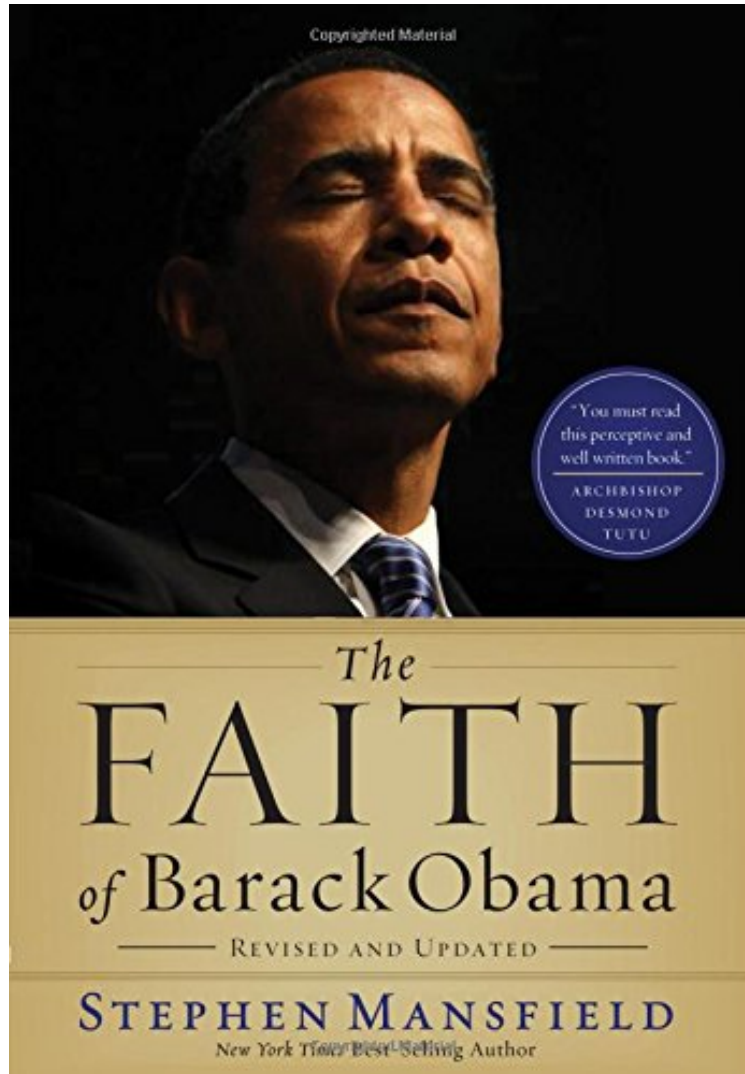


## The Faith of Barack Obama

*Stephen Mansfield*

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**Stephen Mansfield : The Faith of Barack Obama** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Faith of Barack Obama:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good, But Leaves Me WantingBy Kevin RK DavisI probably would've given this a 3.5 if I could.The biggest let down is probably that the author in no way ever interviewed President Obama.His last chapter, "A Time to Heal," feels anti-climactic. It feels separated from the rest of the book, as it moves completely off the faith of Barack Obama and affirms and approves of what perhaps was most discontenting in the entire book. I would've liked the book better if it had ended on what feels to me, a Conservative Christian, a more positive note in Chapter 5, "A New Band of Brothers."It is chapter 5 that perhaps gives us the most

intimate look into the daily life of Barack Obama's faith now. The rest of the book really feels like speculation, assumption, and educated guesses. Without talking with Barack Obama himself, we really don't know what is in the head of our leader when it comes to spirituality and his faith. In the revision and update, I would've like an answer or at least speculation from the faith-counselors of Obama that Mansfield (the author) did interview, as to exactly how Obama feels okay to profess as a believing Christian, but at the same time politically champion unbiblical stances. The final chapter left me feeling ambiguous, and in fact any hope that I had received from chapter 5 was diminished. Mansfield concluding remarks seem to be off base. He argues that Obama has introduced a new breed of "Religious Left," and remarks, "There have been other Democrats who were religiously fluent of course. Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter come to mind. Yet both men seemed to truncate their faith, seemed to erect a wall of separation between faith and practice. Obama's religion infuses his public policy..." as I would argue in light of Obama's championing unbiblical stances, that Clinton and Carter seemed to let their religion influence their policy more than Obama ever has. I understand that Obama's understanding of social injustices have come out of his religion, but surely much of his professed faith remains to influence his public policy. The book overall was interesting, and surely I know more than I did know... But like many reviews state, it leaves me wanting, and leaves me with more questions. Perhaps this is a good book to start, but now I can only wait for more thorough books to see where I continue.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very careful study  
By C. J. Graham  
James Monroe cautioned that no one can ever really know another person's religious beliefs because they are so personal and change through time. However, I feel that Stephen Mansfield has done the most careful study yet of the religious beliefs of both Obama and Lincoln ("Lincoln's Battle With God"). In the Obama book Mansfield also discusses the evolving religious mood of the country as well as the religious beliefs of Obama's 2008 rivals.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.  
Surprisingly Good! Definitely worth reading.  
By Merry Mary  
I was pleasantly surprised by *The Faith of Barack Obama*. I was expecting either a glowing report of his love for God and how it was evident in his politics or a point by point comparison of Obama's faith and that of conventional evangelical Christianity. Neither was the case. Instead, Stephen Mansfield first presented Obama's background including the faith and lack of faith exhibited by his parents and those who influenced him in his youth. Then, the author did a very good job of explaining liberation theology in laymen's terms, which isn't an easy task. He went right to James Cone's book *Black Theology and Black Power*, which is the foundational work on the subject. He quotes from Cone, "This means that I read the Bible through the lens of a black tradition of struggle and not as the objective Word of God. The Bible therefore is one witness to God's empowering presence in human affairs, along with other important testimonies." (p. 42) The author then traces Cone's influence on Jeremiah Wright and on to Wright's influence on Obama including why Obama found Wright's preaching attractive and eventually the message he could incorporate into his worldview. Clearly, the high point of the book was the chapter on the four faces of faith in America. Mansfield chose McCain as the representative of the faith exhibited by those who lived through World War II, a strong silent sort of faith. Hillary Clinton was his representative for the social gospel faith. George W. Bush was the one he selected as representative of evangelical faith and Obama as the person who represents the post-modern, liberal, social justice type of faith. What impressed me was the way the author portrayed each of these faiths in a positive manner. By the completion of the book, I felt that I had a reasonably good understanding of the type of faith Obama has and what part it plays in the decisions he makes, which was exactly what I hoped for when I began the book.

Get inside the mind and soul of Barack Obama  
In *The Faith of Barack Obama*, New York Times bestselling author Stephen Mansfield takes readers inside the mind, heart, and soul of presidential hopeful Barack Obama as a person of faith, as a man, as an American, and possibly as our future commander in chief. America faces looming inflation, climate change, a national credit crisis, war in the Middle East, threats to security and liberty at home, and skyrocketing oil and gas prices. With all of these threats to our security, prosperity and freedom on the horizon, it has never been more important to choose the right leader for America. "If a man's faith is sincere, it is the most important thing about him, and it is impossible to understand who he is and how he will lead without first understanding the religious vision that informs his life," writes Mansfield. In *The Faith of Barack Obama*, Mansfield holds back nothing to share that vision and explain its roots, including: Obama's upbringing in a non-Christian home, the influence on his life from his agnostic mother and Muslim father, his remarkable turn to Christianity after working in the inner cities of Chicago, his years at the controversial Trinity United Church of Christ, his association to the radical teachings of Rev. Jeremiah Wright, the source of Obama's relentless optimism and hope for America. Every American voter concerned to know more about Obama's beliefs, both religious and political, and how the two intertwine should read this book, as should every thinking person who continues to shape and evolve his or her religious beliefs. Barack Obama, according to Mansfield, is "raising the banner of what he hopes will be the faith-based politics of a new generation . . . and he will carry that banner to whatever heights of power his God and the American people allow." "You must read this perceptive and well written book. Then you will know why Barack Obama has such a passion for justice and equity, such a gift for filling people of different generations with a newfound hope that things can and will change for the better." -- ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

From Publishers Weekly As a veteran communications professional, it comes as no surprise that Mansfield commands an easygoing conversational speaking style that helps buffer some of the potentially loaded issues he chooses to tackle. While he may be best identified by his ties to the conservative evangelical community, Mansfield possesses the ability to explore divergent ideologies while acknowledging some of his personal red flags with a tone of utmost respect. Listeners in search of a definitive, comprehensive Obama spiritual biography may not find the level of dramatic new revelations they were hoping for, but Mansfield succeeds in adding thoughtful theological and political context to events and experiences. Perhaps the most captivating section involves Mansfield's account of a Sunday visit to Trinity United Church of Christ, the congregation from which Senator Obama resigned his membership following publicity surrounding controversial statements by founding pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Mansfield presents an analysis of Obama's distinctly postmodern journey that will generate valuable discussion across the religious spectrum. A Thomas Nelson hardcover. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Stephen Mansfield is the New York Times bestselling author of *Lincoln's Battle with God*, *The Faith of Barack Obama*, *Pope Benedict XVI*, *Searching for God and Guinness*, and *Never Give In: The Extraordinary Character of Winston Churchill*. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife, Beverly.