

**Interview with Brian McLaren**  
*Finding Faith* (ISBN 0310238382)

**Zondervan:** How did you begin your search for faith?

**McLaren:** I was brought up in the Christian faith - with wonderful parents, a wonderful Christian heritage. But most teenagers come to a point where they need to make their parents' faith their own, and when I hit that juncture, faith didn't come easily for me. I had so many questions - about science, about justice, about beauty and art, about philosophy and lifestyle - and I struggled to find satisfying answers.

On the one hand, it seemed obvious to me that if there was no God, life had little if any ultimate meaning. Yet if God was real - how could I sort through my questions honestly? In many ways, even though I'm a pastor and author and leader, I'm leading not as the guy with all the answers, but as a guy who is still passionately seeking God, truth, justice, mercy, life. I'm finding what I need, what I seek, as I follow Jesus.

**Zondervan:** Can intelligent, rational, scientific people come to a personal faith without losing themselves in it?

**McLaren:** Yes. But many of our religious communities are even less hospitable to the honest questions of seekers than many of our secular environments. We need environments that nurture and strengthen faith - and that leave room for people to ask questions, to think honestly, to explore and face their doubts and uncertainties.

**Zondervan:** Do you believe there such a thing as good faith and bad faith? What is the difference between good and bad faith?

**McLaren:** I spend a chapter in the book exploring this important question. We need to remember that Jesus' main opponents were not secular or irreligious people, but were in fact members of the truest religion in the world. So, it's possible to have faith, but to have faith in a destructive way. For example, the men who flew planes into skyscrapers in 2001 certainly had some sort of faith, but not a good sort! I believe we Christians can also have faith that is more or less worthwhile. As Paul said, you could have faith that moves mountains, but without love, your faith is worth nothing. I'm eager to help people - beginning with myself - have the kind of faith that is truly worthwhile.