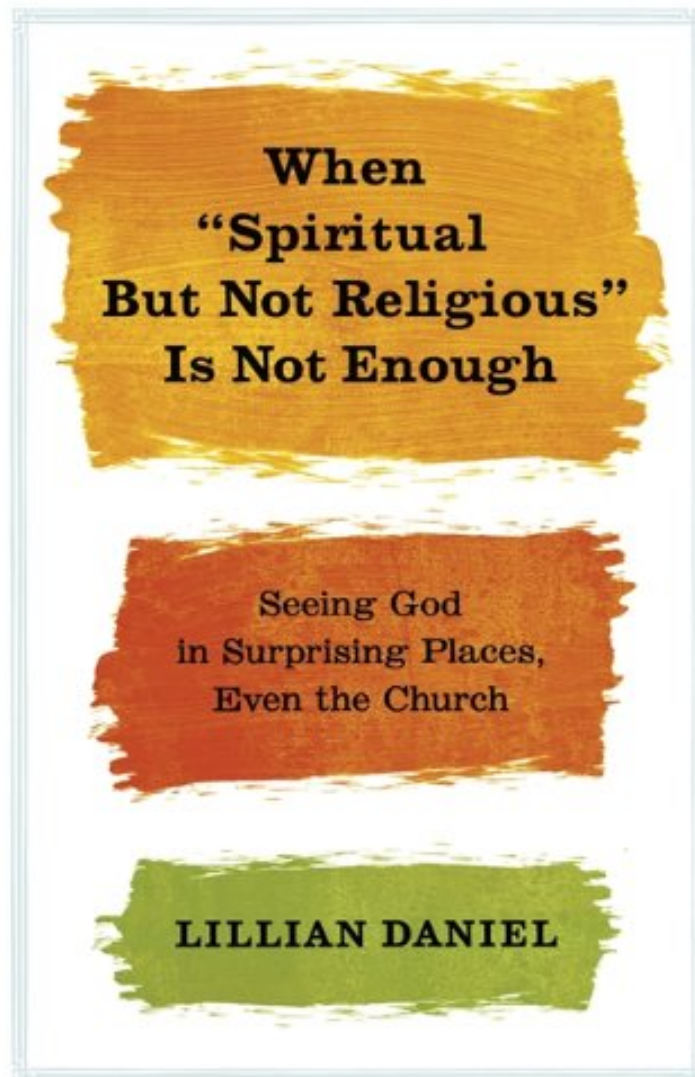


[Read now] When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church

When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church

Lillian Daniel

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#88752 in Books FaithWords/Hachette Book Group 2014-01-14 2014-01-14Original language:EnglishPDF
1 8.00 x .75 x 5.25l, .40 #File Name: 1455523097224 pages | File size: 56.Mb

Lillian Daniel : When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church:

42 of 44 people found the following review helpful. A solid contribution to an important subjectBy J.

Caldwell "Spiritual but not religious" (SBNR) is a classification that seems to be appearing in the spiritual autobiographies of more and more people these days. I wouldn't call it new, but at the very least anti-institutional or self-styled spirituality is more present in the public discourse and more widely celebrated than it has been in the past. It should be no surprise. Organized religion, it seems, tends to follow culture. Sociologist Robert Putnam, among others, has been tracking the erosion of institutions and the rise of individualism in the U.S. over the last several decades. The SBNR movement, in my opinion, has been conceived largely of those two trends in our society. Interestingly, I received my pre-ordered copy of this book during a week in which NPR aired a series titled "Losing Our Religion," which chronicles the decline of organized religion in the U.S.--a trend that is pronounced among people in their 20's and 30's. Being part of that demographic myself, and being the senior minister of a mid-sized mainline protestant church (with a solid contingent of 20 30 somethings), this is a matter of great interest to me. Chapter one of "When 'Spiritual But Not Religious' is Not Enough" regaled me by boldly claiming what is often seen as a forbidden sentiment for someone in my position: I find the SBNR narrative (i.e., the "heilsgeschichte" or "salvation story") to be rather boring and self-serving. Daniel captures it perfectly: "Let me guess, you read The New York Times every Sunday, cover to cover, and you get more out of it than the sermon. Let me guess, you exercise and where do you find God? Nature. And the trees, it's always the trees during a long hike, a long run, a walk on the beach. And don't forget the sunset. These people always want to tell you that God is in the sunset." (5) She goes on from there to point out what most clergy and many SBNR folks have come to experience first-hand: "...push a little harder, on this self-developed religion, and you don't get much, at least not much of depth. So you find God in the sunset? Great, so do I. But how about in the face of cancer? Cancer is nature too. Do you worship that as well?" (6) Some will be put off by Daniel's sharpness and candor, but it is also clear that her critique is rooted in pastoral concern. SBNR works great when life is working great, not so good when times are tough. The remaining chapters present a series of short stories organized loosely around the themes of searching and praying, confessing, communing, wandering, wondering, and remembering and returning. Daniel artfully weaves together reflections on everyday experiences and about the church that many of us have come to know and love--the rough and ready church full of imperfect people who together create imperfect communities. I finished the first chapter thinking that I was in for a quick read that would affirm all my basic assumptions about the subject (and who doesn't appreciate that from time to time!). But as I parsed through the stories, I began to sense that there was more going on beneath the surface. I think the most significant contribution of this book is that it clears some common ground on which honest dialogue about what SBNR means can take place. It enticed me to return to the table and reengage in a conversation that is sorely needed, both by the church and by those who claim SBNR as their creed. Like everything that Lillian Daniel writes, this book is a delight to read, and full of wit and humor. My one criticism is that it suffered somewhat for inadequately framing the discussion. I wanted a concluding chapter to help tie together some of the threads that appeared in the stories. Nonetheless, I think it is a worthwhile read for clergy and laity and would serve well as a conversation piece for any kind of small group. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book club option By M. Janssen My book club at my church selected this book for our September meeting. Though Daniel can be rather rant-y at times, the essays and vignettes contained in this volume provoked some great discussion. The criticism of those who identify as "Spiritual But Not Religious" is clearly directed at a very specific type of economically privileged, cultural elitist, narrow-minded (even though they imagine themselves and profess to be quite open minded) individual. While I can sympathize with many of her frustrations (I do indeed know some people for whom her portrayal of "SBNRs" would be a rather accurate description), many of my agnostic, Buddhist, and Christian-but-not-churchgoing friends do not match this description at all. I think they would find her blanket criticisms ill-founded, overly emotional, and insulting. But, as becomes quite clear by the end of the first chapter, the reason why she's so worked up is because she loves the Church so much and feels it is repeatedly misrepresented by lazy critics. Still, while she never really offers a clearly outlined argument as to why "Spiritual But Not Religious" is not enough, many of the chapters are laugh-out-loud funny or tear-wrenchingly moving. It's a quick, easy read, and was a great selection for our book club. We had a great discussion on the true meaning/function of Church and how to relate to people in our lives who are generally anti-Church. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting collection of essays By 2stents This is a quick read. The 32 essays, some of them quite short, read like sermons from your favorite preacher: Based both on scripture and personal experience (the author's or others'), Daniel often turns conventional notions on their heads in surprising, amusing, and touching ways. She can write about the sign in a restaurant that says "No shirt, no shoes, no service" and relate that to Jesus eating with tax collectors (and explain historically why this was shocking at the time). She can give you a new slant on the story of Martha and Mary at the dinner (where Martha was running around serving everybody, while Mary sat at the feet of the Lord), and compare it to her own experience at yoga class. The title essay is a devastating put-down (although not in a mean-spirited way) of the often-heard comment "I'm spiritual but not religious." Many other essays provide a fresh slant on prayer, service, faith, and loving our neighbor. Daniels writes in a breezy style that reminds me of Nora Ephron, simple but eloquent, funny and wise. I'm reading it for a discussion group, and I'm looking forward to the discussion.

The phrase "I'm spiritual but not religious" has become a cliché. It's easy to find God amid the convenience of self-styled spirituality--but is it possible (and more worthwhile) to search for God through religion? Minister and celebrated author Lillian Daniel gives a new spin on church with stories of what a life of faith can really be: weird, wondrous, and well worth trying. From a rock-and-roller sexton to a BB gun-toting grandma, a church service attended by animals to a group of unlikely theologians at Sing Sing, Daniel shows us a portrait of church that is flawed, fallible--and deeply faithful. With poignant reflections and sly wit, Daniel invites all of us to step out of ourselves, dare to become a community, and encounter a God greater than we could ever invent.

From Booklist*Starred * Daniel made a splash on the religious-debate scene in 2011 with an op-ed piece for the Huffington Post. It berated people who eschew formal religious practice for their own brand of personally manufactured spirituality. The post, titled "Spiritual but Not Religious? Please Stop Boring Me," went viral on the Internet, and a year later Daniel is back with a similarly titled book that expands on her now-famous commentary. From the death of a close, irreligious friend to the difficulty in sitting still at yoga class, no subject is too large or small for Daniel to take on. She does so in short, zingy anecdotes with a marvelously gritty wit that pokes holes in the spiritual laziness and self-aggrandizing behavior of which she believes so many "spiritual but not religious" people are guilty. But pointing out the utter ridiculousness of self-satisfied personal faith is only part of the story, and the true thrust of her argument lies in making an impassioned and winning case for why church, community, and formal religious traditions are so integral to creating a fulfilling life. One might not agree with everything Daniel says, but her ideas are thought provoking and her conviction infectious. --Taina Lagodzinski "In short, zingy anecdotes, Daniel strikes out at what she sees at the spiritual laziness of those who opt for "personal faith" outside of a church community. Controversial but powerfully argued."?Booklist, starred review"Marvelously gritty wit...an impassioned and winning case for why church, community, and formal religious traditions are so integral to creating a fulfilling life....her ideas are thought provoking and infectious."?Booklist, Starred "Intelligent, inviting and nurturing, these essays...offer a rich banquet for pastors, lifelong congregants, disaffected Christians, and confused seekers alike."?Publishers Weekly, Starred "This is the wonderful, essential Lillian Daniel at her best--earthy, perceptive, devout, tough-minded, angry and laugh-out-loud funny, all in one. Daniel's easygoing style is just right for revealing her great gift of finding God in the everyday. Sometimes she is biting. Sometimes she is tender and often what she says is stunningly beautiful."?Bob Abernethy, Executive Editor, Religion Ethics Newsweekly, PBS"Here is why I love Lillian Daniel's writing: it is honest; it is funny; and it teaches me about Mary and Martha via a yoga class. The church she describes is the place that has sustained my spiritual life when my own interior sense of God's presence has faltered; and it is the place that, as often as not, is where I am sitting when my sense of God's presence reignites."?Lauren F. Winner, author of *Girl Meets God and Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*"You read some things because you have to or need to or ought to. You'll read Lillian Daniel for the pure pleasure of pitch-perfect writing--she has the rare talent of a "natural." Along the way, you'll discover enrichment and insight that you needed and wanted ... Lillian cooks up a delicious and nourishing feast for readers. Don't miss it!"?Brian McLaren, author of *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* (brianmclaren.net)"Lillian is as fed up with bad religion as anyone else, but she's also careful to celebrate good religion and good spirituality that brings people to life and makes the world a better place. May her book invite us to stop complaining about the Church we've experienced and work on becoming the Church we dream of."?Shane Claiborne, author and activist, facebook.com/ShaneClaiborneAbout the AuthorLillian Daniel has served as the Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, United Church of Christ, in the Chicago area since 2004. An editor at large for *Christian Century Magazine*, and a contributing editor at *Leadership Journal*, her work has also appeared in *The Huffington Post*, *Christianity Today*, *Leadership Journal*, *Books and Culture*, and in *The Journal for Preachers*. She has also hosted the Chicago-based television show *30 Good Minutes*. Her *Huffington Post* article "Spiritual but Not Religious? Please Stop Boring Me" gained widespread interfaith attention after going viral on the Web. Daniel has taught preaching at Yale Divinity School, Chicago Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago Divinity School. In October 2010 she received the distinguished alumni award from Yale Divinity School for "Distinction in Congregational Ministry." She is the author of two previous books: *Tell It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony*, and *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*, and she contributed to *Gifts My Mother Gave Me: Thirty-One Women on the Gifts that Mattered Most*.