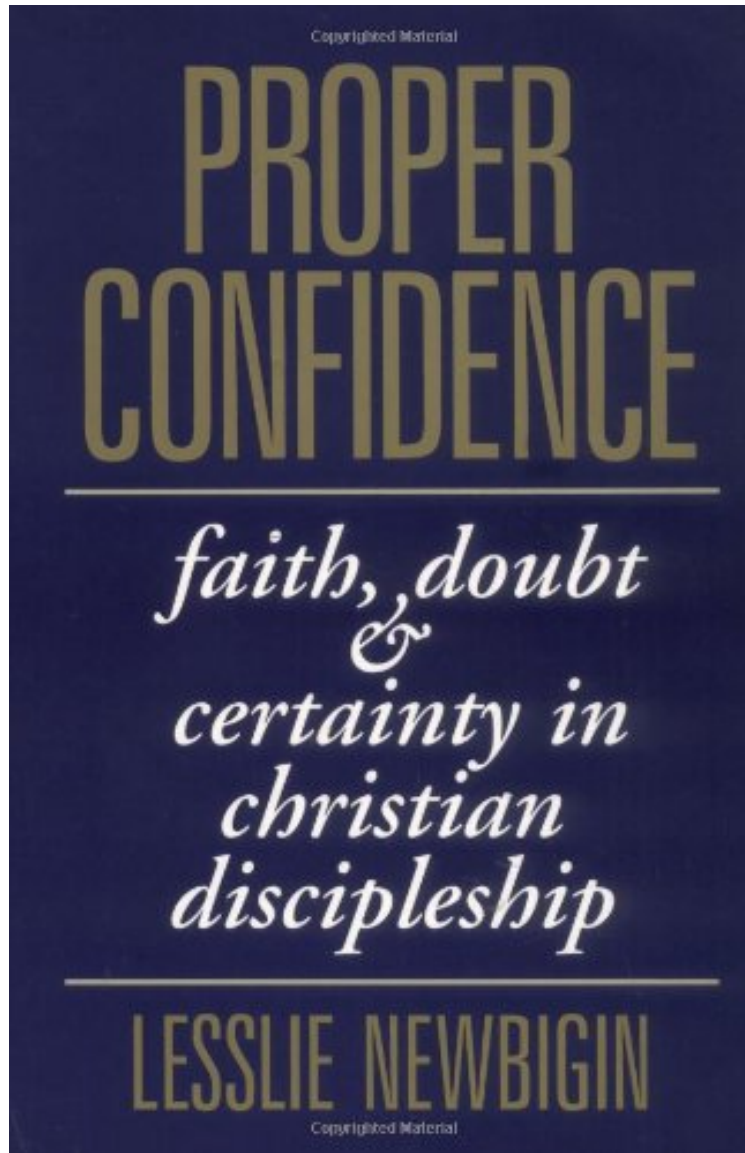


[Free pdf] Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt, and Certainty in Christian Discipleship

Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt, and Certainty in Christian Discipleship

Lesslie Newbigin

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Lesslie Newbigin : Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt, and Certainty in Christian Discipleship before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt, and Certainty in Christian Discipleship:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional, In Depth, But Lacking
 By S. J. Young
 This book is much more profound than one would think. Newbigin unpacks the flawed quest for certainty of the Enlightenment - which also is evident in Fundamentalism (naturally so, as Fundamentalism is a product of the Enlightenment or modernism. It's the Enlightenment in application to religion - particularly with respect to Christian Fundamentalism). The belief one can find certainty ultimately results in nihilism - a loss of reason. And, that morphs into Power (per Nietzsche). This is also quite evident in Fundamentalism. Yet, Newbigin does not morph into postmodern nihilism. He demonstrates that confidence is not found in thinking one can or should arrive at certainty for no one does. He does point to faith in the crucified and resurrected Jesus but seems to take more of a "leap" of faith in this event - rather than seeking to investigate it. Obviously, faith is still required; but I find Newbigin to be just a bit lacking in this area as he does not seem to believe any investigation into the "evidence" is necessary (or even point to this). I think this book combined with John Polkinghorne's excellent perspectives on the Resurrection (he approaches the evidence surrounding the resurrection the same way he, as a scientist, approaches evidence for scientific theories). Interestingly, both Polkinghorne and Newbigin point to the seminal and vitally important work of Michael Polanyi (scientist turned philosopher) on Personal Knowledge. Overall, a highly recommended read. I just think there's a bit more to it surrounding one's faith in Jesus. But, beyond that, I think many would do well (esp. those from very conservative; traditional Fundamentalist or Evangelical backgrounds).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, but mostly a smaller version of Gospel in a Pluralist Society
 By Benjamin Morrison
 Newbigin is brilliant in this volume, as always. However, this felt like a more condensed version of "gospel in a pluralist society". The only additions I really noticed were a more in-depth history on the development of enlightenment thought in Europe and more direct reference and quoting of Polanyi (whose epistemology Newbigin rests on heavily). Though I did enjoy it since it has been a while since I read gospel in a pluralist society, I'd save your money on this volume and just go for Gospel in a Pluralist Society. However, if you're looking for a slightly further historical development of the ideas he introduces there, this will be a welcomed addition. Evangelical readers should be aware that his doctrine of inspiration fall outside the standard Evangelical view. Nevertheless, very insightful.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Proper Praise
 By Aldhelm of Malmsbury
 I just completed Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt, and Certainty in Christian Discipleship by Lesslie Newbigin. It gets my four star rating. This little book (105 pages) is of tremendous help in reflecting on apologetics in a postmodern West. The usual Newbigin fusion of Christo-centric, missions-oriented, impeccable scholarship, and concern for faithful Gospel witness all are here. In addition, Newbigin takes on a Cartesian approach to the defense of Christianity that has pervaded Western Christian thinking and must now be seen for its inability to fulfil God's purposes in the world. In his chapter, "Through Faith Alone," Newbigin says, "The reasonableness of Christianity will be demonstrated (insofar as it can be) not by adjusting its claims to the requirements of a preexisting structure of thought but by showing how it can provide an alternative foundation for a different structure (93-94)" Newbigin is, as this new century goes by, the kind of pastor-missionary-theologian that we need to consider. I find his writing of immense help. While I prefer to read Newbigin while reading Spurgeon or Ryle at the same time (outside of the box thinking tempered by clear, orthodox Protestant preaching), I still do like to read him and end up preaching better as a result. He excites my devotion to the Christian and Biblical vision of the Church in the world for God's purposes in the world. And in Proper Confidence he demonstrates a keen insight into how "to commend the truth of the gospel in a culture that has sought for absolute certainty as the ideal of true knowledge but now despairs of the possibility of knowing truth at all... (93)"

Looking to end the divisive conflict that has raged between Christians who attack each other either as "liberals" or as "fundamentalists," Newbigin here gives a historical account of the roots of this conflict in order to begin laying the foundation for a middle ground that will benefit the Christian faith as a whole. What results is a perspective that allows Christians to confidently affirm the gospel as public truth in our pluralistic world.