Finding God In The Waves: How I Lost My Faith And Found It Again Through Science
What do you do when God dies? It’s a question facing millions today, as science reveals a universe that’s self-creating, American culture departs from Christian social norms, and the idea of God begins to seem implausible at best and destructive at worst. Mike McHargue understands the pain of unraveling belief. In Finding God in the Waves, Mike tells the story of how his Evangelical faith dissolved into atheism as he studied the Bible, a crisis that threatened his identity, his friendships, and even his marriage. Years later, Mike was standing on the shores of the Pacific Ocean when a bewildering, seemingly mystical moment motivated him to take another look. But this time, it wasn’t theology or scripture that led him back to God - it was science. In Finding God in the Waves, "Science Mike" draws on his personal experience to tell the unlikely story of how science led him back to faith. Among other revelations, we learn what brain scans reveal about what happens when we pray; how fundamentalism affects the psyche; and how God is revealed not only in scripture but in the night sky, in subatomic particles, and in us.

I remember years ago sitting around a campfire talking with some kids I mentored about God and the questions that surround this mystery. One child shared a story about how his church had brought in a creationist to totally destroy science. In other words they brought in a man who held very strictly to the biblical teaching of a six day created, 6,000 year old universe. Anything that taught otherwise was to be rejected. I remember sitting through the Religion Program at Florida State University and hearing lecture after lecture that revealed that the Bible didn’t behave the
I remember going through the pains of deconstructing and aimlessly trying to reconstruct my own Christian faith; the painful process of unlearning my spoon-fed theology and seeking deeply to identify the truths about Jesus and God. When you work in ministry, belief is kind of a big deal. When you lead bible studies people have expectations that you teach a certain way. But when you don’t line up with those expectations, it can be a very scary and isolating place to float. Whenever you try to explain, people often push you out or try and conform you back in. But you can’t unlearn certain things. What I’ve been finding in recent years has brought such freshness and beauty to my life. I’ve found that I’m not alone.

In Finding God in the Waves, Mike McHargue tells the beautiful, hilarious, and absolutely heartbreaking story of his own journey through faith, atheism, and a return to God through science. He has so beautifully captured a place and isolation that so many people have found themselves in as we learn more about ourselves and the world. With each new discovery our old definitions and language come into greater tension.

Until recently, finding resources willing to discuss the intersection of faith and science have resulted only in pseudo-scientific products focused more on twisting or discrediting science than dissecting the tenets of faith through it. For those of you frustrated by this, Finding God in the Waves will be refreshing as it discusses God, faith, and modern Christianity through the lens of accepted scientific claims. But this is no simple defense of orthodoxy. Mike pulls no punches as he lays out both the claims of faith and the criticisms, side by side, examining both in a clear, concise, and easily readable manner. This is the single most important book on faith, doubt, and science that I have ever read. Mike provides not only a rational understanding of God that works well within today’s understandings of science, but practical steps that anyone can implement to not only grow close to God, but to be transformed into what can only be described as the mind of Christ as well.

In Finding the God in the Waves, with keen insight and understanding, Mike shares his journey back to faith, not through apologetics but through science. For those concerned, this is not another book attempting to twist the laws of physics to allow for a young Earth, to explain how Jonah could have survived in the belly of a whale, or how God could have possibly made the sun stand still for Joshua. Instead, Mike dives head first into physics, cosmology, and even brain science in an effort to discover both how God can be experienced within our current age of understanding, but also the benefits of doing so.