

Suggested Interview Questions for Philip Yancey,
author of *What Good Is God?*
FaithWords/Hachette Book Group

Why are you drawn to the big questions of faith, from ‘where is God when it hurts?’ to ‘does prayer make any difference?’ and now ‘What good is God?’

You were in Mumbai to speak on the night of the terrorist attacks there. Tell us about that experience, and the people you spoke to at a small church that night.

Can the “God of all comfort” truly bring solace to a wounded place like Mumbai or the Virginia Tech campus?

Your visit to the Virginia Tech campus came shortly after your own brush with death in a serious car accident that broke your neck. How did that experience inform your talk to the VTU students, as well as the larger investigation at the heart of this book?

How does spending time with the people you interview—leaders of the underground church in China, a woman who ministers to prisoners in South Africa’s most notorious prison, sex workers and alcoholics, beleaguered Christians in the Middle East—refine your own faith?

Why do you think the church is experiencing such spectacular growth in China?

You say that in the West, Christianity seems more like a corporation than a living movement. What can the American church learn from the flourishing of faith in the difficult, dangerous circumstances you witnessed in your travels?

Why did you include a chapter on C.S. Lewis in this book? How does his life and work help answer the question “What good is God?”

When people pose a question like “what good is God?” you say that often they are really asking why God doesn’t intervene more directly in human history, and with more force. How do you answer that?

Why did you entitle your talk to an AA group “Why I Wish I Was an Alcoholic”?

What has this latest journalistic foray taught you about grace?