



A Glorious Dark: Finding Hope in the Tension between Belief and Experience

A. J. Swoboda

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When what you believe isn't what you see

On Thursday as they ate the Passover meal with Jesus, the disciples believed that the kingdom was coming and they were on the front end of a revolution. Then came the tragedy of Friday and the silence of Saturday. They ran. They doubted. They despaired. From their perspective, all was lost.

Yet, within the grave, God's power was still flowing like a mighty river beneath the ice of winter. And then there was Sunday morning.

Real, raw, and achingly honest, *A Glorious Dark* meets us right in those uncomfortable moments when our beliefs about the world don't match up with reality. Tackling tough questions like *Why is faith so hard? Why do I doubt? Why does God allow me to suffer?* and *Is God really with me in the midst of my pain?* A. J. Swoboda invites us to develop a faith that embraces the tension between what we believe and what we experience, showing that it is in the very tension we seek to eliminate that God meets us.

"Too often Western Christian churches focus only on the sunny side of life. Why? Because it takes far more courage to walk into the darkness. Lucky for us, A. J. Swoboda has the guts to pierce the darkness and search for God there."--**Jonathan Merritt**, author of *Jesus Is Better Than You Imagined*; senior columnist for Religion News Service

A. J. Swoboda (PhD, University of Birmingham) teaches theology, biblical studies, and Christian history at George Fox Evangelical Seminary in Portland, Oregon. A. J. started and serves Theophilus Church in urban Portland. He is the author of *Messy* and is the coauthor of *Introducing Evangelical Ecotheology*.

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