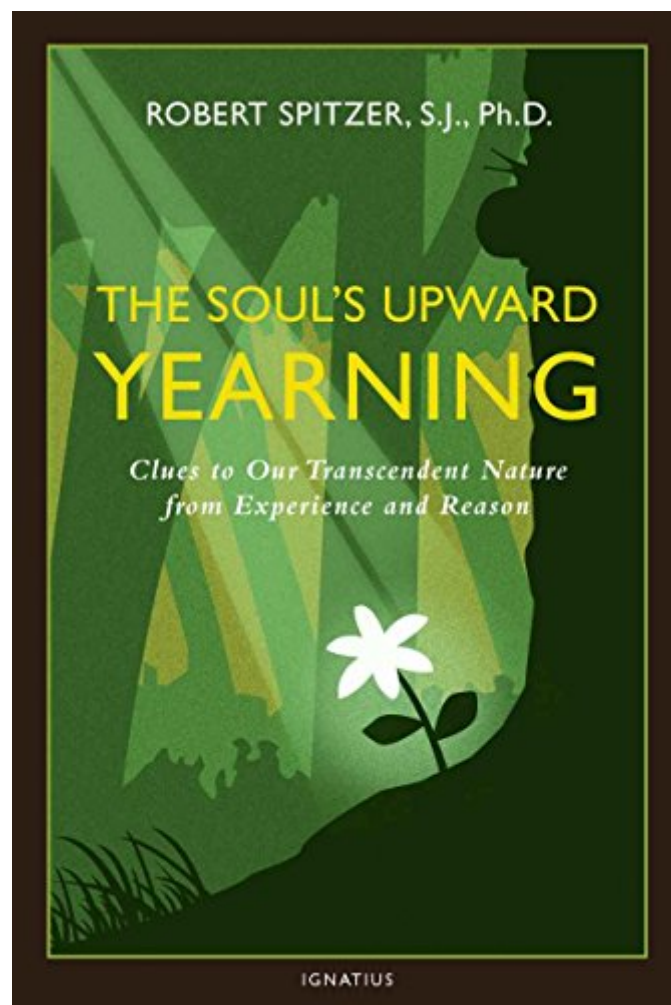


The book was found

The Soul's Upward Yearning: Clues To Our Transcendent Nature From Experience And Reason: 2 (Happiness, Suffering, And Transcendence)





Synopsis

Since the early twentieth century, scientific materialism has so undermined our belief in the human capacity for transcendence that many people find it difficult to believe in God and the human soul. The materialist perspective has not only cast its spell on the natural sciences, psychology, philosophy, and literature, it has also enthralled popular culture, which offers very little to encourage the "soul's upward yearning". There are many signs of the widespread loss of confidence in our ability to soar upward, and these have been noted by thinkers as diverse as Carl Jung (psychiatrist), Mircea Eliade (historian of religion), Gabriel Marcel (philosopher), and authors C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Their observations were validated by a 2004 study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry that linked the absence of religion with a marked increase in suicide, meaninglessness, substance abuse, separation from family members, and other psychological problems. Thus, the loss of transcendence is negatively affecting an entire society. It is stealing from countless individuals their sense of happiness, dignity, ideals, virtues, and destiny. Ironically, the evidence for transcendence is greater today than in any other period in history. The problem is, this evidence has not been compiled and made widely available—a challenge Father Spitzer aspires to meet with this book. Father Spitzer's work provides a bright light in the midst of the darkness by presenting traditional and contemporary evidence for God and a transphysical soul from several major sources. It shows that we are transcendent beings with souls capable of surviving bodily death; that we are self-reflective beings aware of and able to strive toward perfect truth, love, goodness, and beauty; that we have the dignity of being created in the very image of God. If we underestimate these truths, we undervalue one another, underlive our lives, and underachieve our destiny.

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Customer Reviews

It's amazing. He pulls together a breathtaking range of disciplines to show that we have a soul and how that soul points to God. Examples from Godel's law concerning the limitations of math (not sure I worded that right), to evidence from near death experiences, to the soul's yearning for myths (like Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and Star Wars), to Lonergan, to Kant, to Polyani, and a lot more. He not only goes deep, but he is organized and explains himself well. For example, he's given me the best definitions I've had of what a scientific law is and what life is (as well as a couple other foundational issues). Some of have mentioned that it's hard to read. I didn't find that to be the case, but that may partially be because I've been trying to read a lot of books in this category. Some sources that might help you get a good grounding for this book are: 1) Videos by Spitzer. My family and I watched "New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Contemporary Physics and Philosophy." Parts of it were dry, but I don't think there was any easier way to tackle those deep concepts. Also, Spitzer makes it as interesting as possible. I believe he came to tears over quantum mechanics and the glory of God. You can also check MagisCenter for more. 2) David Bentley Hart's "The Experience of God" (which, admittedly, is also rather heady if you haven't read in this field yet). In conclusion, if the book is hard, it's because of the challenging nature of the topic and not because of the author. Spitzer is well organized and thorough. He breaks the issues down into logical segments, with helpful headings. He also repeatedly reviews/summarizes what he has taught and shows how it connects with the rest of the material. He is as clear as it is possible to be with this subject. He avoids unnecessary jargon that makes so many other philosophical works even more confusing than they have to be.

I would give it more stars if it had been shorter and written for the layman. I think some of the

chapters are needlessly difficult in terms of writing style and content and they can be skipped unless someone is well versed in philosophy. I liked the conclusion and appendixes best because they seem to be the clearest and most persuasive. The author is exceptionally well educated and well read. He has done a wonderful service for anyone who contemplates whether God exists or not. It is just a tough slog for the layman to get to the conclusion and appendixes. His reasoning regarding God's existence is persuasive.

The 2nd volume in this quartet is carefully and skillfully put together, gathering evidence for the transcendent from all legitimate quarters, put together by a master teacher. Will take several reads to plumb the depths but appreciating the coherent arguments is available on first read. I just love Fr. Spitzer's work and can't wait for the the next volume.

This book comes at the subject of transcendence from a variety of angles, I am more comfortable with some than others, but they are all based on reason and as such can be approached by any intellegent, open minded person. I some cases a little philosophical education is helpful, since I had that I am not sure what it would be like to read it if I had not had that.

This is a fine and philosophically intense defense of the existence of God. It is well documented and very well written, but it is not a fast read or a page-turner. Have plenty of time to sit with this, and meditate frequently on its message.

Father Spitzer always puts together intellectually dense material to ponder. This book has changed the way I look at my fellow men.

Absolutely fascinating and beautiful, even the parts I didn't understand! Thank you Fr. Spitzer!

I really wanted to love this book. I was very excited to read about the near-death experience research that I knew he was going to describe because I forced my way through the first book in this series. Unfortunately this turned out to be even less readable than the first one and I ended up just skipping to the part I wanted to read then calling it quits. Father Spitzer has lots of interesting stuff to say, but I think he is trying to be scientific and complete and the book ends up being repetitive and long-winded.

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