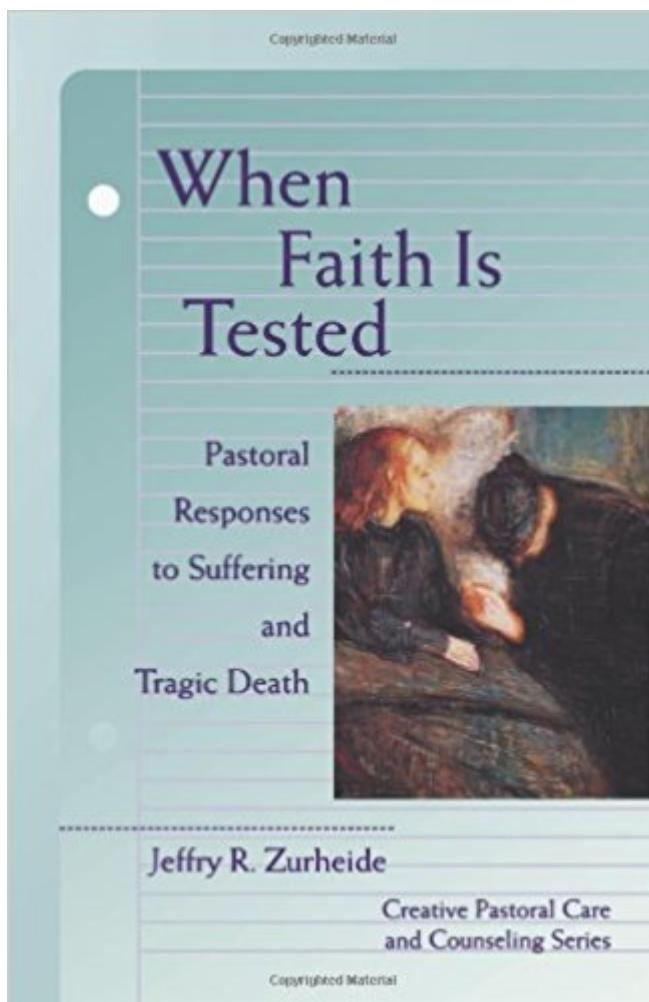


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When Faith Is Tested (Creative Pastoral Care And Counseling) (Creative Pastoral Care & Counseling)



Synopsis

Written by a new generation of recognized experts in pastoral care, these brief, foundational books offer practical advice to pastors on the most frequent dilemmas of pastoral care and counseling.

Book Information

Series: Creative Pastoral Care & Counseling

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Customer Reviews

When Faith is Tested is well written, deeply theological comparing views of Rabbi Harold Kushner, Kirkegard, and other theologians on the question of human suffering. Felt it was one of the best books on grief and questions of good and even I've ever read--and I know grief firsthand. Does not preach at or pretend to have all the answers--knows grief himself as he and Karen's lit babygirl lived only 24 hours. This book was a big help. Dr. Zurheide was a hospital chaplain and speaks not only from firsthand experience, but has a doctorate in counseling as well as a pastor. Gives hypothetical case studies with conversations that are readable and thought provoking. His views are that we live in a broken world and may never know the answers until we get to heaven. He ponders with but not above the reader about the timeless questions of sickness, death, suffering. Portrays God as a friend through trials, but does not preach at reader. Very well written

Chapter 1: Before You Enter. Chapter 2: Assessing What Sufferers Seek. Chapter 3: Answers to the Theological "Why Me?" Chapter 4: Theodicy: The Problem of Evil. Chapter 5: Karl Barth Speaks Out on Evil. Chapter 6: Pastoral Care: Where Theology Touches Down. Chapter 7: Ministry in the

Trenches. Chapter 8: Now That the Funeral's Over. Chapter 9: A Plea for Mystery. This book is a result of the author's reflections, not only on his own personal loss, but also on the suffering and losses of the many people he has served as a hospital chaplain and a parish pastor. The book is intended to assist clergy and others who are called upon to minister to the hurting and dying.

I teach pastoral care in a hospital setting and found this book clear and comprehensible. The author does a good job summarizing some common errors that religious persons make while trying to offer care to those in distress. He encourages humility and sensitivity. I highly recommend this to anyone starting out in ministry, ordained or lay.

While the concept of this book is good, and the author's understanding of the suffering soul is strong, his reliance on a technique called "verbatims" concerns me. My training as a lawyer suggests that those within a parish ministry should be cautious in its use. The parish minister should be very concerned about laws relating to privilege and confidentiality in their respective states.

A good pocket primer on the subject of leaders and pastoral care for those doing a general survey of the subject.

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