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Navigating True North

My Journey from Blind Faith to Bold Faith

An attorney and self-proclaimed adventure junkie takes an in-depth look at the evidence for Christianity.

In the uncertainty of today's world, many feel lost, often leading to anxiety, depression, and hopelessness. Attorney Natalie Dee Latzka knows this feeling well.

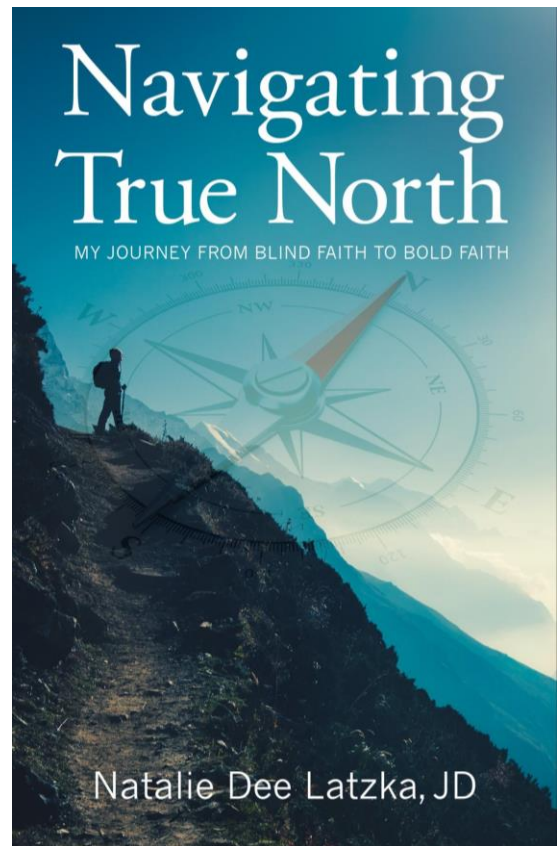
When life got difficult, Latzka begged God to help her. His deafening silence left her doubting the faith she had been promised would protect her and intellectually questioning everything she once believed.

As an attorney, Latzka understood the importance of evidence, yet it had become painfully apparent she had somehow accepted blind faith. Despite being raised Christian, she could barely articulate what she believed, much less provide evidence for why she believed it.

Lost and determined to find direction, she set out on a journey searching for answers to difficult questions:

- Is there evidence that God exists?
- Who is God?
- What does God want from me?

Readers are invited along on Latzka's journey from blind faith to evidenced-based bold faith—to examine and weigh the evidence for themselves.



For more info please contact media@deepriverbooks.com

About the Author



As a self-proclaimed adventure junkie, **Natalie Dee Lutzka** has undertaken many challenging journeys, but they were nothing compared to her journey to find “true north.” Graduating from law school at the age of twenty-four, she thought she had positioned herself for success. Instead, she found herself a single mother, bankrupt and questioning her faith in God. A career research attorney, she fought her way back doing what she does best. She set out to find evidence for the existence and identity of God. Her seven-year journey led her from blind faith to bold

faith and life filled with the purpose, meaning, and significance she had always longed to find. Today, Natalie and her fiancé, Scott, are finding new adventures together, leaving behind corporate careers to start their own contracting business and build a future for their new blended family.

Connect with the author

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Suggested Interview Questions for Natalie Latzka author of *Navigating True North*

Q: You have recently written a book called *Navigating True North*. Tell us a little bit about the background and what led up to writing the book.

A: I experienced a really low point where my life spiraled out of control and caused me to question everything I once believed in terms of my faith and God. Recently I have heard the phrase “theological deconstruction” used to describe the process of questioning or wrestling with the faith you were taught growing up. I did not realize it at the time, but I went through a fairly long process of deconstructing my faith. As my life began to spiral out of control, I not only intellectually questioned my faith in God, but found myself emotionally questioning everything I once believed about God. The book is the result of the 7-year personal journey which began at that point.

Q: Tell us why you chose the title, *Navigating True North*, for your book. How does it provide an analogy for the topics you discuss throughout the book?

A: Even though magnetic and true north lie in the same general northerly direction, they are actually in two different and distinct locations. Magnetic north actually moves and changes locations as the Earth’s molten metal core shifts and flows, whereas the location of true north never changes. Magnetic north moves further away from true north every year.

What I have realized throughout the course of my faith journey is that much of what I was taught to believe growing up was pointing me in the direction of magnetic north. I say that because so much of the information and direction I was given was significantly influenced by worldly and everchanging forces. It was at that point that I realized that for most of my life I had just blindly followed those magnetic north directions. As an attorney, I was mortified when I realized that the faith I proclaimed could most accurately be defined as blind-faith, as I could barely articulate what I believed, much less provide any evidence for why I believed it. That is when I set off in search of true north and that is how the book got its title.

Q: Once you determined for yourself that there was likely an intelligent designer at work, what was the next step in your journey to find truth?

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A: I decided to focus my research on the 5 major religions, which include Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Specifically, I wanted to find if there was any objective evidence that would support the claims they were making about the identity of God.

This research proved to be quite a challenge as most religious claims are very subjective in nature. It seemed to me it would be very difficult to complete the step of finding objective evidence supporting personal revelation. As I continued to explore the options, I realized that there was one religious claim that presented an opportunity for objective verification. That was the Christian claim that Jesus of Nazareth, claiming to be God, inserted himself into the course of human history during the first century in Israel as recorded in the New Testament gospels.

With that I set out to study historical methodologies by again reading countless books and journal articles and listening to lectures, debates and podcasts on the topic. There were many arguments for and against the historical reliability of the New Testament writings, but generally what I found was that Christian scholars deemed the writings to be historically reliable and non-Christian scholars claimed they were not. At several points in my research, I considered the possibility that there was no way to definitively conclude whether or not the New Testament writings were historically reliable.

One thing that made that conclusion a little more digestible for me was the idea that Jesus actually claimed to be the creator during his lifetime, and the events that followed supported that claim. Because I had already found evidence supporting the existence of a creator and there was historical evidence supporting the fact that Jesus had control over worldly forces, including power over death, it made sense in my mind that Jesus being that creator was part of the truth I had set out to find.

Q: What do you ultimately hope to accomplish as you share your book and your research findings with your readers?

A: My goal is to share what I found during the course of my research and to share a little about my story and the journey that has brought me to this point in my life. I know that not everyone will reach the same conclusions, and I respect that. Honestly, I want to encourage people to understand what they believe about God and *why* they believe it. I think it is tremendously important to make decisions based on your own knowledge, understanding and the evidence you feel has merit and supports truth, not simply to rely on what someone else has told you to believe.

When you strip away the influences of worldly forces and personal or societal motivations, you are given the opportunity to see the simple message Jesus brought to the world. He promised that if we choose to follow him, he will lead us in the direction of true north and help us every step of the way.

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