

EXCERPT

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The Winding Path of Transformation Finding Yourself Between Glory and Humility

July 9, 2019 | \$17, 192 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4650-4

Jeff Tacklind, pastor of Church by the Sea—a quirky, diverse congregation in Laguna Beach, California—knows from decades of ministry experience that sometimes effective leadership looks like standing in the middle of conflict, holding the tension. In *The Winding Path of Transformation*, Tacklind describes spiritual transformation as an invitation to paradox. By entering into suffering, he says, we find joy. By embracing the downward path of humility, we find glory. And by remaining small, sometimes we grow to great heights.

When Your Path Turns Unexpectedly

This book is about transformation . . . about doing deep heart work. It's about discovering interior freedom and seeing God's masterful hand at work. And it is about glory and humility and the beautiful way they interact to drive us toward our true selves. Even when the way appears crooked and bent. Even when the path turns unexpectedly. Especially when it does.

But transformation isn't merely the subject matter being discussed. The truths of this work are woven into the fabric of the writing itself. Because writing this book was a bit of a crooked journey. A winding path. And it continues to speak deep truths into my life to this very day.

The writing process was much more discovery than deduction. It emerged rather than having been constructed. And the ideas that I share are both as truthful and as raw as I felt I could be. That means I'm still wrestling and grappling with them. The stories I've written are continuing to shape me, and I'm still mining their depths. It continues to be a work in progress, as do I, one that I trust will never be finished, at least not in this life.

Carl Rogers said, "What is the most personal is the most universal." I'm banking on that. That these words I've written and stories of transformation wouldn't merely illuminate the details of my own journey, but would cast vision for yours. That they would create a lens through which to clarify your own moments of consolation and desolation, and that you too might better recognize the subtle hand of God at work in your own story.

Because life is a winding road. Unpredictable. Confusing. And without a clear course or map. And this winding seems to be intentional—it's there by design. It ensures that we remain close and pay attention to our guide, and learn to trust his words even when times are cold and dark, or when the voice has become quiet or even absent. When we start to lose our vision, and begin to long for the comforts of home.

And the winding path ensures that our eyes become trained to see and recognize the provision and goodness that otherwise go overlooked in our hurry to get from one place to the next. Because these glimpses of joy along the path sustain us. They renew us. And they remind us that there is more to come.

Because our hearts long for more. At least mine does. And I hope yours does too. And as you read, I hope that your appetite for transformation and freedom would increase. That you would learn to walk in deeper faith through the paradoxes and complexities of life. And that, in the midst of life's tension, you would learn to walk with courage down this winding path of transformation that leads ultimately to glory.

—From the preface

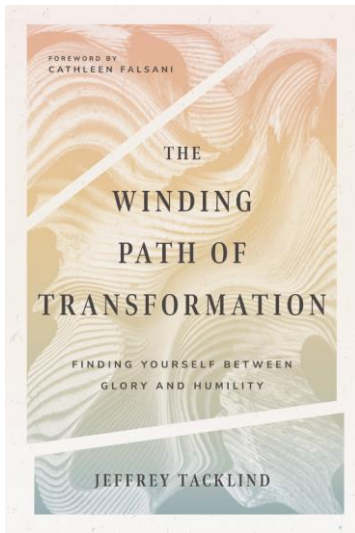


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ENDORSEMENTS



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Jeff Tacklind is lead pastor of Church by the Sea in Laguna Beach, California, where he lives with his wife and three children. He is a spiritual director and has a master's degree in philosophy and a doctorate in semiotics and future studies. Visit Jeff's website and read his blog at jefftacklind.com. Follow him on Twitter: @JeffTacklind.

Your Own Journey Will Be Transformed

"Jeff Tacklind is a surprising and winsome voice with a wide reach. He writes with the vulnerability of someone who just wants to be a little more like Jesus. But behind his easygoing tone you'll find the riches of a seasoned spiritual director and pastor."

—Ian Morgan Cron, author of *The Road Back to You*

"*The Winding Path of Transformation* is so unique, so vulnerable, so reflective that it is hard to find words to do it justice. Written like a novel and drawing from sources as different as Kierkegaard and Cyndi Lauper, Tacklind's work is, at once, deeply personal and also an insightful, helpful depiction of the shared contours of every person's pilgrimage. Deep, authentic, wise, and hopeful, *The Winding Path of Transformation* is a rich guide for all who hunger for a more deeply transformed life."

—J. P. Moreland, distinguished professor of philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, author of *Finding Quiet: My Story of Overcoming Anxiety and the Practices That Brought Peace*

"Very few authors could summon the courage to write this book. But be warned: it takes almost as much courage to read this book as it took to write it. If you go down this yellow-winding road with the author, you will move around the entire color wheel of emotions. You will gasp at its honesty; you will squirm and wince and feel uncomfortable at its vulnerability; you will shake your head in marvel and wonderment at its revelations; you will cry. But the promise of the title is real—your own journey will be transformed."

—Leonard Sweet, author of *Jesus Speaks*, Charles Wesley Professor of Doctoral Studies at Evangelical Seminary, founder of preachthestory.com

"As a young Christian, I imagined what it would look like to mature in my faith. Looking back now, I realize the path was far more winding than I could have anticipated. I appreciate Jeff's life-tested and pastorally wise counsel in *The Winding Path of Transformation*. It's a wonderful guide along the path of growth."

—Alan Fadling, president of Unhurried Living Inc.

"I love this quiet, deeply honest book; it indeed has left me—as the author hopes will be the case for his readers—with a renewed appetite for transformation and freedom and an awareness of God's presence, 'Always already.'"

—Jennifer Grant, author of *Love You More* and *Maybe God Is like That Too*



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