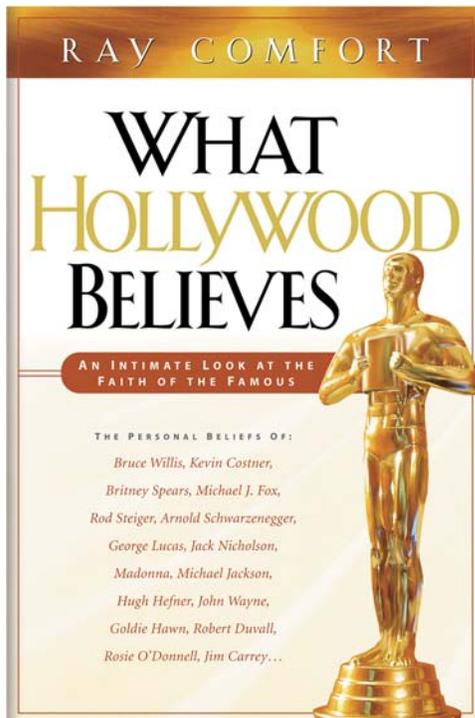


What Hollywood Believes

An Intimate Look at the Faith of the Famous

All of this information can also be found in the "Press Area" of www.WhatHollywoodBelieves.com



BOOK SYNOPSIS

Did you know that George Lucas produced Star Wars so young people would seek after God, or that Frank Sinatra believed in God and in the Sermon on the Mount? Which Hollywood star thinks God is a woman? Who are atheists? What did John Wayne say about God just before he died? How many Hollywood celebrities pray every day, and believe the Bible?

Contrary to popular opinion, America is very interested in the topic of God. Combining the rising popularity of spirituality and the public's voracious appetite for celebrity information, this unique publication shares the spiritual beliefs of Hollywood stars from past and present. You will be intrigued as you discover the personal beliefs of Jim Carrey, Britney Spears, Bruce Willis, Jack Nicholson, and over 100 top celebrities.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Ray Comfort is the co-host (with actor Kirk Cameron) and producer of an award-winning television show. Originally from New Zealand, in 1989 he and his family left "The Lord of the Rings" country and settled in the United States. He is the author of more than 40 books, including *101 Things Husbands Do to Annoy Their Wives*, *Nostradamus: Attack on America*, and *Life's Emergency Handbook*. Ray and his wife, Sue, live in Southern California, where they have three grown children.



AUTHOR INTERVIEW Q&A

Ray Comfort

Author of *What Hollywood Believes*

Question One: *What Hollywood Believes* is an amazing collection of personal spiritual beliefs of the stars, past and present, in Hollywood. How did you collect and verify the information presented in this book?

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Ray Comfort: Late in 2002, I began researching for a book on what Hollywood believed, and gave up. It was almost impossible to find *anything* on any celebrity's spirituality. I came to the conclusion that, for some reason, the majority of Hollywood's elite were spiritually bankrupt. But after Mel Gibson's movie was so successful, I had a strong suspicion that I was wrong--because a few celebrities started coming out of the spiritual closet. So I began to research once again, and this time with even more diligence. I explored all sorts of literature--magazines, books, libraries, personal contacts, television, and I searched the Internet. Each time I found a quote it was like finding a golden needle in a haystack of information. It almost became addictive. I ended up with the beliefs of over one hundred big name stars, and each time I found one I took the utmost care to give all sources of information, in the belief that each of the sources is accurate.



This author photo is available by download at www.WhatHollywoodBelieves.com in the "Press Area"

Question Two: After completing all the research required to write, *What Hollywood Believes*, was there one celebrity that stood out above the others, and particularly touched your heart with his/her search for the truth?

Ray Comfort. John Wayne seemed to epitomize Hollywood's way of thinking. There's a language that the world uses when it refers to God. He said, "When the road looks rough ahead, remember the Man Upstairs and the word 'hope.' Hang onto both and tough it out."¹

Shortly before cancer took his life, John Wayne said, "I've always had deep faith that there is a Supreme Being; there has to be. To me that's just a normal thing to have that kind of faith. The fact that He's let me stick around a little longer, or She's let me stick around a little longer, certainly goes great with me—and I want to hang around as long as I'm healthy and not in anybody's way."²

I heard that when he was on his deathbed, he called for Billy Graham to pray with him, but I haven't been able to verify that. Sadly, it often takes a tragedy to stop us in our tracks and make us look to God. I was reading where Rodney Dangerfield (at the age of 82) said, "You feel different when you're getting old. You know your going to die. You just don't know how. So what I'm doing now is hanging around, waiting--waiting to see when and how I'm going to die."³ It amazes me that it take some people a lifetime to come to that conclusion. I had that revelation when I was 20 years old, and found the answer to death when I was converted two years later.

Question Three: What is the most surprising fact you discovered through your research?

Ray Comfort. What surprised me was who believed what. I had no idea that Jim Carrey, Kevin Costner, Michael J. Fox, Gregory Peck, Christopher Reeve, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Frank Sinatra, and Jimmy Stewart and so many others had spiritual beliefs. It confirmed something I already

¹ John Wayne Quotes <<http://millennium.fortunecity.com/savannah/731/jwayne/quotes.html>>.

² Interview by Barbara Walters, 1979, as quoted on <www.members.aol.com/fortscott/quotes.htm>.

³ *Rolling Stone*, page 40, June 10, 2004

What Hollywood Believes

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knew. Hollywood has discouraged any publicity about the beliefs of stars because they maintained that it would be detrimental to their careers. I was in a meeting in Hollywood where a well-known actor was told that if he continued to publicly have anything to do with spirituality, it would be the end of his career. "The Passion of the Christ" proved them wrong by bursting out of the box office into the bank--grossing millions of dollars in its opening weeks. That showed that America is *not* antagonistic toward the things of God. According to a March 2004 Associated Press poll, an incredible 87 percent of respondents wanted "under God" kept in the Pledge of Allegiance.⁴ A Gallup poll shortly after the film's release found that three in four Americans have seen it or expect to see it.⁵

Question Four: You have said that Hollywood lives in a world of its own. Tell us what you mean by that statement.

Ray Comfort: *The New York Times* reported, "As the overwhelming success of *The Passion of the Christ* reverberates through Hollywood, producers and studio executives are asking whether the movie industry has been neglecting large segments of the American audience eager for more openly religious fare."⁶ This is because for years Hollywood has come to bear little resemblance to middle America. For example, a survey conducted among the 104 top television writers and executives found only 49 percent consider adultery to be wrong—which means 51 percent believe adultery is morally right. Meanwhile 85 percent of the rest of America believes adultery is wrong.⁷



This picture was taken during interviews for the proposed *What Hollywood Believes* T.V. show. - For more information on using this photo, email sgscott@verizon.net. (ref#040501-063)

When asked about their religious affiliations, 45 percent of Hollywood executives said they had none, while the number of Americans who had no religious affiliation was a mere 4 percent. Gallup polls reveal that over 90 percent of Americans believe in God, with as many as 40 percent attending worship services regularly,⁸ yet America's true spirituality hasn't been reflected in television shows or movies.

Question Five: Hollywood has an interesting heritage of which many may not be aware. Could you tell us about it?

⁴ "AP Poll: Most prefer phrase 'under God,'" The Associated Press, March 24, 2004 <www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2004/03/24/ap_poll_most_prefer_phrase_under_god>.

⁵ David W. Moore, The Gallup Organization, March 12, 2004 <www.gallup.com/content/login.aspx?ci=10963>.

⁶ Sharon Waxman, "Hollywood Rethinking Faith Films After 'Passion,'" *New York Times*, March 15, 2004, Section E, p. 1.

⁷ *Newsweek*, July 1992, as quoted on <www.geocities.com/RegnevaT/pp/television.htm>.

⁸ The Center for Media and Public Affairs, "The Elite and How to Avoid It," *Newsweek*, July 20.

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Ray Comfort: When legendary filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille (director of the epic movie *The Ten Commandments*) first came to California in the early 1900s, he settled in a small town that was giving away free land to anyone willing to build a place of worship. The town, said to be a "Christian" settlement, had a picturesque name—Hollywood.⁹



This picture was taken during interviews for the proposed *What Hollywood Believes* T.V. show. - For more information on using this photo, email sgscott@verizon.net. (ref#040501-002)

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Question Six: What effect do you think the success of *The Passion of the Christ* will have on Hollywood executives and actors?

Ray Comfort: I think 9-11 stopped many of us in our tracks and made us rethink our values as a nation. I think this is reflected in the incredible success of the *Left Behind* book series. More than 60 million copies have been sold. A couple of years ago, *Newsweek* ran a fourteen page feature story on mega-churches springing up around the country, and the phenomenal success of the book series. So I am hoping that Hollywood will produce movies and television that address the desires of the general public, movies with spiritual content. But I'm not holding my breath. I've got a feeling, that despite the financial success of

The *Passion* movie, much of Hollywood hate the things of God more than they love the money they could make. In spite of this, my hope is that actors will no longer be intimidated about publicizing their faith, and that they will choose only roles that reflect their beliefs.

So I am hoping that Hollywood will produce movies and television that address the desires of the general public, movies with spiritual content. But I'm not holding my breath (although I'm pleased to say that ABC is reportedly planning a TV miniseries called the "The Ten Commandments," that will air late this year or early next. The project will cost \$20 million). My hope is that actors will no longer be intimidated about publicizing their faith, and that they will choose only roles that reflect their beliefs.

Question Seven: You say in your book that people are really much more interested in God and in spiritual things than Hollywood or the press lead us to believe. How do you think this knowledge should affect the average person in talking about spiritual things?

Ray Comfort: The knowledge that people are interested in the things of God should be a tremendous encouragement to each of us to be more open about our faith. I know that it has helped me. I continually battle with a fear of rejection, but knowing that 87% of Americans want "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, and that so many went to see *The Passion*, helps me to overcome my fears.

Question Eight: Can you give us some celebrity quotes mentioned in *What Hollywood Believes*?

⁹ Cecil B. DeMille, "American Epic: Biography Documentary Special," April 5, 2004.

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Ray Comfort: George Lucas said, "I put the Force into [Star Wars] in order to try to awaken a certain kind of spirituality in young people—more a belief in God than a belief in any particular religious system. I wanted to make it so that young people would begin to ask questions about the mystery. Not having enough interest in the mysteries of life to ask the question, 'Is there a God or is there not a God?'—that is for me the worst thing that can happen. I think you should have an opinion about that. Or you should be saying, 'I'm looking. I'm very curious about this, and I am going to continue to look until I can find an answer, and if I can't find an answer, then I'll die trying.' I think it's important to have a belief system and to have faith."¹⁰

Jim Carrey said, "We've always tried to humanize [God] in some way. He's probably just a shaft of light in a doorway or something like that ... We're spiritual in a sense and I've always been big about faith... I've gone multi-denominational. I've studied a lot of different things and basically I don't know what God is but I know that He's at least an energy that rules all that walks the earth and I really think there are laws."

What is interesting was that most of these stars are just like the rest of us. They have fears, doubts, and aspirations. They are concerned about their mortality. *They don't want to die.* Some are atheists--but not as many as you would think. Others believe the Bible and regularly go to church with their families. I had no idea that Jim Carrey believed in God. Or that Britney Spears prayed daily, or that George Lucas produced *Star Wars* so that young people would seek after God, or that Frank Sinatra believed in God and in the Sermon on the Mount.



This picture was taken during interviews for the proposed *What Hollywood Believes* T.V. show. - For more information on using this photo, email sgscott@verizon.net. (ref#040501-014)

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Question Nine: Even though some of the ideas and beliefs held by celebrities may seem strange, most readers will connect in some way with the doubts and questions that the stars ask themselves. Did you address these doubts and questions in the book?

Ray Comfort: I have attempted to address some of the difficulties and objections raised —such as the issue of suffering, proof that God exists, why we should believe a Book that is full of strange stories, who made God, etc. Most people have asked the same questions that they ask, and so I'm hopeful that the reader will find the answers in the book to be helpful. Carrie Fisher said, "I love the idea of God, but it's not stylistically in keeping with the way I function. I would describe myself as an enthusiastic agnostic who would be happy to be shown that there is a God." I hope that she's sincere about that, because I know how to prove God's existence—without mentioning "faith," or even the Bible. I've done so in this book, and I have a number of times seen atheists "backslide" when I have given them this proof. We even have an atheist on camera (on our TV show) changing his mind he heard these principles. I would be more than

¹⁰ Interview by Bill Moyers, "Of Myth and Men, *Time* magazine, April 26, 1999, as quoted on <www.next-wave.org/may99/starwars.htm>.

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happy to send Carrie a complimentary copy of, *What Hollywood Believes*, if I could locate her address.

Question Ten: What Hollywood Believes provides much more than entertainment and information. What effect do you hope the book will have on its readers?

Ray Comfort: I hope people will find it more than titillating. I trust it will help them to see that many of those celebrities to whom we look up are also looking up...toward the heavens. Although they are rich, famous, successful, and seemingly self-sufficient--they have the same fears, doubts, and aspirations as the rest of us.

RADIO INTERVIEWS

Do you want a compelling, challenging, entertaining and Biblically sound interview? Schedule Ray Comfort. I have interviewed hundreds of authors and guests and I can say without hesitation...Ray is the best. No other guest has had the impact, or generated more positive response than Ray. His message is bold, compelling and Biblically solid. Your listeners will be challenged, entertained and inspired. We interviewed him once and invited him back 14 times...really. He is outstanding. I have slept through hundreds of interviews and not one comes close to creating the excitement that he brings. He has an energy and passion that forces people to listen...and respond.

-- **Todd Friel, Host, "Talk the Walk" -- KKMS, Minnesota**

After interviewing thousands of guests over thirty-one years, I would put Ray Comfort in the top five, not five thousand; five. He is unique.

-- **Tim Berrends, Co-host of "Mornings with Tim & Al"-- KJSL, St. Louis**

**To schedule a radio interview with Ray Comfort,
call 1-800-437-1893 and ask for Mark Spence, Booking Agent.**