

## EXCERPT



### ***The Other Side of Certainty***

*How to Follow Jesus When Easy Answers No Longer Work*

October 6, 2026 | \$19.99, 208 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1474-5

*The Other Side of Certainty* will help you move beyond rigid, black-and-white beliefs toward a faith with room for wonder, embrace curiosity and questions as vital parts of your spiritual growth, and encounter a deeper understanding of who God is and the joy and freedom he wants you to live in.

## With You All the Way

This book won't provide you with answers or definitive next steps. I can't do that (and neither can anyone else who may be delivering you those shiny promises). I can't calm your fears and tell you it's easier than people make it out to be to begin the process of examining what you believe. Because it's not. It's hard and it's confusing and it can be lonely to reexamine what you thought you knew, only to find out that you didn't. I can't even give you a map that lets you know where you will land or how long it should take to get there.

The beautiful thing about having a relationship with God, through Jesus, is that it's personal to you. While we may arrive in the same general vicinity, this is not the game of Candy Land where we all eventually reach the rainbow at the end. What I can offer, as Paul said to his fellow Jesus followers in Corinth, "I'm with you all the way, no matter what. I have, in fact, the greatest confidence in you" (2 Corinthians 7:4 MSG). I'm proud of you for leaning in, asking the tricky and sometimes unanswerable questions even when it's hard. And I promise that you are not alone. I've seen it to be true in my life as well as the lives of the people I've been lucky enough to walk with in my role as a pastor: As long as you're pursuing God, he will continue to illuminate your next right step. I invite you to come walk with us.

### **Questioning the Confusion**

If you're not sure where you are anymore when it comes to faith or God or any of it, I hope this book feels like a hug. Not a hug from a stranger or even that weird side hug that was the only one allowed between boys and girls in youth group. I hope it's the kind of hug that surprises you. One that is tighter than you expected and lasts longer than you'd choose but somehow helps you release the breath you didn't know you were holding.

Maybe you're cool with not having all the answers because you don't even know the questions to ask. Maybe entering faith conversations feels like you walked into a movie that was halfway over but you're somehow expected to know what's happened in order to get the plot.

If you're hesitant to start digging deeper for fear that your entire belief system will come unraveled, I can promise you this: As much as you want to hold on to God, he is holding on all the more to you. The people who choose to deconstruct their faith all the way down to burning embers do so because that's their goal. Whether from anger, rejection, woundedness, or a response to abuse or hypocrisy, they watched it burn with middle fingers flying because that was where their path led.

But it is not the destination for everyone. If you want to come through the other side still in a relationship with God, still believing in the message of Jesus, it is absolutely possible. There are so many of us out here who are the living proof of it. There may be more uncertainty in faith than most people want to see, but it's not something to fear and it isn't a sign that your faith is weak. This book will help you learn to embrace the discomfort that comes with a deeper understanding of who God is and the freedom he wants you to live in.

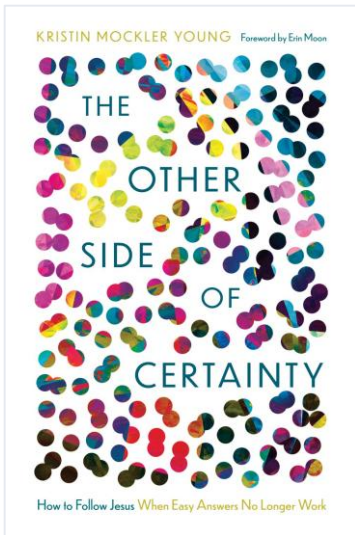


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#### **Grieving What Was**

Are you standing on the edge of the firepit, looking longingly at the remains of something you loved for so long, part of you wishing you hadn't taken it so far? Do you doubt that anything can be rebuilt from the ashes? This book is for you too. God wants you to know that you can't actually take it too far because his love has no bounds. There's nowhere you can go and nothing you can do that would make God turn his back on you, even if you've previously turned your back on God. And while I won't hide my heart for the church in these pages, this is not a bait and switch to try to trick you back into the establishment. You will find no guilt, shame, or pressure here. You don't have to reengage with the church until you're ready, because God is already speaking to you in other unexpected places. And my hope is that you will uncover him there.

If you've never had a faith crisis or a dark night of the soul, it doesn't mean that one is imminent. You may have high capacity to hold tensions. Maybe you were taught to know that two things can be true at once without one invalidating the other. My prayer for you is that God would use these stories to speak to you and help you feel seen, showing you more of who he is and who he created you to be. This book will also provide you with help for navigating relationships with friends, family, or other Christians who do not understand or agree with your version of Christianity. Even if you are confident in God, you currently exist with other human people. And it is possible to live peacefully even where the environment is tense.

#### **Compassionately Curious**

Maybe your tender heart has led you to pick up this book in order to better understand what's happening around you. You might be watching people leave the church or even walk right out of your life. I hope you'll find compassion in these pages as you learn to love them through this challenging phase but also to care for yourself. My prayer for you is that this book will encourage you to hold on to hope, keep talking about God's goodness, and point other people to who he really is in the way you live out the love of Jesus more and more each day.

If we're willing to make a trade, we can replace our certainty with wonder. We can relinquish the need to know and embrace the mystery of a God who is greater than our understanding. We can give up our answers for deeper relationship.

God is beyond religion. He's moving in the gray areas. He's hiding in plain sight in the places where you were told he could never be, through people you were taught to consider as godless. He's been there the whole time; we just couldn't see him because our eyes were directed to look the other way.

If you're ready to finally acknowledge the voice that's been calling to you, that inner tether that won't let you go, don't let anything or anyone stop you from exploring it. Like Anna said to Elsa, you don't have to do this alone. I'm here to help you. It's time to venture into the unknown.

—taken from chapter 2, "Asking the Questions We're Afraid Of"



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**Kristin Mockler Young** is a teaching pastor at Mosaic Church and host of the *Becoming Church* podcast. Through her teaching, podcast, and *Turning the Gem* Substack, Kristin encourages curiosity over certainty and helps people discover God in unexpected places.

## Finding Real Faith on the Other Side of Certainty

### What led you to write *The Other Side of Certainty*?

**Kristin Mockler Young:** For almost forty years I operated in a very black-and-white faith. Everything was binary, things (and people) were easily classified as right or wrong. It was a simple, yet clear, system where God said it, the Bible recorded it, the pastor taught it, and I believed it. As I began to widen the bubble I lived in, I experienced more and more cognitive dissonance where the people who claimed to also operate in that system of belief weren't living in a way that displayed the values I'd built my life on. The model of blind belief was no longer working because it didn't hold up to questions, tensions, or the complexities of the people God created in their actual lives. As I watched the system of Religious Certainty manipulate and justify damage, in the name of Jesus, I realized we had to be missing something.

### With a lot being written on deconstruction, what is distinctive about your approach in this book?

**Kristin:** As a pastor, I've seen a lot of people deconstruct and walk away from Christianity. In many cases, I completely understand why. I had my own season where it felt like everything I'd put my belief in was crumbling, and it took my identity, my relationships, and my purpose down with it. It's disorienting. While some people do need to get angry and walk away for a while, that isn't the solution for everyone. I still wanted to follow Jesus, and many of the people I was talking to in real life and online wanted the same. They just didn't know another option existed between staying where they'd always been or exiting completely. This book provides an alternative option for people who want to leave toxic or narrow theology while still holding on to Jesus because it reframes deconstruction not as an end point, but as a new way of living. It will help them rebuild a new and deeper faith once the limitations of Religious Certainty are gone.

### In what specific ways can we leave room in our faith for mystery, tension, nuance, questions, and difference? What does that look like in real life?

**Kristin:** It starts with the hardest confession: admitting that we may not have all the answers. Finding faith on the other side of certainty isn't about burning down all you used to believe and calling it wrong. It's about taking a step back to see that it was likely just incomplete. When we can replace the pride of knowing (what we use to convince ourselves and prove to others that we are good Christians) with the humble admission that just maybe we haven't figured God out, the nuance and mystery and wonder begin to fill the space that previously kept them out.

### How have you personally faced the shuffle of unlearning and relearning about faith?

**Kristin:** I deconstructed at the same time I was going through ordination. I knew what I needed to unlearn, didn't yet know what I needed to relearn, and was supposed to be teaching "the things to learn" to the people I was leading all at the same time. It was more than a shuffle. As a real person in the world, I've also experienced the unique grief and connection an evolving faith has on relationships.



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## Q & A



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#### **What are five things you hope readers take from *The Other Side of Certainty*?**

- A deeper understanding of who God is.
- Freedom to live fully as they were created to be.
- Open eyes to see other people in the world from a new perspective.
- The ability to see and hear God in anything.
- A better palette for chips.

#### **What does freedom actually look like on the “other side of certainty”?**

**Kristin:** It's like *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* where it doesn't make sense, but faith just fits everyone. It may look different, and it can't be explained, but no one is suffocating from being stuffed into something that they've outgrown.



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## Not Your Typical Pastor

*“Kristin is a lot of fun, but don’t let the glitter gel-pen vibes and Bambi eyelashes fool you. She is about her business, and her business is caring for those who are in a mess of faith. She’s pastoral, not in a weird, megachurch kind of way but in a “I’m not doing this for the paycheck” kind of way. What makes Kristin an excellent guide in the hinterlands of faith is not that she has all the answers. It’s that she doesn’t balk at the questions. And there are so many questions.”*

—from the foreword by Erin Moon

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**Kristin Mockler Young** is a teaching pastor at Mosaic Church, a church she helped plant in 2006 as a volunteer. She took a part-time position on staff at Mosaic in 2018 and was ordained into full-time ministry in 2021. Located in Charlotte, North Carolina, Mosaic is admittedly her favorite church, but she has a heart for the global church and is always thinking about how she can help reshape it into what Jesus originally intended it to be.

Kristin and her husband Peter love hosting people in their home and celebrating for any occasion. She is a mother to her two daughters, Marlee and Margot, and they are often found playing dress-up, having dance parties, or snuggling up on the couch with a Disney princess.

In *The Barbie Movie*, the Mattel CEO said, “We sell dreams, imagination, and sparkle. And when you think of sparkle, what do you think of next? Female agency!” It was written as a joke, but for Kristin, it was brilliant and enlightened. She leans fully into embracing who she is underneath her bedazzled jeans, “preachin’ lashes,” and bright blazer of the week to help others find freedom in the way God created, sees, and loves them exactly as they are.

Kristin has been featured in various publications and on many podcasts and stages, including the Mosaix National Conference, TEDx Charlotte, and *On the Path*. She is also the host of *Becoming Church*, a conversational podcast that explores the nuance of faith in unexpected places and teaches listeners to find God in everything from grief to humor to politics.

Learn more at [kristinmockleryoung.com](http://kristinmockleryoung.com).



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