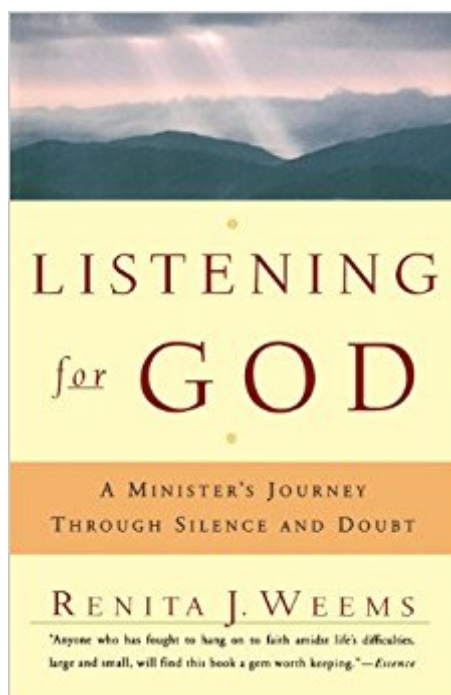


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Listening For God: A Ministers Journey Through Silence And Doubt



Synopsis

Throughout the past two decades, Renita J. Weems has been noted and praised for her writing, galvanizing national speaking, and pioneering scholarship in the field of Old Testament studies. Yet in the midst of her celebrated work, she was experiencing a profound spiritual crisis permeated by a hollow, painful silence that seemed, at times, to mark an irreparable rupture in her communication with God. In this deeply affecting book, Weems addresses the believer's yearning for God through periods of inconstancy, vacillation, and disenchantment. Her own spiritual disquietude will be familiar to all who struggle to maintain faith while the details of daily life -- negotiating with children and spouses, caring for ailing parents, living up to professional expectations, developing hobbies, managing finances, and planning for the future -- compete for energy with one's relationship with God. In sharing her own strategies for redefining mundane rituals so that they contribute to reverence and devotion, Weems offers a beacon of light for all believers struggling to listen for God amidst the din of worldly demands and distractions.

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Customer Reviews

As a writer and one who has an ongoing inner dialogue (often chaotic debate), this book arrived in my hands like an angel to the dying. For a number of years I've been 'on hold' regarding taking action on a number of projects, believing myself to be an imposter when I have so many questions and so much doubt. Ms Weems, in her honest sharing, has offered me a new perspective. With humor, teeth gritting honesty, and a trusting soul, Renita Weems shares her struggle and doubt,

offering in the end a gift of love and wisdom. What a wonderful gift to those of us stumbling along the path. Thank you.

Only the Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems-Espinosa could have written such a book with such gut-wrenching truth and honesty. Not every believer will experience all the levels of "silence" that she has been through but if you know God, there may be times when you will and I thank God that I ain't crazy enough to give up on God but to keep on believing, keep the faith, keep praying even when I think God is truly silent...He's not. I just started reading this book and I am overcome with the insight which she reveals and shares about the true and living God which I (we) serve. I enjoy the conversations that she shares during this silence-period (of God) with other people who question our faith and the why, the how, the what, that we believe...Her responses are so real into giving people what they want to hear about us but sometimes is not an indication at the time. This is a book that I know will be a reference and reminder whenever I think God is not listening, or not there for me, this book will remind me of His all listening ear and all seeing eye and Presence in my life at all times.

A brilliantly written book with humor which kept me glued to the pages. I could not put it down. It was just so uplifting to hear that others are experiencing the same "lost feelings" I have felt. To have those feelings validated has made a profound difference in my understanding of our wonderful God and this journey we are on.

Thank you! I, too, have experienced periods of "God silence" and longed to restore the closeness of that relationship. As I read this book I found myself repeatedly saying "Thank you for writing this book!" It has been balm to my soul. So often lay people expect clergy to be in constant connection to God, as if a clergyperson has some deep, unbreakable connection that laypeople aren't privy to. The truth is that clergy also have their times of doubt and spiritual desert, and it's important to take the time and space necessary to tend to the needs. Church-folk do not often understand this and are more likely to cast out those who are experiencing this painful lack of palpable spiritual connection rather than recognizing that in many cases this is evidence of clergy burn-out and in need of intervention. Thank you Renita for putting a face on the issue and adding understanding.

I loved this book. After receiving this book, I devoured it in a matter of days. I have found myself picking it up and rereading certain passages. I laughed often and felt as if I'd sat down to a

conversation with an old friend. What most endeared me to this book was the author's honesty. Rarely do I hear or see such candor about the valleys and/or plateaus in one's spiritual life. It was refreshing!

This is the book if you are waiting on a word from God. This is a powerful book. Dr. Weems has done it, yet again. This book makes a wonderful gift for Christian women. God Bless You, Dr. Weems.

This is a well written book that applies to any person in service to other. The author touches on the core needs of a minister. Although Weems writes this book from the female perspective, I found myself holding to the real issues of this book, that there are times we feel that God has stopped listening.

I read this book twenty years ago while living in Nashville. Picked it up at Vanderbilt Bookstore. Helped me through the dark then, helped me in the silence now. Strong honest voice. Something my heart could still relate to. Glad this author wrote it.

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