

# A Cross-Examined Faith

by Noel W. Sterett

## A review of “Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus”

by Dr. Nabeel Qureshi

Lawyers know the power of a good question. Questions can take you to the heart of a matter and unearth new information. Questions can also expose truth, lies, whether the one being questioned is confident in or afraid of the answers to your questions. So, may I ask you a few questions? When it comes to God, why do you believe what you believe? Are your beliefs true? Do you care? Have you ever examined your faith or subjected it to cross-examination?

Cross examination is the adversarial process by which an attorney on one side of an issue asks pointed and often leading questions to a witness who is adverse or opposed to the side the attorney is representing. The truth of the witness's testimony and confidence in it is put the test. The interrogation is often so trying and adversarial for the witness and his testimony that we speak in terms of “survival” and ask whether the witness “survived cross-examination.” Would your faith and beliefs survive cross-examination?

In his compelling and autobiographical book “Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity,” Dr. Nabeel Qureshi cogently describes how he, as a devout Muslim, subjected not only his Christian friends and the truth claims of Christianity to cross-examination but also how he came to believe that Jesus, not Mohammed, is the way, the truth, and the life after he subjected himself and the truth claims of Islam to the same test. The book not only provides tremendous insight into Dr. Qureshi's faith journey, it also beautifully portrays his family, their Muslim faith, and the issues they faced living in the Western world. It also provides a concise and dispassionate catechism of both the Islamic and Christian faiths, highlighting their similarities and key differences.

I would encourage people of all faiths to read this book. Though I have read it, we will now be reading it as a law firm at our attorney meetings in hopes of both better understanding our Muslim neighbors, but also for its questions—questions that will perhaps try our faith, reveal weaknesses or even lies in what we believe. To borrow from Socrates, an unexamined faith is not worth having or sharing. For followers of Jesus, the scriptures show that Jesus and his apostles often invited people to put their truth claims to test. And as Paul said, if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, our preaching is in vain, our faith is in vain, and we are most to be pitied. ■

