgemental approach to people of all religions. This book is both biographical and reflective of the wonderful interviews Krista does on *Speaking of Faith*, a public radio program on spirituality. Krista has developed an inclusive, thoughtful, humorous and loving approach to interviewing great spiritual leaders and scholars of all faiths, which details the individual nature of human spirituality. Krista looks for common ground with other seekers, providing a refreshing alternative to religious stereotypes that classify, generalize, and pass judgement on the spirituality of other cultures. Krista changed from a bright, international political negotiator, without an active faith, to a divinity student 2 years later. Krista now is a professor of religion and has developed an unusual ability to make people feel comfortable talking about their spiritual growth. I highly recommend this book for all who seek a deeper relationship with God, as it is fascinating and easy reading. I listen with fascination to Krista's 6 AM "Speaking of Faith" on MPBN each Sunday morning in Maine for inspiration.

I have enjoyed and respected the NPR broadcasts of *Speaking of Faith* by Krista Tippet because of her interviewing skills in drawing out a wide variety of faith interpretations from interesting and intelligent guests on her show. In preparation for meeting the author in person, I purchased this book and mistakenly tried to skim it, but I found myself highlighting and rereading passages, and being challenged by meaty nuggets from philosophers, scientists, and theologians woven together and served up in the author's knowledgeable melange. Why are we here? What is faith? What truths are universal? These types of questions are posed and explored with ingredients of thinkers

from both ancient and contemporary times. Such chapters as "Rethinking Religious Truth" are not necessarily beach time reading, but I loved the opportunity to sample the smorgasbord of words of wisdom that I found in Krista Tippett's literate, yet accessible, offering.

The paperback edition of the book that I had ordered included an excellent discussion guide, etc. The cover picture shown on your site was of that specific edition. However, when I received the two copies I had ordered, it was not of that edition, not of the book that you have pictured on your site. Very, very disappointing. I returned the two books. You re-embursed the money. I would much rather that you had sought the correct edition and sent me that. I hope the selling of editions other than the ones pictured or described is not something that happens with any kind of frequency, either with books, CDs or DVDs. This is the first time it has happened for me. The book itself is extraordinary. I found the hardcover in a sale bin and thought it was a collection of her interviews on NPR. But it is her memoir, her own faith development - filled with thought provoking, faith enriching and spirit stirring insights. Beautifully written and definitely motivating the reader to go on his/her own spiritual journey. Her analysis of power and influence of religion, especially fundamentalism, gives great understanding of what is happening in our world today. And even more, may help individuals understand their own knee-jerk reactions to their own ungospel-like attitudes of exclusion, rather than inclusion. For me the book holds wisdom that deserves a wide readership. And that is why I buy many copies to give to friends, and to encourage people in church ministry to use as a guide in faith/ministry/awareness expansion. I myself am a Catholic priest - and I felt the Holy Spirit's "ru'ah" upon me the whole time I was reading this book.

I sent the book to my daughter because I had enjoyed it so much. I heard about Krista Tippett on NPR . She has an open way to discuss issues of Faith with people with different views. She holds on to her faith in God based on Jesus Christ. I wanted my daughter who, is going through a questioning time to have a chance to read a book by someone her own age . Krista is my daughter's age. Bernice Dye

Enjoyed this book immensely for many reasons. The transparency .....covering various religions and beliefs w/out attacking anyone. I felt I was alongside Krista as she was reliving her life experiences and so appreciated her ability to share her struggles, her victories and those wonderful people along the way she interviewed who also shared such wisdom around how we all need to walk the earth together not in tolerance but in unity! I will be reading this again as once is not

enough to digest everything! I purposely purchased this on my Kindle so I wouldn't mark the book up! I will be purchasing a hard copy in hopes of getting some of my friends/family to read it!

We listen to Krista's radio program, "On Being" in awe of her insight with guests. Her book gives background into how she got that way. "Loved it."

In a multicultural society, we need this kind of understanding. I actually used this book in a study group for my graduate thesis. (MA Theology 2010) The group included people of various religious backgrounds. It was also part of my final paper and a sermon at my church. I had the pleasure of seeing Ms. Tippet when she spoke in Philadelphia, PA. And, I still listen to her on NPR.

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