



Small Faith—Great God
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N. T. Wright, formerly bishop of Durham in England, is research professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He previously taught at Cambridge, McGill and Oxford. Wright's full-scale works *The New Testament and the People of God*, *Jesus and the Victory of God* and *The Resurrection of the Son of God* are part of a projected six-volume series titled Christian Origins and the Question of God. Among his many other published works are *Surprised by Hope*, *Simply Christian* and *The Challenge of Jesus*.


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Looking Through the Window of Faith

Well-known pastor, theologian and author N. T. Wright has long been admired for his biblical insights regarding the Christian faith. *Small Faith—Great God* answers many of today's questions and concerns about God, the Bible, doubt and life. Readers can apply Wright's explanation of what it means in practical terms to live by faith.

Part One: Faith in a Great God

"Christian faith—biblical faith—is not a matter of putting a brave face on things and trying our best. It is a matter of looking away from ourself and seeing the world as God sees it, as it really is. . . . Creation is saying 'Amen.' The church bows down and worships. These are the facts. The question of faith is whether we stop eavesdropping and join in the song."

—From chapter one, "Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"

"The God of the Bible is not necessarily the God I want: my confused desires almost certainly don't fit in with who he actually is, and just as well. What matters much more is the God who actually made me, the God with whom (whether I want to or not) I have to do business. And he is so much bigger and greater than anything that I could imagine that I must never imagine I have got him tied down and pigeonholed."

—From chapter two, "Power to the Faint"

"Faith is not the mysterious ability to sail through life with a secret key that unlocks all the doors. Faith is the willingness to think and act on the basis of what we know of God (which may be very little) and to trust him that he will not let us down."

—From chapter three, "Not by Sight"

"The gospel (as everyone knows who believes it and then tries to explain it to a skeptic) is not a straightforward thing. . . . The gospel is like nothing else on earth, for the very good reason that it is like God."

—From chapter eight, "God's Foolish Gospel"

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LOOK

BOOK DETAILS

Part Two: Faith to Live and Love

“If we don’t ‘put on’ God’s holiness when we feel like being unholy, then we have guarded our sincerity at the cost of our obedience. . . . We need to live in this tension, because this is what being a Christian is all about. . . . If living with this tension is hypocrisy, then every Christian is called to be a hypocrite.”

—From chapter ten, “*Christian Hypocrites?*”

Part Three: Faith to Walk in the Dark

“I don’t find in the New Testament any suggestion that the visible church ought to be composed of guaranteed 100 percent soundly converted keen Christians. If it had been, half the epistles would not have been necessary. . . . Any attempt to get a purer church or purer Christian life than we have been promised this side of heaven runs the risk of attempting to base security, assurance of salvation, on something other than the free grace and love of God.”

—From chapter sixteen, “*Bethlehem and the Barley Harvest*”

“The point of the rainbow is not the trite one that every cloud has a silver lining, nor the futile one that utopia is to be found at the rainbow’s end, but the theological one that God, by this sign, gives his solemn assurance to his people in this world that he loves them and will bring them safely through.”

—From chapter seventeen, “*The Rainbow and the Promise*”

“Ultimately Christians believe that we do not know all the answers in this life, that heaven, when we reach it, will set right the things that are wrong at present; and that, while our present duty is to glorify God by our life in this world, our real desire is, as Paul says, to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. If we don’t have one eye at least fixed on heaven, on its beauty, its joys and its holiness, it may be seriously doubted whether in fact our Christianity is the genuine article.”

—From chapter twenty, “*Pie in the Sky?*”