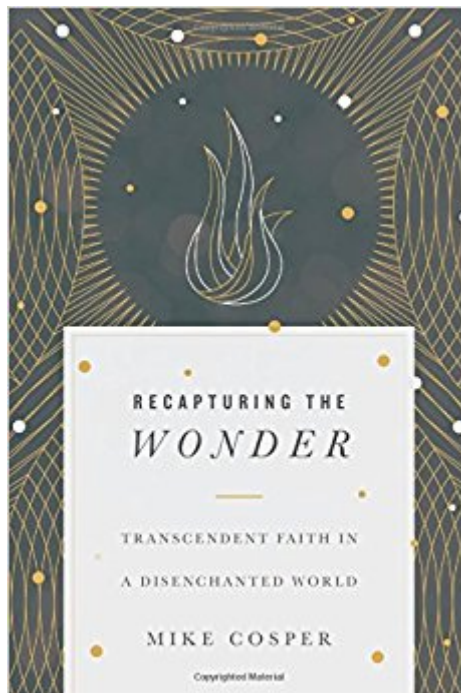




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# Recapturing The Wonder: Transcendent Faith In A Disenchanted World



## Synopsis

When we're young, it's easy to believe in the supernatural, the mysterious, the enchanted. But as we grow older, we learn to be more "rational" and more confident that reality is merely what we can see. Even as Christians who believe in the resurrection, we live as if miracles and magic have been drained from the world. As Mike Cospers wrestled with his own disillusionment, he found writers, thinkers, and artists like Hannah Arendt, Charles Taylor, James K. A. Smith, and David Foster Wallace whose words and ideas reassured him that he was not alone. And he discovered ancient and modern disciplines that shape a Christian way of life and awaken the possibility of living again in an enchanted world. Exquisitely written with thoughtful practices woven throughout, this book will feed your soul and help you recapture the wonder of your Christian walk.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The word wonderful is a cliché these days, meaning simply 'very good.' This book, though, reclaims what it means to be wonder-full. Mike Cospers, one of the keenest gospel Christian analysts of culture alive today, shows us in this book why our world has become so disenchanted and charts us back to the joy of awe. This is an awe-full and wonder-full book, in the right meaning of both of those words." (Russell Moore, president, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention)"Do we need another book on classical disciplines of the Christian life? I have read many, but Recapturing the Wonder reads differently. It is a deeply spiritual, easily accessible, and creatively written book that encouraged my heart and exposed some disenchantment in the crevices of my own soul. I'll be handing this book out quite a bit. If you feel a little dry and

disillusioned or need a refresher on God's invitation to know him more deeply through the practice of the disciplines, this book will serve you well." (Matt Chandler, lead teaching pastor, The Village Church)"Recapturing the Wonder pulls you in from the first story of a tomcat catching a raccoon and keeps you reading until the final challenge to live the good life. You will love it. Mike Cospers has a way of expressing what we are all feeling and experiencing, and he makes sense of it all. He knows our deepest questions and innermost yearnings and creatively points to Jesus for all the answers." (Kyle Idleman, author of *Not a Fan* and *Grace is Greater*)"Am I ever simply where I am or is my mind constantly somewhere else? Am I able to sit in silence and enjoy the ambient noise or must I always be looking at my phone? These were some of the convicting questions I found myself asking as I read Mike Cospers's book *Recapturing the Wonder*. Reading his book caused my heart to long for more of Jesus, more rest in him, and more time with him, not to earn his favor but because of who he is. Find time to sit and read Cospers's rich and practical book. You'll be glad you did." (Trillia Newbell, author of *Enjoy, Fear and Faith*, and *United*)"The sieve of modern skepticism has drained some of the richest substance from belief; we and the world are all the poorer because of it. *Recapturing the Wonder* guides us toward a reenchanting Christian faith in a way that is compelling, convicting, and, well, enchanting. This is a book for our age." (Karen Swallow Prior, author of *Booked* and *Fierce Convictions*)"Disenchantment, cynicism, and skepticism are ubiquitous in our present time. We still long for wonder, but we seek it apart from the Wonderful One. In *Recapturing the Wonder*, Mike Cospers takes us by the hand, inviting us to relinquish our jadedness by receiving the wonder found in the gospel of Jesus Christ." (Ekemini Uwan, writer and speaker)"*Recapturing the Wonder* is a winsome wake-up call, calling us back to ourselves and back to God. It's conversational and straightforward, full of heart and authenticity. Through simple spiritual practices freshly applied, Cospers invites us to practice the integration of grace against the disconnect of this modern life." (Sandra McCracken, singer and songwriter)

Mike Cospers is the executive director of Harbor Media, a non-profit media company serving Christians in a post-Christian world. Prior to that, he served for sixteen years as a pastor at Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the author of *The Stories We Tell: How TV and Movies Long for and Echo the Truth* and *Rhythms of Grace: How the Church's Worship Tells the Story of the Gospel*. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky, with his wife, Sarah, and their two daughters.

If you've ever felt the "empty, forever empty" of life, this is a must-read book for you. Even as a pastor, I can get so immersed in the narrative that the material world is all there is and all there ever

will be that I lose sight of the reality that the earth is in fact teeming with the glory of God; that he is real, present, and personal, even in the seemingly mundane. In "Recapturing the Wonder," Cospers, like a masterful physician, both broke me by exposing the rhythms, habits, and patterns of my life that inhibit living in perpetual, grace-filled communion with God, and Cospers reset and bound the bones he broke with immediately practical and immensely helpful counsel for how to re-pattern and re-habituate my life so as to see every moment as an opportunity to enjoy a vital relationship with Jesus. Unlike so many books on the spiritual disciplines that have left me feeling frustrated and hopeless, "Recapturing the Wonder" casts a compelling vision for a flourishing life through the proven paths of the spiritual disciplines. As Cospers writes, "...life oriented around the spiritual disciplines is not a pathway to pleasing God but a pathway to experiencing the joy of God that is already ours in Jesus. The disciplines reshape our awareness and perception, and that awareness has a way of growing roots and branches, expanding far beyond our 'prayer time' and into our whole lives." I think you will especially like this book if you, like me, have been steeping in James K.A. Smith, Andy Crouch, David Foster Wallace, and others of their ilk. "Recapturing the Wonder" has uniquely synthesized the best of what I've read in them (and many others Cospers has now added to my reading list) in a way that is clear, captivatingly beautiful, and immensely helpful. I highly recommend this book!

~\*~ This is an age where our sense of spiritual possibility, transcendence, and the presence of God has been drained out. What's left is a spiritual desert, and Christians face the temptation to accept the dryness of that desert as the only possible world. We have enough conviction and faith to be able to call ourselves believers, but we're compelled to look for ways to live out a Christian life without transcendence and without the active presence of God, practicing what Dallas Willard once called "biblical deism" - a strange bastardization of Christianity that acts as though, once the Bible was written, God left us to sort things out for ourselves. In such a world, the Bible feels like a dead text and our prayers seem to bound answerless off the drywall. We might be fluent in the language of faith but unable to pray, overwhelmed by fear and anxiety, and victim to the compulsive, distracting habits that fill our age. We might be able to articulate the doctrine and dogma of the gospel but feel as though we're doing so from the outside looking in. It was genuinely a page turner, and a balm for my disenchanted heart. Really and truly - a phenomenal book.

Every once in awhile, a book comes along that is exactly what I needed to read, and Mike Cospers's

latest book was just that. As a seminary trained pastor in New England, I have read many books on the spiritual disciplines that have wonderful content. But I'm also a person who is recovering from legalism. When I finished many of those books, I felt overwhelmed and a bit dismayed; feeling like I needed to do more and like I was on spiritual disciplines race towards perfect Bible reading and prayer execution--for whatever that looks like. But this book was different. When I finished this book, I felt refreshed and not burdened. Cosper recasts these disciplines as invitations and not obligations; showing us how the disciplines can be the antidote to a culture that has lost wonder and awe. Mike Cosper effectively shows how living in a culture that is disenchanted has affected the Christian and how the spiritual disciplines are "pathways" that God gives to encounter God and retune our hearts to the Scriptures. This book is rooted in the Gospel, theologically sound, filled with grace, and points people back to Jesus. I am personally thankful for this book, already plan to reread it, and have already encouraged others to read this as well.

Recapturing the Wonder is a fantastic book that is extremely helpful in learning to grow solid disciplines of the Christian faith. Cosper does a great job of applying some of the work of Taylor's *Secular Age*, seeking to help us recapture the wonder that is often lost in a secular age of disenchantment. One of my favorite parts of the book is that after each chapter, as Cosper works his way through various aspects of how to re-enchant our lives, is that he has a very practical chapter on how to apply his thoughts to our lives. There is even one part where he goes into great detail in how to throw a feast. This is a great read, where stories are weaved into his book that make this a very fun read. I highly recommend this book, you won't be dissatisfied!

Recapturing The Wonder is able to accomplish so much in a little over 200 pages. Using story, interaction with some of the great thinkers of our day, his own life, and Scripture, Cosper shows how our world brings us to disenchantment and how to live in an enchanted world. This book is wonderfully written, accessible, and will help you become more in awe with our God. I have already read through this book twice, and will continue to read this with friends. This book has already helped reevaluate my daily routines, and shed light on the ways that I have become disenchanted. I strongly encourage you to purchase this book, and even buy a copy for a friend to read together.

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