

Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God

By Lauren F. Winner



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Lauren F. Winner—a leading writer at the crossroads of culture and spirituality and author of Still and Girl Meets God-joins the ranks of luminaries such as Anne Lamott and Barbara Brown Taylor with this exploration of little known—and, so, little used—biblical metaphors for God, metaphors which can open new doorways for our lives and spiritualities.

There are hundreds of metaphors for God, but the church only uses a few familiar images: creator, judge, savior, father. In Wearing God, Lauren Winner gathers a number of lesser-known tropes, reflecting on how they work biblically and culturally, and reveals how they can deepen our spiritual lives.

Exploring the notion of God as clothing, Winner reflects on how we are "clothed with Christ" or how "God fits us like a garment." She then analyzes how clothing functions culturally to shape our ideals and identify our community, and ruminates on how this new metaphor can function to create new possibilities for our lives. For each biblical metaphor—God as the vine/vintner who animates life; the lactation consultant; and the comedian, showing us our follies, for example—Winner surveys the historical, literary, and cultural landscapes in order to revive and heal our souls.



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Editorial Review

Review

"A gorgeously written and compelling investigation into what it means to strike up a friendship with the Living God." (**James Martin, SJ**, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*)

"The images Lauren introduces me to in *Wearing God* have stayed with me, enriching my prayers and broadening my view of God. I love her writing, and this book is no exception." (**Shauna Niequist**, author of *Bread & Wine*)

"In Wearing God—a book both winsome and erudite—Winner convenes a salon of saints and biblical writers to reveal that God is much more than just Shepherd or King and far more interesting than we thought." (**Fred Bahnson**, Wake Forest University School of Divinity, author of *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*)

"Lauren's curiosity about the life of faith is so compelling—and her intelligence so engaging—that there is nothing more satisfying than settling down with a new book from her. The only problem is that it is impossible to read her without being changed; so advance at your own risk." (**Barbara Brown Taylor**, author of *Learning to Walk in the Dark*)

"Combining spiritual insight and beautifully descriptive prose . . . Winner looks at the ways God can be known through the everyday and familiar. [Her] honest, charming reflections stir the imagination and invite the reader to explore . . . the treasure trove the Bible provides." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"If Christianity is to regain its credibility, or even its positive character, people are going to have to read books like this! Winner opens up Scripture in ways that are loyal to the Great Tradition, and yet readable, faith-filled, and applicable to the world we actually live in." (**Richard Rohr, O.F.M.**, author of *Falling Upward*)

"Lauren Winner explores less familiar biblical descriptions of God and how each shapes the way we think about who God is. *Wearing God* is a warm, playful reflection that not only expands our understanding of God, but also highlights the delicate interweaving of language and imagination." (*Relevant Magazine*)

"With her trademark acerbic wit and wry honesty, Winner delves into a few seldom used biblical images for God. . . . A mixture of anecdotes and thought-provoking analysis, *Wearing God* proves a wise and appealing companion on the journey." (*Shelf Awareness*)

"Provides a playful and thoughtful excursion into fresh ways of seeing and savoring the Divine in the unfolding of our ordinary lives." (*Spirituality & Practice*)

"[An] appealing book . . . a thoughtful mediation on God, spirituality, and the fabric of life." (Booklist)

"Lauren Winner's *Wearing God* is playful, serious, informative, devotional, and as important as it is gratifying. . . . I read it with the sort of joy one feels when watching someone utterly hit their stride." (*Christian Century*)

"Winner is a gifted writer (and a voracious reader)." (The Charlotte Observer)

"[These] metaphors clarify and inspire. Winner, no iconoclast, has painted us some pictures worthy of veneration." (Aleteia)

"This book begs to be savored, to be revisited, to be slept with, prayed over, and pondered." (RevGals)

Winner parses centuries of people trying to make sense of God [and] deploys her lively spiritual imagination and bookworm sensibility to take us beyond cliché and into new territory. . . . She sees invitations to consider mystery where many of us see only a wall. (The Rumpus.com)

From the Back Cover

"Around five years ago, I began to realize that my pictures of God were old. This intersected, not coincidentally, with my newfound wakefulness to the scriptures, and it led me on a search: what pictures, what images and metaphors, does the Bible give us for who God is, and what ways of being with God might those pictures invite?

"One of the invitations of this book—and, I think, of the Bible—is this: you can discover things about God by looking around your ordinary, everyday life. There is a method here, and it is Jesus's method. Jesus, after all, specialized in asking people to steep themselves in the words of the scriptures and then to look around their ordinary Tuesdays to see what they could see about holiness and life with God. This is not merely entertaining wordplay to give overactive minds something pious to do. It is the Bible's way of making us aware of God and of the world in which we meet God."

—from Wearing God

So begins a wise and lyrical journey as scholar and Episcopal priest Lauren Winner tries on overlooked metaphors for how we meet and experience God. Chapters on God as clothing, laughter, flame, food, wine, and a laboring woman not only invite us to understand God in a new way, but each reveals God to be much closer and more intimate than we imagine, opening up the opportunity for experiencing and knowing God more deeply. If God has felt distant or absent, or if your reading of scripture has become cold or rote, reading *Wearing God* can serve as the hymn that revives you.

About the Author

Lauren F. Winner is an ordained Episcopal priest and the author of numerous books, including *Girl Meets God, Real Sex, Mudhouse Sabbath*, and Still, which won the *Christianity Today* Book Award in Spirituality. She teaches at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. Her articles have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Books & Culture*, and other periodicals.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Nguyen:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or maybe goal; it means that guide has

different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They can be reading whatever they have because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Consider the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will need this Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God.

Shannon Silva:

This Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God can bring any time you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God having very good arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Gregory Throop:

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Brent Campbell:

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