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The Courage To Be: Third Edition (The Terry Lectures Series)



Synopsis

Originally published more than fifty years ago, *The Courage to Be* has become a classic of twentieth-century religious and philosophical thought. The great Christian existentialist thinker Paul Tillich describes the dilemma of modern man and points a way to the conquest of the problem of anxiety. This edition includes a new introduction by Harvey Cox that situates the book within the theological conversation into which it first appeared and conveys its continued relevance in the current century. "The brilliance, the wealth of illustration, and the aptness of personal application . . . make the reading of these chapters an exciting experience." W. Norman Pittenger, *New York Times Book Review* "A lucid and arresting book." Frances Witherspoon, *New York Herald Tribune* "Clear, uncluttered thinking and lucid writing mark Mr. Tillich's study as a distinguished and readable one." *American Scholar* Selected as one of the Books of the Century by the New York Public Library

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Paul Tillich is the most profound theologian of post-fundamentalist religion. As Harvey Cox makes clear in his new introduction, this book is a classic awaiting re-discovery by a new generation." Tom F. Driver, The Paul J. Tillich Professor of Theology and Culture Emeritus, Union Theological Seminary in New York "The *Courage to Be* changed my life. It also profoundly impacted the lives of many others from my generation. Now Harvey Cox's fresh

introduction helps to open up this powerful reading experience to the current generation." —Robert N. Bellah, University of California, Berkeley

"The essential character of courage, for Tillich, is 'in spite of.' We must go on striving for freedom, justice, and our faith in spite of oppositions. In this age of late capitalism, globalization, and terrorism, we all need the virtue of courage as Harvey Cox admirably argues in the foreword." —Nimi Wariboko, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA

"Tillich struggled with the existential question how we may overcome the demoralizing effects, on the individual and society, of our Age of Anxiety. In this, his most popular book, Tillich gives us his deeply thought answers, and Harvey Cox provides a helpful new introduction." —Gerald Holton, Harvard University

Paul Tillich (1886–1965) was a world-renowned philosopher and theologian. Harvey Cox is Hollis Research Professor of Divinity at Harvard University.

I first read this book as an undergraduate religion major 45 years ago, and I have returned to it again and again over my lifetime. My professor at the time had been a student of Tillich's and required us to read many of his books, including his massive *Systematic Theology*. This book has remained one of the few books that is always relevant. You need to have a basic liberal arts education in philosophy and history to understand much of it. But for those who do, this is a treasure trove of wisdom. The closing sections are among the most profound words ever written.

I first read this book in 1967 when I was 17 years old. It clarified my doubts, enlightened and challenged me. I would say it made me largely the man I am today. I reread it just recently, and found it as wonderful and insightful as I did all those years ago. I recommend it to anyone who is curious about their spiritual journey.

In my opinion, Tillich's book (*The Courage to Be*) is difficult to interpret but his ideas are profound and somewhat controversial in theological circles.

One of the greatest books written about the problem of meaninglessness and emptiness in modern life - and the solution...absolute faith (courage) to believe in a "god beyond God." Step off a cliff into nothingness, in full faith that a radiant loving God will build a bridge under your feet as you take each new step...and accompany you -within your own body- inside your heart, in loving

compassion. If you are feeling emptiness and meaninglessness and purposeless, then rejoice! What you are feeling is a sacred emptiness, that can now be filled...you only have to ask, and the radiant Divine love of God will fill you overflowing with radiant joy, love, acceptance, peace and serenity. Like sunlight on ice, Divine Grace will melt away all your pain, hurt & loneliness, and replace it with Divine energy. These are the "gifts of the Holy Spirit" that St. Paul writes about in the New Testament Bible. Paul Tillich answers the problem of the existentialist crisis within one's own mind by a call to faith in something you cannot see, but can only understand through a practice of radical faith in the radiant compassion and loving-kindness, total acceptance of a Divine and loving God. The Action of absolute faith - in spite of no empirical evidence to support it - creates the Presence of God...the EXPERIENCE of God and the energy and feeling of radiant joy, and total acceptance and gentle loving-kindness. This book convinced me to toss aside scientific, logical, brain-based inquiry to find peace, and surrender and invite an "imaginary" force and feeling into my body - specifically my heart. The force that creates and sustains all life, the eternal and infinite source that also when coupled with loving-kindness compassion, is like water and sunlight on a plant. You will heal, grow and thrive when you tap into this source through your heart, once you quiet your mind and go into your body...The Kingdom is Within....your very own heart - through the emotion of loving-kindness.

The best analysis of the relation between our existential being and it's relation to the transcendent by arguably the most brilliant theologian of the past century. How can we muster the courage to be (exist with purpose) in an age mired in anxiety and feeling hopelessly abandoned? Does faith have a chance. Tillich's answer is yes.

I bought the Kindle edition, which formatted well and comes with active table of contents for easy navigation. This book, of course, is old, having been published in the 1950s. It also reflective of existentialist ideas and terms in vogue at the time. But the issues raised by Tillich are good ones. As a Christian, I liked the last half better than the first half, since that is when he began to hold up Christian faith as the source of "the courage to be" and the answer to fate, meaningless, and condemnation.

Life changing metaphysical book. Greatest work in modern existentialism. Guidance on why to live a life of values in good faith in the face of nihilism.

Read it in Seminary. I go back to it when I get overload from the White House.

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