

**Interview Questions for Preston Yancey, author of
*Tables in the Wilderness: A Memoir of God Found, Lost, and Found Again***

"I'm thinking about the kaleidoscope. What I hadn't quite understood at first, when it felt that Jesus had packed up the boxes, was that while the image of God I was seeing had changed, the pieces that portrayed the image hadn't . . . On that day in September, sitting on that couch, he shifted the wheel. All the pieces—the colors, the pieces, the raw materials—remained the same. The vision was new. The way of hearing was new. God was the same. He gets you there."

--Preston Yancey

- You're still in your twenties, Preston, so your memoir captures a Millennial view of life. What do you think is distinct or unique about the spiritual journey of 20-somethings today?
 - With so many young adults leaving organized religion as they leave home, what do church leaders need to rethink about spiritual formation for teenagers?
 - Your early twenties were spent unraveling what you thought you knew for sure, and it felt like wandering in a wilderness. What encouragement do you give others who find themselves in that place?
 - The title of your book, *Tables in the Wilderness*, is inspired by Psalm 78. What has this scripture come to mean to you?
 - How did your parents prepare you for or support you during your years of questioning and changing?
 - Your mother's illness definitely shaped your childhood. How has that difficult circumstance shaped your perspective on suffering and healing?
 - Your experience of wilderness was marked by silence on God's part. How do you recommend a person keep listening when God seems profoundly silent?
 - You write that you're currently a patchwork of Anglican spirituality and Baptist sensibility. Why do you think liturgical worship is appealing to your generation?
 - During college you were part of a group of college students trying to revive a struggling congregation. It didn't end well, but what lessons did you learn from that tough experience?
 - Friendship is a powerful theme within your book. Do face-to-face friendships have more or less significance for a Facebook generation?
 - You write that a spiritual director helped you listen for God in the silence. How do our relationships with other Christians impact our ability to live faithful lives?
 - Other than Scripture, what books have most influenced the trajectory of your faith?
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Guest: Preston Yancey, blogger and author

Book title: *Tables in the Wilderness: A Memoir of God Found, Lost, and Found Again*

Publisher: Zondervan

Available: October 1, 2014, in bookstores everywhere