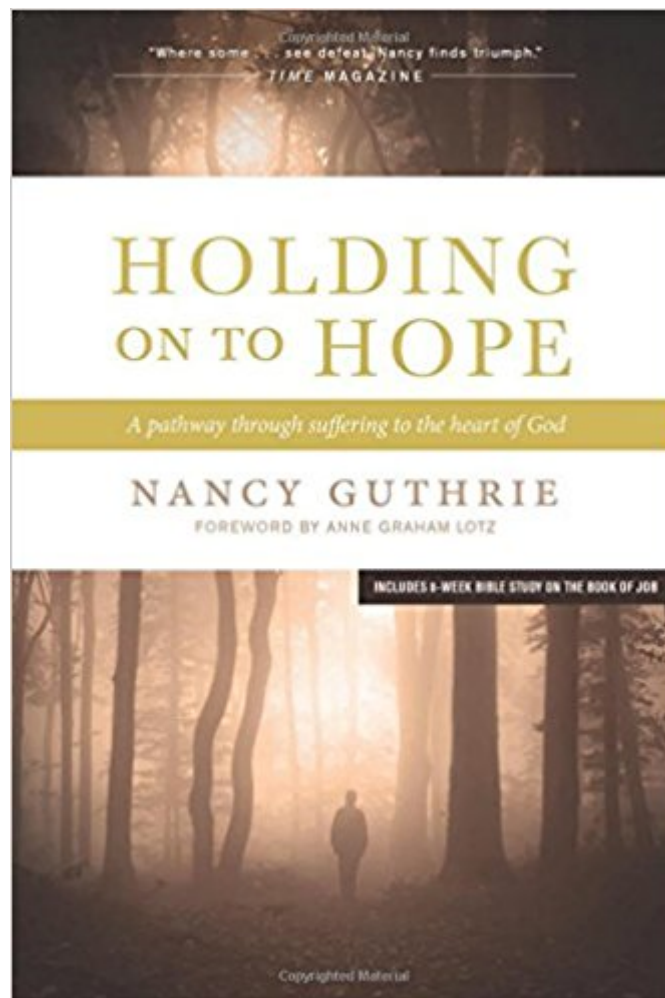




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# Holding On To Hope: A Pathway Through Suffering To The Heart Of God



## Synopsis

A healing book for those in the wake of life's devastating storms. We can never plan for the unexpected turns of this life that sometimes lead to great personal suffering. Sometimes that suffering can overshadow everything and threaten to pull us under. Nancy Guthrie knows what it is to be plunged into life's abyss. Framing her own story of staggering loss and soaring hope with the biblical story of Job, she takes you by the hand and guides you on a pathway through pain straight to the heart of God. *Holding On to Hope* offers an uplifting perspective, not only for those experiencing monumental loss, but for anyone going through difficulty and failure. (Includes an 8-week study on the book of Job for readers who want to dig deeper into what the Bible says about dealing with suffering and grief.)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In late 1998, doctors diagnosed Guthrie's newborn daughter, Hope, with Zellweger syndrome, a rare congenital disorder, and gave Hope less than six months to live. Guthrie, a media relations specialist who has a 10-year-old son without the disease, tells of Hope's brief life with raw emotion, but never resorts to cloying sentimentality. After Hope's death, Guthrie's husband had a vasectomy to prevent future pregnancies. Thus they were shocked to learn, a year and a half later, that Nancy was pregnant again. Although there was only a 25% chance that the baby would carry the disease, they soon discovered that this child, a son, would also be a Zellweger baby. Gabriel lived just one day shy of six months, dying in January of this year. In trying to extract meaning behind such suffering, Guthrie turns to the Book of Job, teasing out themes of restoration and redemption amidst

Job's many trials. She is honest about her own terrible sorrow; after outlining God's possible purpose for the fleeting lives of these two children, Guthrie admits, "That is what I believe. It is not necessarily how I feel." She says that her decision to trust in God is a daily choice, not a onetime sacrifice, and that some days such submission is easier to embody than others. The book closes with a time-honored evangelical altar call. And here, it works. Readers who have immersed themselves in Guthrie's honest story of redemptive suffering will examine their own faith in a new light. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book will touch your emotions and inspire your mind in an unforgettable way. Seldom will you read anything with such candor and insight, probing one of life's toughest questions. (Ravi Zacharias) Guthrie tells of Hope's brief life with raw emotion, but never resorts to cloying sentimentality. (Publishers Weekly) Only God could orchestrate such events. And only God could give the Guthrie family the faith and courage to live them. May He use this story to strengthen us all. (Max Lucado)

This is one of the hardest books I've ever read. My sister's friend sent it to me after the death of my son. It took me a few months to want to read it, and even when I did, I struggled to finish it. The author, Nancy Guthrie, wrote it after the death of her daughter, Hope, from a rare genetic disorder. Her insights into the hearts and minds of those who have lost children is precious, as many books on grief are not written from this perspective. She is wise and intentional as she walks the reader through the book of Job, exploring Job's reactions to loss, his friends reactions, and God's reactions. Ms. Guthrie continually points the reader to the hope of the Gospel. This is my go-to book to give to friends experiencing the incredibly painful loss of a child. I've ordered it for my church library, given a copy to my pastor, and sent it to women around the country. I always tell them it isn't easy to read, but it is good.

As christian parents we fervently prayed, fasted & believed wholeheartedly for our 8 year old only son to be healed from cancer. However 10 months from diagnosis our beloved son was promoted to heaven. After his passing we knew he was in heaven but couldn't comprehend it and the grief of physical separation from him was so overwhelming & heartbreaking. I sought & read numerous Christian books on grief and apart from the bible this book was truly the most revealing & profound book that gave me and my husband a new uplifting perspective on our loss. We still grieve & ache

for our son but we grieve with greater hope and joy for where he is and who God is. We felt Nancy had articulated & understood what we were experiencing. Your book has hugely helped us in our healing & to anchor our hopes in heaven & eternity. I highly recommend this book to all grieving parents! Bless you

I didn't want to study Job as I have before, but she went so deep into the entire Bible and the meaning of life, it was good to change my focus to what is important. Lots of time required to do these lessons, however. It would be better broken into smaller chunks, as it requires too much time every day. Good lessons, though.

Nancy Guthrie understands pain. In *Holding on to Hope: A Pathway through Suffering to the Heart of God*, Guthrie leads readers through the dark abyss of pain into a place of hope and healing. In 1998, doctors diagnosed her newborn daughter, Hope, with Zellweger Syndrome, a rare congenital disorder that gave her less than six months to live. After Hope's death, Guthrie's husband had a vasectomy. Nevertheless, a year and a half later, she finds herself pregnant again. With only a 25 percent chance that this baby would be born with the disorder, Guthrie is hopeful. However, her hope is short-lived. Her son, Gabriel, also has Zellweger Syndrome and dies one day shy of six months. With raw emotion and gut-wrenching honesty, Guthrie frames her story with the biblical book of Job, challenging readers to move beyond the question "Why?" Guthrie encourages readers to embrace their suffering. "Would you allow suffering to lead you to the very heart of God, a place where you can find the comfort and peace that you crave as well as the hope that has the power to transform your tomorrows?" She reminds readers that all suffering is meaningful. "If God has allowed suffering into your life, it is for a purpose. A good purpose. A holy purpose." While claims like these might seem unbelievable, Guthrie's authenticity and genuineness throughout the book reveal that she did not reach her conclusions lightly. She has journeyed through the pain to the other side, where she has found hope. Eternal hope that is found in Christ alone. Through her pain, she extends her hand, inviting readers on a journey to the heart of God. "The truth is there is no comfort to be found away from God," she writes. Her painful experiences make her a trustworthy guide through the valley of suffering. As someone who lives with the chronic pain and suffering wrought by Rheumatoid Arthritis, I appreciate Guthrie's conclusions, but even more so, her journey. She avoids trite sentimentality and pithy platitudes that attempt to cover raw, gaping wounds with a band-aid. Her book resonates with insights that come only through the furnace of affliction. Her words wrap their arms around you, offering warmth, comfort, and hope. Guthrie is a writer with a lot to say. My

only regret is that she failed to say more. While she addresses topics like tears and mourning and our tendency to blame God when we suffer, I would have liked a practical section added to her book, one that addresses the daily challenges those living with pain and suffering face, along with suggestions for how to navigate through the mundane daily chores we face during the healing process. Guthrie's book is one of the best on this topic. Guthrie's bright faith shines through the dark clouds of adversity, offering warmth and light to those who journey with her on a pathway through suffering to the heart of God.

This book is one that I have read myself two or three times and I have probably given away 8 copies. For anyone struggling with the loss of a loved one, breakdown of a marriage, illness and sort of suffering this book offers hope. Written by a woman who has walked the painful path of the loss of a child, and her journey with God. It is also a Bible study of the book of Job, the ultimate example of the believer's response to suffering. Easy, fast read, broken down into short chapters.

I have been struggling with trusting God when my circumstances are not so good. I received a difficult diagnosis recently and did not understand "why". I was not angry with God, but more confused and this book has been a comfort. It did not "answer" my question as to "why" difficult things happen, but helped me to understand more of who God is and that I don't need to know the answer, but to trust God with everything because He is trustworthy. I highly recommend this book and loved the writing of Nancy Guthrie:)) I went out and got her daily devotional "Abundant Life" as well. I also want to get her hope devotional later but need to wait a little bit! Read the book!!! Enjoy:))

I am so thankful that someone understands the reason that God chooses to give children with special problems or needs to someone. You feel her pain but walk with her as she leads you to this profound understanding and into the sweetest relationship and closeness to the very heart of God. It was the very words written from my own heart and exact same feelings as I too am a mother that had this experience. I wish I could tell this author what it meant to me to know someone else turned this experience into the biggest blessing in their life and now using it to encourage someone that is going through this or similar circumstances. I bought several copies to share.

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