

INDEX

A

- Abandonment. *See* Absence of God
Abraham, 119
Absence of God, 69, 99, 100, 101, 224
Abuse, in the church, 164, 166
Acceptance, 190
Accountability: needing, to others, 165;
 providing, in church, 197, 198, 199;
 refusing, 58–59; of religious leaders,
 211
Accountability groups, creating, 198
Accuracy, historical, 146
Ackerley, J. R., 144
Action, bearing burden of suffering
 through, 105–106. *See also* Service
Actions, ordering of words and, 204
Active will, 96, 97
Acts, 25, 149, 173–174
Acts 2, 27
Acts 9:1–19, 13
Adam, A., 171–172, 177–178
Adam and Eve, 41, 42–43, 43–44, 45, 46,
 67, 73
Addiction, 51–52, 58, 80–81, 198
Adeodatus, 47
Adoration, prayer of, 129–130
Adult baptism, 178, 189, 191
Affliction. *See* Suffering
African American churches, 189, 203
Agenda, approaching the Bible with an,
 156
Agnosticism, 98
Agreement among churches, 187–188
Ahaz, 25
Alienation from God: encapsulation of
 our, 35, 40; healing our, 61. *See also* Sin
Allegorical interpretation, 149–150
Alpha Course, 125
Alpine Avenue Church, 162–163
Alternative worship movement, 72
Ambition, 80, 219
American Baptists, 168
American culture, 174
Analogies, 120, 147–148, 166. *See also*
 Metaphors
Ancient faith, mystery of our, 227
Ancient of Days, 227
Angels, depiction of, in novels, 119–120
Anger: acknowledging and moving
 beyond, 102; bringing, into prayer,
 100–101, 132; and desperation, mix of,
 143; expressing, 107, 108; free from,
 194; good, 35–36; inviting, 98, 99
Anglican church, 169
Anglo-Saxon civilization, 93
Anguish, heart of, 89. *See also* Suffering
Animal sacrifice, 66–67
Anselm, 64
Answer, enduring, of love, 107
Answering fear, 35
Answering prayers, issue of, 119, 120–121
Answers, opening ourselves to greater, 228
Apology for sin, perfect, offering, 70
Apology, learning to express an, 176
Apostle's Creed, 69, 188
Apprehending mystery, capacity for, 228

Arrogance, 165, 166
 Art, religious, 189
 Ascension to heaven, 36, 211
 Assistance, offering, 200–201
 Assurance, 84–85, 96, 97, 101, 178
 Assyria, king of, 25
 Atheist scorn, 89
 Atonement theories, 64–74
 Augustine of Hippo, 12–13, 46–47, 135, 136, 144, 150, 159
 Authoritative text, viewing as, issue of, 10–11, 140–141, 144–148, 153–154, 175, 191
 Authority, acknowledging: central, 187, 191; higher, lack of, 58–59
 Authority-wielding, biblical, 153
 Avoidance, 98, 118, 132

B

Background prayer, 119
 Bad choices, 51, 102
 Bad examples, carrying around, as an excuse, 166
 Bad worship style, determining, 173–174
 Balance, finding, 182
 Baptism, 79, 177, 178, 179, 184–185, 189, 191
 Baptists, 77, 168, 202
 Bargaining with God, 102–103
 Barrier of sin, 57
 Barriers, breaking down, making an effort at, 202–204
 Bathsheba, 119
 Beginners, always, 229–230
 Belief: meaning of, 14; and rationality, 9; in theology that holds the truth, 17–18
 Beliefs and practices: foundational, variety resulting from, 189–190; shared, 187–188; variety of, 169. *See also specific beliefs and practices*
 Belonging, deeper, 195–196
 Betrayal, in the church, 164
 Bible reading: aspects of, 138–161; and mystery, 228; purpose of, 77, 79; shared practice of, 188; teaching happening in, 196, 204
 Bible study groups, 158–159, 196, 198
 Bible, the: authority of, 10–11; generative power of, 140–144; horrified by, 144,

149; interpretation of, 149–155, 191; love of, 140, 161; messiness of, 145–146, 148–150; misuse of, 146; unfavorable view of, 144
 Biblical authority-wielding, 153
 Big Sister program, 215
 Bigotry and violence: betrayal of, 188; learning to reject, 190
 Bilingual worship, 172
 Birth control issue, 151–152
 Birth, mystery of, awareness of, 5
 Birth of Jesus. *See* Incarnation
 Bishops, 187
 Blood, significance of, 66, 67, 68
 Body analogy, 166
 Body metaphor, 192–195, 199
 Book discussion groups, 198
 Book of Common Prayer, 56
 Books, use of, 159
 Born innocent, 46
 Buddhist thinking, 37
 Buechner, F., 220, 223
 Buning, S., 212

C

Calling, discovering one's, 220–222
 Calvin, J., 78
 Canaan, 149, 154
 Capacity, diminished, to choose, 52
 Career, equating vocation with, issue of, 221
 Carter, J., 166
 Catechism, 64
 Cathedral, Conventry, 88, 92
 Cathedral worship, 173
 Catholic church. *See* Roman Catholic church; Roman Catholic tradition
 Ceaseless prayer, 136–137
 “Celebrate the Blood,” 68
 Celebration, 201
 Central authority, acknowledging a, 187, 191
 Centrality, 62, 204–205
 Certainties, mysterious, 227–228, 230
 Change: creating, 194; fear of, 118; hope for, 199; and prayer, 118; process of, 74–76; in the quality of suffering, 96, 97
 Chants, 170

- Chapman, J., 116
- Chesterton, G. K., 37, 48
- Children: observation of, 47; parents and analogy of, 120
- Choices: bad, 51, 102; carefully weighed, 47; given latitude to make, 43; having and exercising, 78; interference with, limiting, 91; series of, leading to helplessness, 52
- Choirs, 170
- Christ: acknowledging, issue of, 84; being with, most tangible way for, 178; the cross and blood of, 68; duality of, terms describing, 233*n*9(Ch2); dying and rising with, 178, 179; embodiment of, 199, 204, 206; in imitation of, 105–106; recognition of, 22. *See also* Jesus
- Christian church. *See Church entries*
- Christian faith, authoritative teaching about, sourcebook of, 140–141. *See also* Faith
- Christian life, ideal, self-constructed mold of, 217
- Christian perception, 15
- Christian Reformed Church in North America, 168, 187, 189
- Christian rituals, 79, 170, 177
- Christian storytelling, certain styles of, 14–15
- Christian theology, belief in, as holding the truth, 17–18
- Christian work. *See Service*
- Christian world view, 85
- Christianity: foundational beliefs of, 92; meaning of, different strains in, 83; rejected version of, 28; spread of, 26; teachings of, 37; and the view of sin, 54–55, 58, 62; wisdom of, 58
- Christmas celebration, 34–35
- Christmas hymn, 32–33
- Chronicles, 149
- Church: attending, reasons for, 163–164; cramped in, 185; divisions in the, 185; founding of the first, 25; mark and responsibility of, 177; metaphor for, 189, 192; staying away from, reasons for, 164–167; symbol for, 185. *See also* Community; Worship
- Church attendance, 163–164, 235*n*10 (Ch5)
- Church dreams, 162–163
- Church growth, 198
- Church leaders, 187
- Church members, valuing, 192–193
- Church metaphor, 189
- Churches: crosscurrents in, grappling with, 170–172; variety of, 168–169. *See also specific churches*
- Cleansing, 178, 179
- Clinical trials on prayer, 118–119
- Cloud of Unknowing, 100
- Coleridge, S. T., 53
- Collective wisdom, 4–5
- Colossians 1:19–20, 82
- Colossians 2:2–3, 111
- Colossians 3:3, 82
- Colossians 3:17, 212
- Columba, 226–227
- Comfort, 20, 105, 197
- Coming kingdom: agents of the, 215–216; banquet feast in, anticipation of, 178; prayer involving, 212; promise of the, 85–87; showing a vision of the, 211; vision of the, 204
- Commandments, the, 153, 210, 211
- Commands, direct, disagreement over what constitutes, 151
- Commitment: long-term, 180–181, 200; measuring, issue of, 222
- Common good, 50
- Communal nature of God, 206–207
- Communal prayer, 123–124, 127, 129, 130
- Communal worship. *See Worship entries*
- Communicating beyond words, 178, 179
- Communion: becoming people in, 228–229; constant, 124; created for, 100; deep, finding, 175; drawn into, 60, 81; intimate, 106; joy of, 207; of saints, 195–196; of the Trinity, 38; weekly, 178–179. *See also* Eucharist
- Community: challenges of, aspects of, 183–207; deeper forms of, 195–196; and faithfulness, relationship between, 180; formative powers of, combining, with formative powers of worship, 167; functions of, 196–205; ideals of, 184–186, 193; instruction in, 158;

- Community (*continued*)
 involvement in, time and energy for, issue of, 205–207; living in, purpose of, 77, 79; metaphor for, 192–195; mysterious certainties of, 227–228; as nature of God, 205–207; questions about, 190; reading in, 155; reorientation of, 205
- Companionship, 95, 105, 216
- Compassion: by-product of, 35–36; showing, through the incarnation, 20; suffering teaching us, 104, 105–106; in worship, 176
- Complaint, culture of, 174
- Complaints and protest, 98–99, 100–101
- Complexity: of the Bible, 148–149, 154, 155; of worship, 172
- Concentric circles, 153, 188
- Conduits, acting as, 71, 106, 154
- Confession: of Jesus' identity, 22–23; prayer of, 132–133; of sin, 56, 178
- Confessions* (Augustine), 12, 47
- Conflicts: human, and struggle for unity, 186–192; inner, 47, 48
- Congregational mergers, 202
- Congregational prayer, 123
- Conscience, examining our. *See* Self-examination
- Constructing meaning, implication of, 15–16
- Consumer preference, 186
- Contemplative Bible reading, 160–161
- Contemplative prayer, 125
- Contemporary worship, 170, 171, 173, 202, 229
- Continual prayer, 136–137
- Contrary energy, goodness requiring, 50
- Control, lack of, 51
- Conversion: of Augustine, 47, 135; moment of, marking, 75–76; by murderers, 84; of Paul, 13, 25; and service, 216, 217
- Convictions, firm, danger in, 7
- Cooper, D., 105
- Corinth, 192
- Corinthians, 152
- 1 Corinthians 1:22–24, 70
- 1 Corinthians 12:14–18, 192
- 1 Corinthians 12:21, 166
- 1 Corinthians 12:22–24a, 193
- 1 Corinthians 12:24–26, 193
- 1 Corinthians 13:12, 17, 230
- 1 Corinthians 15:14, 73
- 1 Corinthians 15:19, 108
- 1 Corinthians 15:23, 73
- 1 Corinthians 15:51–52, 86
- 1 Corinthians 15:54, 69
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, 79, 178
- 2 Corinthians 5:19, 92
- 2 Corinthians 6:14, 139
- Corruption, temptations to, 209
- Countercultural community, 204
- Counterintuitive quality, 29
- Courage, 164
- Coventry Cathedral, 88, 92
- Cramped in church, 185
- Creation, 40–41, 45, 46, 85, 136–137, 204
- Creation, new, coming of the. *See* Coming kingdom
- Creativity in service, 219
- Creator, known as the, 29, 41
- Crèches, 34–35
- Credit, giving, 214, 215
- Criticism: culture of, 174, 180; historical, practice of, 150; postmodern literary, 155
- Cross, the: and blood of Christ, 68; image of, message in, 88, 92, 107; promise of, 94–95
- Cross-generational modeling, 197
- Crucifixion, 23–24, 36, 72, 178
- Culture, 174, 180, 204
- Cynicism: as a choice, 208; culture of, 174

D

- Daily devotional time, 115–116, 121–122
- Daily lectionaries, 159
- Daily life, dying and rising in, 79–82
- Daily practices as a pilgrimage, 228
- Daily thanksgiving, 129
- Damascus, road to, encounter on, 13, 17
- Danger in firm convictions, 7
- Dante, 17
- David, 21, 119, 149
- Daydreaming, 123
- Death: end of, 86; fear of, 73, 181; of innocence and life, 45; as part of the life cycle, 48, 49; power of, 36, 73; questions about, 6; and salvation, 69;

- and the seed of life, 73, 234*n*8; and seeking meaning, 209; victory over, 82, 109
- Death, Jesus rising from. *See* Resurrection
- Death of Jesus. *See* Crucifixion
- Debate, over religious faiths and truth, 15
- Declaration of Independence, 174
- Deeper belonging, 195–196
- Default, sin as the, 50
- Delight, emphasis on, 41. *See also* Joy
- Demi-Urge, 28
- Demographic barriers, breaking down, making an effort at, 202–204
- Demographic groups, creating, 198
- Denial, state of, 58
- Denominations, reasons for choosing certain, 189
- Design: center of, 210; emphasis on, 41; original, 48; questions about, 6
- Desires: and meaning, 16; pull between, 48; for wisdom, 45
- Despair, moving from, to joy, 143
- Deuteronomy, 153, 160
- Deuteronomy 6:4, 232*n*5(Ch2)
- Devils, depiction of, in novels, 119–120
- Devotion, piety filled with, 181
- Devotion time, 115–116, 121–122, 160
- Devotional books, using, 159
- Dignity, 56, 91
- Diminishing value, 55–56
- Direct commands, disagreement over what constitutes, 151
- Disbelief, 98
- Disciples, the, 21–22, 23, 23–24, 25, 27, 33, 36, 105, 195
- Discipleship, 198
- Discipline: of attending church, 165; of worship, 181
- Disciplines, involvement of, 77
- Discovering Jesus, own process to, allowing, 22
- Discovering meaning, implication of, 15
- Discretionary funds, keeping, 200
- Disgraceful behavior, showing, 144, 149
- Disruptive presence, 156–157
- Dissent, 90, 154, 155
- Distinctiveness, 38
- Diversity, celebrating, in community, 192–193
- Divine birth, the. *See* Incarnation
- Divisions, 184–185, 186, 187, 188
- Divorce, experience of, healing from, 80
- Dorotheus of Gaza, 59
- Doubt, 99–101
- Dreams, of one's growing-up church, 162–163
- Drum music, 170
- Dying and rising with Christ, enactment of, 178, 179

E

- Early believers, addressing, 25
- Eastern Orthodox, 185, 187
- Ecclesiastes 1:2, 154
- Ecclesiology, categorizing churches by, 168–169
- ECHO, 220
- Eclectic folk-liturgical worship, 173
- Ecumenism, 189
- Eden, Garden of, 43, 46, 48
- Egyptian civilization, 93
- Elders, 187
- Embodiment of Christ, 199, 204, 206
- Emerging worship, 170
- Encounters with the divine. *See* Experiences of God
- Encouragement, 166–167, 183, 184, 197, 198
- Enculturation, 196
- Enduring human spirit, 85
- Enduring strength, summoning, 129
- Engineering grace, 176–177
- Enlightenment period, 71–72
- Environment, impact on the, 46
- Ephesians 2:9, 213
- Ephesians 4:12–13, 206
- Episcopal church, 169, 178
- Epistles, teachings contained in the, 25
- Equality, radical, 193
- Establishment churches, pressure on, 155
- Eternal harmony, 28
- Eternal kingdom, 87
- Ethical selves, involvement of our, 77
- Eucharist: ritual of, 177; view of, 169; weekly celebration of, 178–179
- Evangelical church, 169, 212
- Evangelical Lutheran, 168
- Eve. *See* Adam and Eve

Evil: defining, 44, 51; as excessive and senseless, 53; good and, 42, 44, 53, 54–88; horror and mystery of, encountering, 54; origin of, exploring, 44; power of, engaging and overcoming, 36; understanding, 35. *See also* Sin

Evolving of humanity, 214

Excess, evil characterized by, 53–54

Excusing thoughts, 55–56, 65, 166

Exegeted, meaning of, 30

Existence: after death, longing for an, 6; central problem of, 89; dimension of, 5–6; of God, objections to, countering, 91–93

Experience, particular, giving weight to, 9–10

Experiences of God: finding meaning in, 14–16; testimonies of, 11–14

Explanation, need for, 158

Extroverts and introverts, involvement of, difference between, 205, 206

F

Fads in worship, 170

Failures, 56, 176, 188, 215

Faith: beginning of, 3; change in direction toward, 74–76; continual turning toward, 76–79; elements of, 79; encounters leading to, 11–12; grace through, 213; light of, coming into the, result of, 17–18; limitations of language to describe, 16–17; maturing in, 206; premise of, 75, 76; reaching, process of, 9–10; resting on mysterious certainties, 227–228, 230; versus skepticism, 3–4

Faithfulness: of God, 173, 200; long-term commitment to, 200; participation in, 84; questions about, 93; testing, biblical case of, 89; in worship, 180–182

Fall, the, 42–43, 44, 51, 63, 67, 73, 121

Fallen world, tendency of, 50–52

Fame, seeking, 209

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *See* Trinity

Father, the, 21–22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 65, 206

Fault and result, tangle of, 48–49

Faults: hidden, 55; as potentially useful, 219

Fear: answering, 35; of death, 73, 181; the only remaining, 37; poison of, 59; of prayer and change, 118; protection against, 96; rousing, and reassurance, 19; and salvation, 69; setting aside, 36

First-century church, 186–187, 188, 192

Flattened mysteries, 229

Flesh, affirmation of the, 32–34, 38, 41

Flow, 124

Fluid social groups, effect of, 185–186

Forbidden tree, 42–43

Forgiveness: asking for, 102; assurance of, receiving, 178; gift of, 61, 62, 104; international center of, 92; putting on, 80; responsibility for, 132; and the sacraments, 179; seeking, 194; in worship, 176

Formulations, simple, of truth, 229

Forster, E. M., 60

Foster, R., 117, 135

Foundational beliefs and practices, variety resulting from, 189–190

Fourth-century church, 187, 188

Freedom: by-product of, 44–45; diminishment of, 78; emphasis on, 77; given, 42, 43; from materialism, 79; permitting, 96; and suffering, understanding, 91; in the truth, 60; weight of sin on, 46–48

Frelinghuysen, T., 84

Full-service congregations, 198

Fundamentalist Christians, 146, 169

Funeral service, 173

G

Gabriel, 11

Galatians 1:11–24, 13

Galatians 2:16, 84

Galatians 3:27, 178

Galatians 3:28, 152, 184

Galatians 5:22–23, 81

Garden of Eden, 43, 46, 48

Gathering together physically, importance of, 203–204

Generational segregation, 202–203

Generative power of the Bible, 140–144

Genesis, 11, 29, 40–41, 42–43, 44, 46, 63, 148, 149, 185

Genesis 1:2, 31

Genesis 1:28, 41
 Genesis 2:17, 45
 Genesis 2:23, 41
 Genesis 3:1, 42
 Genesis 18, 119
 Genesis 25–35, 142
 Gifts: parceling out one's, 206; receiving, 81, 199. *See also specific gifts*
 Gnosticism, 28
 God. *See specific aspects of God*
 Good and evil, 42, 44, 53; discerning, 54–58. *See also Perfection; Sin*
 Good news, 60
 Good worship style, determining, 173–174
 Goodness, poverty of, 56
 Gospels, different accounts of the, 154
 Grace: common, 50; continually seeking, 81; definition of, expanding, 74, 75; depending on, 103; example of, 105; finding, in worship, 176–177, 204; infinite, exponent of, 78; meaning of, 61–62; means of, the sacraments as, 177–179; need for, realization of, 149; responding to, 210; through faith, 213; visions of, 108
 Grace, God's saving. *See Salvation*
 Grateful obedience, 209–211
 Gratitude, 129, 183–184
 Greek civilization, 93
 Greek Orthodox church, 169, 201
 Growing-up church, dreams of, 162–163
 Guidance, looking for, 138–139
 Guidebook for life, viewing the Bible as, issue with, 139–140, 150–151
 Guidelines, the commandments as, 210, 211
 Gumbel, N., 125

H

Hamlet (Shakespeare), 66
 Hand washing, 170
 Hannah, 11, 119
 Harmony, 28, 46
 Harry Potter character, 54
 Healing: acts of, 70; promise of, 95, 97; through Jesus, 63–64, 106; work of, 105, 213, 214
 Heart patients and prayer, 118–119

Heart, service as a matter of the, 213
 Heaven, ascension to, 36, 211. *See also Coming kingdom*
 Hebrew Scriptures. *See Old Testament*
 Hebrews 1:3, 37
 Hebrews 4:12, 156–157
 Hebrews 4:15, 36
 Heidelberg Catechism, 64–65
 Hell, 54, 69, 80
 Help: asking for, place for, 198; value of our, paradox involving, 213–214; welcoming our, 216
 Helplessness, 49, 52
 Help-me prayer, 130–132
 Help-them prayer, 133–135
 Heroism, 69
 Hiddenness, 100
 Higher authority, acknowledging a, lack of, 58–59
 Hildegard of Bingen, 11
 Historical accuracy, 146
 Historical criticism, practice of, 150
 Historical divisions, 187, 188
 History: control of, 120; linear view of, 42, 85, 87; reality that transcends, 172; of suffering, 93–94
 Hitler, A., 7, 53
 Holy City, 86, 204. *See also Coming kingdom*
 Holy Spirit, 27, 29, 30–31, 50, 140, 145, 150, 154, 161, 180, 194–195, 196, 199, 206. *See also Trinity*
 Honesty: in the Bible, 149; in facing suffering, 97–98, 105; tonic of, 40; wake-up call to, 102
 Honor, emphasis on, 64, 65
 Hope: bringing, work of, 105, 213, 214; for change, 199; expansive, perspective of, 142; growing, 181; resting on unseen things, 107–111; of the resurrection, 72–74; suffering and, aspects of, 88–111; word of, 155
 Hopkins, G. M., 124
 Human condition: aspects of the, 39–60; and responsibility, 35
 Human conflict, and struggle for unity, 186–192
 Human spirit, enduring, 85

Humanity: evolving of, 214; loyalty to, 211
 Humiliation and weakness, 69
 Humility: context of, about our own sin, 84; faith premised on, 76; misplaced, 166; from our not-knowing, 17; posture of, 59
 Hussein, S., 7
 Hymns, 17, 32–33, 82–83, 127, 168, 169, 170. *See also* Music
 Hypocrites, seeing churchgoers as, 164

I

Icons, 170
 Ideal Christian life, self-constructed mold of, 217
 Ideals of community, 184–186, 193
 Identity of Jesus: accepting, 37; clarifying, 26–28; puzzlement surrounding, acknowledging, 21–22; recognition of, 22–23
 Identity, personal, 27, 38, 77
 Idolization of work, 215
 “I’m sorry,” learning to say, 176
 Imaging prayer, wordless, experimenting with, 135
 Imitation of Christ, 105–106
 Immanuel name, meaning of, 25
 Importance: sense of our own indispensable, 215; of this world, paradox involving, 213
 Incarnation, 19, 20–24, 25, 32, 33–34, 35, 36, 65, 69, 72–73, 99
 Inclusion in salvation, issue of, 82–85
 Individual interpretation, 191
 Individualism, 185–186
 Individuality, 37
 Individual/personal value, 36, 55–56, 192–193, 199
 Inerrant text, viewing as, 145, 146, 147
 Infallible text, viewing as, 145–146, 147
 Infant baptism, 178, 189, 191
 Ingersoll, R. G., 144
 Inner conflicts, 47, 48
 Innocence: being born with, view of, 46; death of, 45
 Inspiration: from churchgoers, 166–167; need for, 124; view of, 147–148
 Inspired text, viewing the Bible as, 145, 153
 Institutional religion, avoiding, reason for, 166–167

Insular groups, problems with, 194
 Insurance policy, fallacy of a, 103
 Integration of teenagers, 197
 Intellect, involvement of, 77
 Intention, reader, 156
 Intercession, 123, 133–135
 Interconnectedness, 45–46, 111, 193
 Internal barriers, formation of, resisting, 202–203
 Internet, 205
 Interpretation, biblical, 149–155, 191
 Intimate community, desire for, issue of, 205–206
 Introverts and extroverts, involvement of, difference between, 205, 206
 Inventory, taking, of our talents, 219–220
 Invitation, 207
 Iona, Scotland, pilgrimage to, 226–227
 Irony, culture of, 174
 Isaiah, 24
 Isaiah 2:13–17, 67
 Isaiah 7:14, 25
 Isaiah 25:8, 69
 Isaiah 35:10, 86, 95
 Isaiah 65:17, 95
 Isaiah 65:20, 95
 Islam, 147
 Israel: king of, 24–25; people of, 21, 23, 24, 25, 66–67, 149, 154, 232n5(Ch2)
 Israel (Jacob), 142

J

Jacob, 21, 142, 149
 James 2:17, 213
 Jerusalem, 21, 86
 Jesus: on abusers, 164; on acting as his ambassadors, 105; on believing him, 21–22; body of, 32, 33; Christian focus on, 30, 31; on community, 195; companionship of, finding, 94; on death and life, 73, 234n8; existence of, understanding, 29–30; fasting by, 147; healing through, 63–64, 106; on the heavenly kingdom, 86; identity of, 21–22, 22–23, 26–28, 37; on inward being, 55; on love, 186; love demonstrated by, 61–62; model for prayer offered by, 130; as the model for service, 211–212; on not being left alone, 26–27; as perfect offering, 67; on possibility, 194; on prayer,

- 119; relationship with, seeking, 62–63; resources of, 219; on rules and obedience, 209–210; on service, 213–214, 218; on sin and punishment, 103–104; on the Spirit, 180; on trust, 95–96; on truth, 60; as ultimate model of willingness to suffer, 222–223; as the Wisdom of God, 230; as the Word, 148; work of, 36. *See also* Crucifixion; Incarnation; Resurrection; Son, the
- Jewish law, 210, 211
- Jewish people, beliefs and view of, 23, 55, 145. *See also* Israel
- Jewish religion, 153
- Jewish tradition, 132
- Job, 89–91, 98
- Job 1:1, 89
- Job 2:9, 90
- Job 13:15, 90
- Job 38:2–4, 90
- Job 40:4, 90
- Job 42:3, 91
- John, 21, 23, 24, 29, 30
- John 1:1, 148
- John 1:1–3, 29–30
- John 1:14, 30
- John 1:18, 30
- John 3:8, 180
- John 8:32, 60
- John 9, 104
- John 9:3, 104
- John 11:27, 22
- John 12:24, 73
- John 14:8–11, 21–22
- John 14:26–27, 27
- John 15:12, 186
- John 20, 23
- John 20:21, 105
- John 21:24, 10
- Jonah, 147
- Joseph, 35
- Joshua, 149, 154, 160
- Journey: bread for the, the Bible as, 161; mystery in our, 229–230; part of the path on our, 186; reaching clarity about the, 75–76; spiritual, starting point on, example of, 14
- Joy: of communion, 207; cultivating spirit of, 129; in hope, 110; language for, worship teaching, 174–175; moving from despair to, 143; permanent, 86; of salvation, 81–82; serving out of our, 220
- Judaism, 153
- Judges, 154, 160
- Julian of Norwich, 108, 223
- Jungian psychology, 42
- Justice, 64–65, 66, 67
- K**
- Kierkegaard, S., 9
- King Lear* (Shakespeare), 91
- Kingdom, coming of the. *See* Coming kingdom
- Kingdom, heavenly, ascension to, 36, 211
- Knowing, quest for, amid mystery, 227–229
- Knowledge and belief, 9
- Koran, the, 146
- L**
- Laban, 142
- Lamb of God title, 67, 204
- Lamott, A., 13, 129
- Language: for joy, teaching, 174–175; limitations of, 16–17, 29; and meaning, 30. *See also* Speaking in tongues
- Latin mass, 165, 168, 169
- Lazarus, 22, 119
- Leaders, religious, calling, to account, 211
- Learning, lifelong pursuit of, 196
- Lectionary, the, 158, 175
- Lectio*-style reading, 160–161
- L'Engle, M., 109
- Lenin, V., 53
- Leviticus, 160
- Leviticus 13, 152
- Lewis, C. S., x, 8, 9, 57, 70, 87, 121, 164, 189, 195
- Liberation theologians, 155
- Life: death of innocence and, 45; mystery of, wonder at, 5–6
- Life cycle, 48, 49
- Light of faith, coming into, result of, 17–18
- Linear thinking, 42, 85, 87, 120
- Listening: to how other's pray, 196; in prayer, 122, 125; in worship, 175
- Liturgical churches, belief of, 169
- Liturgy, meaning of, 204
- Living text, experiencing as, 139–140, 143, 148, 161, 175

Logic, limitations of, 9, 91, 92

Logos, meaning of, 30

Longing: drawing us to our true home, 87; for an existence after death, 6; for experience of transcendent mystery, 169; glimpses of intended design evoking, 50; for God, genuine spark of, 84; to make meaning of suffering, 91; promise to fulfill our, 95; reaching clarity about, 75; for a way that makes sense, 17; for wholeness, 230

Long-term commitment, 180–181, 200

Lord of the Rings, *The*, 54

Lord's Prayer, 126, 129, 130, 131, 132

Lord's Supper. *See* Eucharist

Lot, 119

Love: acts of, 85–86; of the Bible, 140, 161; at center of service, 222; clearest images of, 61; commandments about, 210; enduring answer of, 107; essential nature of, in the incarnation, 20; expression of, 65, 68, 72; freedom for, 43; good news about, 60; Jesus on, 186; leading to, 230; piety filled with, 181; power of, 37–38, 68; unconditional, 77

Loyalty to humanity, 211

Luke, 20, 21

Luke 1:32–33, 21

Luke 1:35, 21

Luke 2:19, 160

Luke 6:41, 211

Luke 9:10–17, 219

Luke 9:18–22, 22

Luke 9:20, 22

Luke 10:8–12, 63

Luke 11:2–4, 130

Luke 13:1–5, 104

Luke 14:15–24, 211

Luke 15:11–32, 61

Luke 15:20, 61

Luke 17:2, 164

Luke 17:20–21, 63

Luke 18, 119

Luke 18:27, 194

Luke 24:50–53, 36

Luke 28, 19

Luke 30, 19

Luther, M., 139, 158, 212

Lutherans, 168

Lyrical prayer, 127

M

Macbeth (Shakespeare), 99

Mainline church, 169

Mapping stages of life, 205

Mark, 21, 167

Mark 8:27–30, 22

Mark 8:29, 22

Mark 12, 210

Mark 12:30–31, 210

Mark 12:34, 210

Mark 15:34, 69

Mark 15:39, 23

Mark 16:15–20, 36

Martha, 22

Mary, 11, 19, 20, 33, 35, 160

Mass, Latin, 165, 168, 169

Materialism, 34, 79

Matthew, 21, 24, 25, 219

Matthew 5:13–16, 218

Matthew 5:17, 210

Matthew 5:21–22, 55

Matthew 5:27–28, 55

Matthew 6:9–13, 130

Matthew 7:1, 157

Matthew 10:29, 95

Matthew 11:15, 211

Matthew 11:30, 222–223

Matthew 13:33, 218

Matthew 16:13–20, 22

Matthew 16:16, 22

Matthew 16:24, 222

Matthew 18:16–20, 36

Matthew 18:20, 195

Matthew 19:29, 223

Matthew 22, 210

Matthew 25:31–46, 214

Matthew 27:46, 69

Matthew 27:54, 23

Maturing in faith, 206

Meals, organizing, 200, 201

Meaning: deriving, from biblical interpretations, issue of, 150–155; finding, 14–16; layers of, 143; longing for, 91; and mystery, 227–229; plenitude of, 155; power to generate, 140–144; seeking, and death, 209

Measuring commitment, issue of, 222
 Mechthild of Magdeburg, 117
 Meditation, 117
 Megachurches, 198
 Memory: and faith direction, 10; of growing-up church, 162–163
 Mennonites, 189
 Mentoring, 197
 Mercy, 67, 106, 155, 208, 213–214, 218
 Mere Christianity (Lewis), x, 8
 Mergers, congregational, 202
 Merton, T., 121, 229
 Messages from God, recognizing, 88, 92, 125–126
 Messiah, the, 21, 22, 23–24, 25
 Messiness of the Bible: explanation for, 148–150; tolerance for, issue of, 145–146
 Metanoia, meaning of, 58
 Metaphors, 66–67, 74–75, 160, 180, 189, 192–195, 199. *See also* Analogies
 Methodism, 11, 169
 Methodists, 77
 Midrash, 153
 Millennials, view of, 208
 Milton, J., 43–44, 46, 130
 Miraculous signs, questioning, 88–89
 Misconceptions, promotion of, 25
 Missouri Synod Lutheran, 168
 Mistakes: cause of, 47; letting go of, 80
 Mitzvoth, 153
 Mobile society, effect of, 185–186
 Modeling, 196, 197, 200, 211–212, 222
 Mohammed, 146
 Monastic vocation, 189
 Moral law, universal, beginning with, 8–9
 Mortality: defying, 209; reduction in, 235n10(Ch5); reversal of, 73. *See also* Death
 Moses, 11, 66, 119, 232n5(Ch2)
 Mother Teresa, 221, 224–225
 Multiple interpretations, 155
 Music, 170, 171, 172, 173, 176, 196. *See also* Hymns
 Muslims, 15, 146
 Mystery: acknowledging, 91; aspects of, 226–230; of Bible reading, experiencing, 161; of birth, 5; of evil, encountering, 54; key to unlocking, 20; knowing hope in, 111; of life,

wonder at, 5–6; power of, 71; of prayer, encountering, 121; precipice of, standing on, 20; present in the Bible stories, 42; of salvation, 65, 71–72; threefold, 26–28; touching, 179
 Mystical connection, 196
 Mythology, 42

N

Naming: offenses of our sin, 65–66; of others, significance of, 109
 Narrow ideas about service, 217
 National Institute of Health study, 235n10(Ch5)
 Nativity scenes, 34–35
 Naturalistic views, 93
 Nature: death and destruction in, 48, 49; questions about, 5–6, 20; view of, 34; and worship, 33
 Nature of God: community as, 205–207; explanation of, 27–28, 29, 93
 Need for God, sharing in, 185
 Negev, 128
 Networks, 197
 New creation, coming of the. *See* Coming kingdom
 New Testament: basis of, 11; and foundations for later Christian thought, 72; incarnation story in, 20–24; inspired view of, 145; lectionary for, 158; skepticism about, 25–26; unfavorable view of, 144; vision of, 204. *See also specific books*
 Newcomers, welcoming, 201
 Nicene Creed, 188
 Niebuhr, H. R., 63, 74, 85
 Nietzsche, F. W., 7
 Nineteenth-century church, 187
 Nineveh, 147
 Nirmal Hriday house, 224
 Noah, 147
 Noah's ark, 185
 Nonreligious spirituality, 7–8
 Not-knowing, humility from our, 17

O

“O Come, All Ye Faithful,” 32–33
 Obedience, 45, 85–86, 150–152, 160, 209–211

- Objections to existence of God, counter-
ing, 91–93
- Observation, 47
- Odds-and-ends service, 221–222
- Offenses, naming our, 65–66
- Old Testament: basis of, 11; inspired view
of, 145; obscure prophecy from, 24–25;
reading the, lectionary for, 158; unfav-
orable view of, 144; vision of, 204.
See also specific books
- Omnipotence and omniscience, qualify-
ing, 120
- Ongoing salvation, 77–79
- Oops prayer, 132–133
- Open theism, 120
- Openness, 116, 117, 156
- Oppression, political, experience with, and
ransom theory, 69–70
- Optimism, 51, 52–53
- Ordering principle, 230
- Ordinary things, perceiving something
more in, 3, 167, 196
- Ordinary wonders of worship, 167–170
- Organ music, 170, 173
- Original sin, 47–48, 67
- Orthodox churches, 169, 177, 185, 187,
189, 201
- Othello* (Shakespeare), 53
- Outer darkness, belief in, 83
- P**
- Pain and suffering. *See* Suffering
- Paradise Lost* (Milton), 43–44
- Paradox, 69, 91, 213
- Parasitic evil, 53
- Parents and children, analogy of, 120
- Pascal, B., 11
- Passion in service, 220–222, 225
- Pastors, 194
- Paul, 11, 13, 17, 25, 31, 36, 37, 48, 70,
72–73, 81, 82, 84, 86, 101–102, 107,
108, 111, 141, 142, 143, 149, 151, 152,
166, 184, 186, 192–193, 196, 199, 204,
210, 212, 230
- Peace, 41, 92. *See also* Shalom
- Pelagius, 46, 47
- Pentecost, 27
- Pentecostal churches, 159, 168, 169
- Perceptions: among religious faiths, 15; and
faith direction, 10; limited in our, 8;
meaning and, 15–16; of the world,
39–40
- Perfect harmony, 28, 46
- Perfect offering, 67
- Perfection, 40–41, 42, 48
- Permissive will, 96, 97
- Perpetuation of sin, 49
- Persecution, 26
- Persistence in prayer, 119
- Personal/individual value, 36, 55–56,
192–193, 199
- Personhood, source of, 37, 38
- Peter, 22, 23, 149
- Peterson, E., 228
- Pettiness, 194, 202
- Philip, 21
- Philippians 2, 145
- Philippians 2:6–8, 72–73
- Philippians 2:9–11, 82–83
- Philippians 4:7, 81
- Physical matter, affirmation of, 32–34, 41,
68
- Piety, 180–181
- Pilgrimage, 228, 229
- Pilgrimage metaphor, variation on, 74–75
- Pilgrimage site, 226–227
- Plan: redemptive, record of, 140; statement
about God having a, issue with, 96, 97
- Plantinga, A., 9, 91–92
- Plantinga, C., Jr., 70
- Plenitude: in the church, 189, 190; in the
world, 203–204
- Political oppression, experience with, and
ransom theory, 69–70
- Poor, serving the, 169
- Popular optimism, 51
- Portable truths, 229
- Postdenominational age, 168
- Postmodern literary criticism, 155
- Postmodern sensibility, 72
- Postmodern world, 174, 228
- Postresurrection appearances, 23, 25, 33,
36, 105
- Poverty, of goodness, 56
- Power: and Bible reading, 156; of death,
going before us into a life beyond, 73;
of evil and death, engaging and over-
coming, 36; generative, of the Bible,
140–144; of God, 71, 81; of “I” in the
Psalms, 127–128; of love, 37–38, 68; lust

- for, combined with firm convictions, effect of, 7; of mystery, 71; of prayer, 118–121; of salvation, 81–82; of sin, 51–52, 62, 68; of suffering and rejoicing together, 200–201
- PowerPoint slide shows, 170
- Powers, formative, combining, 167
- Practice, long-term commitment to, 200.
See also specific practices
- Praise music, emphasis on, 189
- Praise, prayer of, 129–130
- Praise songs, 170
- Prayer: about service, 209; aspects of, 115–137; bearing burden of suffering through, 106; beginners in, 229; benefits of, 117–121; bringing anger and doubt into, 100; of creation, surrounded by, 136–137; days structured around, 189; enabled by the Spirit, 31; finding grace in, 176; focus on Jesus in, 30; healing in, 80; involving the coming kingdom, 212; kinds of, 121–123; models for, 126–128, 130; mysterious certainties of, 227–228; and private Bible reading, 160; purpose of, 77, 79, 102, 104; and reconciliation, 194; response to, belief in, 119, 120–121; seeking guidance through, for parceling out one's gifts, 206; shared practice of, 188; teaching happening in, 196, 204; during worship service, 168
- Prayer lists, 134, 135, 200
- Prayer requests, 200
- Prayer time, 115–116, 121–122
- Prayer-request time, 168
- Preaching, 158, 196, 204
- Presbyterian Church of America, 168
- Presbyterian Church-USA, 168
- Presence of God: amid suffering, 96–97; aspects of, 19–38; attuned to, 204; bearing, worthy and able for, 206; being outside the, 54; feeling, 12, 13, 14; insisting on encounter with, 177–178; seeking, 121; suffering infused with, 106–107
- Pride, 84, 190, 193–194, 211, 215, 219
- Private Bible reading, 159–161
- Private confession, 133
- Private prayer, 122, 125–126, 129, 130, 133–134
- Prodigal son/father, parable of the, 61
- Promise: about God, 107–108; made to the people of Israel, 21, 23, 24; of salvation, 95–97
- Prophets: studying the, 153, 160; visions of the, 86, 95, 204, 211
- Protest, 98–99, 100–101, 132
- Protestant church, division in the, 185, 187
- Protestant Reformers/Reformation, 64, 127, 139, 158, 172, 187, 189, 212
- Protestant tradition: of confession, 132; of faith, 214; of individual interpretation, 191; of the sacraments, 177; of worship, 173
- Proverbs, 30
- Proverbs 16:9, 141
- Proverbs 16:25, 157
- Psalms 1, 127
- Psalms 22, 69
- Psalms 23, 181
- Psalms 90, 208–209
- Psalms 95, 127
- Psalms 96, 127
- Psalms 98, 127
- Psalms 100, 127
- Psalms 130, 127
- Psalms 150, 127
- Psalms translations, 127–128
- Psalms: praying with the, 126–128; prophecy in the, 24; studying the, 158, 159
- Psalms 2:1, 132
- Psalms 6:3, 98
- Psalms 8:1, 3
- Psalms 8:3, 33
- Psalms 8:4, 38
- Psalms 10:1, 132
- Psalms 13:1, 98, 132
- Psalms 19:1, 136–137
- Psalms 19:12, 55
- Psalms 22:1, 88, 132
- Psalms 22:1–2, 99
- Psalms 22:4, 101
- Psalms 22:9, 100
- Psalms 22:24, 101
- Psalms 23:2, 128
- Psalms 23:4, 19, 128
- Psalms 25:19, 128
- Psalms 30:8–9, 143
- Psalms 30:11–12, 143
- Psalms 31:2, 123

Psalm 34:3, 229
 Psalm 34:4, 115
 Psalm 51:1, 39
 Psalm 51:6, 55
 Psalm 51:10, 133
 Psalm 51:12, 133
 Psalm 74:1, 132
 Psalm 84:2, 162
 Psalm 90:10, 209
 Psalm 90:17, 208, 209
 Psalm 102:11, 98–99
 Psalm 103:8, 90, 101, 153
 Psalm 103:14, 98
 Psalm 119:11, 138, 144
 Psalm 119:97, 128
 Psalm 119:103, 128
 Psalm 126:3, 61
 Psalm 126:4, 128
 Psalm 126:5, 101
 Psalm 133:1, 183
 Psalm 139:1, 127
 Psalm 139:6, 226
 Psalter Hymnal, 127
 Public Bible reading, 158, 175
 Public prayer, 122, 123, 124, 129, 130
 Punishment, 64–65, 66, 103–104
 Purpose: of church, 163; of prayer, 77, 79, 102, 104; profound change in, 27; of worship, 77, 79
 Purposes of God, fulfilling, 207

Q

Quakers, 177
 Quantifying service, 218
 Quest to know, 227–229
 Questioning: of authoritative structures, 191; of miraculous signs, 88–89; in prayer, 132; why we suffer, 93–94
 Questions: about addiction, 51; about community, 190, 206; about hope, 111; about nature, 5–6, 20; about prayer, 118, 126, 134; about presence of God, 19, 20; about punishment, 103; about service, 213, 222–225; about the Bible, 148, 150–151, 152; about trust and faithfulness, 93; about worship, 171; of dissent, 90; opening ourselves to new, 228

R

Racial/ethnic barriers, breaking down, making an effort at, 202, 203
 Racial/ethnic groups, belief of, 169
 Radical equality, 193
 Ransom theory of atonement, 69–70
 Rationality: belief and, 9; emphasis on, 71–72
 Reader intention, 156
 Reading us, 156–157, 175
 Reality: cozy, creating own, 59; of the heavenly kingdom, 86, 87; losing contact with, 54; overwhelming optimism, 52–53; that transcends history, 172; of violence, acknowledging, 68
 Reason, issue with, 8–9, 65
 Reassurance, 19, 190
 Rebecca, 149
 Reconciliation, 61, 62, 92, 194–195, 230
 Recovery, from addictions, 52, 58
 Redeemer, known as the, 29–30
 Redemptive plan, record of, 140
 Redman, M., 171
 Reformation, the. *See* Protestant Reformers/Reformation
 Reformed Church in America, 168
 Reformed tradition, 222
 Reforms, reason for, 169, 170, 171–172
 Reinventing the wheel, 172
 Rejoicing, community in, 200, 201, 204. *See also* Joy
 Relationship: nurturing, 117; restored, seeking, 62–63, 64, 77. *See also* Atonement theories
 Relationships, networks of, 197
 Relevance, issue of, 152, 155
 Religious art, 189
 Religious leaders, calling, to account, 211
 Remembrance, 88, 109
 Reorientation, 205
 Repentance, 58–60, 133
 Repercussions, inevitable, 43–46
 Repetition, 126, 131, 153–154, 161
 Rescue, means of, 185
 Resentments, selfish, putting away, 80
 Resisting community, 206
 Resources, multiplying, 219–220
 Respect, approaching the Bible with, 144

- Responsibility: avoiding, 56; of the church, 177; emphasis on, 77; for figuring things out, 154, 191; for forgiveness, 132; given, 42, 43; issue of, 35; mutual, 41; retaining, 49, 56
- Restlessness, 142
- Resurrection: mysterious certainties of the, 227–228; real hope of the, 72–74, 109–110; significance of the, 68, 69, 70–71, 95; understanding of the, 23–24, 33, 36; witnesses to the, 106
- Retaliation, futility of, 94
- Revelation, 11, 25, 154
- Revelation 12, 44
- Revelation 21:1, 86
- Revelation 21:2–4, 86
- Revelation 21:8, 83
- Revelation 21:23–26, 204
- Revival, 163
- Rhythms, of worship and church life, 173, 174
- Righteousness, 58–59
- Ritual sacrifice, 67, 93
- Rituals, Christian, 79, 170, 177
- Roman Catholic church: beliefs in, 77, 169; division in the, 185, 187; protests against, 139
- Roman Catholic tradition: of central authority, 191; of confession, 132; of mass, 165, 168, 169–170; of monastic vocation, 189; of the sacraments, 177; of serving God, 212; of work, 214
- Roman persecution, 187
- Romans, 23, 24, 93
- Romans 6:4, 178
- Romans 8, 141–142
- Romans 8:1, 141
- Romans 8:18, 108, 141
- Romans 8:20, 48
- Romans 8:21, 137
- Romans 8:22, 137
- Romans 8:26, 31, 136, 141
- Romans 8:28, 107, 142
- Romans 8:31–32, 36
- Romans 8:34, 36
- Romans 8:38–39, 101–102
- Romans 12, 142–143
- Romans 12:1, 143
- Romans 13:13, 12
- Routine worship, 181
- Russian Orthodox church, 169, 189
- Rwanda, suffering in, 109
- S**
- Sabbath observance, issue of, 153
- Sacraments, 167, 168, 169, 177–179. *See also* Baptism
- Sacrifice, 65, 66–68, 93, 178, 222
- Sacrifice–atonement metaphor, 66–67
- Salvation: aspects of, 62–87; belief in, 27; faceted view of, 63–64; first facet of, 63, 64–74; growing in us, 196; inclusion in, 82–85; meaning of, 62–63; mystery of, 65, 71–72; promise of, 95–97; sacrifice in, 66–68; second facet of, 74–82; and service, 213, 214; source of, 213; third facet of, 85–87
- Samuel, 119
- 1 Samuel, 160
- 1 Samuel 1, 119
- 2 Samuel 12, 119
- Sanctification, 74–76
- Satan, 44, 89
- Saul (Paul), 13
- Saving grace. *See* Salvation
- Savior, accepting Jesus as, 65
- Science, questions about, 5
- Scientific fact, 146
- Scientism, 4
- Seeker–sensitive service, 169
- Segregation, generational, 202–203
- Self-congratulation, 214
- Self-destruction, futility of, 94
- Self-esteem, 49–50, 58
- Self-examination, 47, 101–104, 194
- Self-flattery, 214
- Selfish resentments, putting away, 80
- Selfishness: keeping constant pressure on, 166; millennials view of, 208
- Self-righteousness, 209
- Senselessness, 53–54
- Sensitivity, suffering teaching us, 105
- September 11, 2001, 39, 68. *See also* World Trade Center site
- Sermons, 168, 170, 176
- Serpent, the, 42, 43, 44, 45, 51

- Service: aspects of, 208–225; experts at, 189; forms of, examples of, 199–200; involvement in, purpose of, 77; motivation for and means of, 204; and mystery, 228; preparing for works of, 206; purpose of, 79; seeking faithful, 80; spiritual gifts of, 199; view of, 169
- Service groups, 198
- Service paths, 212–213, 217–218
- Shakespeare, W., 53, 91, 99
- Shalom, 41, 42, 48, 57, 58, 211; agents of, 212–216; longing for, 84–85
- Shame, letting go of, 80
- Shared beliefs and practices, 187–188
- Shared task, 216
- Sheep-and-goats passage, 213–214, 218
- Shepherds, the, 35
- Shift in thought, 14
- Silence, 90, 122, 125, 160, 176
- Simple formulations of truth, 229
- Simple mercies, 106
- Simple service, 218
- Sin: aspects of, 39–60; confession of, 56, 178; hatred of, confusing, with hatred of sinners, 84; healing, 61, 63; meaning of, 35, 40; naming our offenses of, 65–66; original, 47–48, 67; perfect apology for, offering, 70; power of, 51–52, 62, 68; preoccupation with, 133; punishment for, 64–65, 103–104; recognition of, 102; and repentance, 58–60, 133; response to, 36; restitution for, serving as, 214; result of, 40, 61; as root cause of suffering, 94; turning away from, 12, 77; victory over, 69–71
- Singing, to express joy, 174
- Skepticism, 3–4, 25–26, 73, 93, 150
- Smallness, limited by our, 17
- Sodom, city of, 119
- Solidarity, 132
- Solo quest, regarding spiritual life as, 186
- Son of Man story, 213–214
- Son, the, 21–22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29–30, 31, 32, 38, 65, 206. *See also* Jesus; Trinity
- Song of Solomon 5:5, 139
- Sorrow: end of, 86; and salvation, 69. *See also* Suffering
- Soul, shaping the, 163, 164, 165, 167, 174, 180, 181–182. *See also* Worship
- Sourcebook of Christian faith, 140–141
- Southern Baptists, 168
- Space for God* (Postema), 122
- Speaking in tongues, 27, 199
- Specific prayers, requests for, 134–135
- Spin: enemy of, 211; truth succumbing to, 208
- Spirit, human, enduring, 85
- Spirit, the. *See* Holy Spirit
- Spiritual formation, 180
- Spiritual friendships, atmosphere of, 197–199, 204
- Spiritual gifts, 199
- Spiritual growth, encouraging, 198
- Spiritual journey, starting point of a, example of, 14
- Spiritual maturity, growing toward, 81
- Spiritual pride, 190, 193–194
- Spiritual warfare novels, 119–120
- Spirituality, nonreligious, 7–8
- Spiritually challenged, keeping, 159
- Splinter groups, 187
- Staff, hiring, 198
- Stages of life: mapping, 205; and service, 222
- Stalin, J., 7, 53
- Star Trek, 54, 85
- Star Wars, 54
- Status in church, 193
- Step-repentance, 58–59
- Steps, taking, in service, 221
- Storytelling, Christian, certain styles of, 14–15
- Strength: enduring, summoning, 129; finding, in spiritual friendships, 198; from piety, 181
- Strengths, serving out of our, 220
- Substitutionary atonement, 64–65, 66
- Successes, giving credit for, 214, 215
- Suffering: and community, 200–201, 204; of creation, 46; end of, 86; and hope, aspects of, 88–111; of Jesus, 23, 24; and joy in worship, 175; mysterious certainties of, 227–228; of the people of Israel, 21, 24; prediction of, 43; serving out of our, 220; sharing in our, 38; in solidarity with, 132; that comes with service, questions about, 222–225; of the ultimate pain, 69; understanding, 35, 36, 72

Suicide, 72
 Superiority, sense of, 84, 211
 Supplication, 130–132
 Supra-rational quality of atonement, 71–72
 Sustained prayer, 123, 134
 Sustainer, known as the, 29, 30–31, 50
 Swept up in meaning, 16

T

Talent analogy, 147–148
 Talents, inventory of our, taking, 219–220
 Talmud, 153
 Task, reading as a, 161
 Taylor, B. B., 16–17
 Teaching function, 196–197, 204, 216
 Teachings, in suffering, 104–106
 Teenagers, integration of, 197
 Temptation, 42, 81, 209
 Ten Commandments, 153, 210, 211
 Tension, 49, 214
 Teresa, 221, 224–225
 Terrorism, 39, 53
 Testimony, sincere, 26
 Thanksgiving, 129, 212
 Thank-you prayer, 129
 Theosophist thinking, 37
 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, 129
 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 136
 Thomas, 23–24
Till We Have Faces (Lewis), 57–58, 85
 Timelines, 42, 48, 120
 Timothy, 151, 152
 1 Timothy 2:9–10, 150–151
 Tool: communication, 205; of God, 148
 Torah, the, 153
 Traditional worship, 202
 Transcendence, aspects of, 3–18, 34
 Transcendent mystery, experience of, longing for, 169
 Transformation: beginning of, 79–80; effect of mystery on, 228; pattern of, 180
 Transportation, providing, 201
 Traveling Mercies (Lamott), 13
 Treasures of worship, 174–177, 180
 Trinity, 27, 28–31, 38, 191, 206, 227–228, 233n9(Ch2)
 Tritheism, 28
 Trouble, potential for, 44–45

Trust: approaching the Bible with, 144, 155; in the certainties of faith, 230; gestures of, 92; in God, 45, 75, 76, 80, 90, 95–96, 97, 102, 105, 110; questions about, 93; in spiritual friendships, 198
 Truth: about ourselves, facing, 133; best account of the, argument for, 8–9; of the Bible, 10–11; center of, 230; clinging to the, 102; critical, about God, 72; debate over religious faiths and, 15; facing the, of our failures, 176; freedom in the, 60; hold on the, 17–18; Jesus on, 60; laid bare, 65; notion of, 8; search for, and way to, 12; simple formulations of, 229; succumbing to spin, 208
 Twelve-step system, 58
 Two-service solution, 202

U

Ugliness, seeing the, 65–66
 Unconditional love, 77
 Understanding: and faith direction, 10; limitations of, 17; and meaning, 16; stretching our, 29
 United Kingdom, reform in, 171–172
 United Reformed Churches in North America, 187
 Unity, 28, 38, 186–192, 196, 206
 Universal moral law, beginning with, 8–9
 Universalist current, belief in, 82–83
 Universe, ordering principle of, 230
 University of Notre Dame, 9
 Unnoticed mercy, 218
 Unseen things, hope resting on, 107–111
 Unwelcome encounters, 13

V

Value: of our help, paradox involving, 213–214; personal/individual, 36, 55–56, 192–193, 199
 Van Dyk, L., 71
 Vanity, temptations to, 209, 215
 Variety: in the church, 189–190; in the world, 203–204
 Vatican II, 168, 169
 Victory theory of atonement, 69
 Violence and bigotry: betrayal of, 188; learning to reject, 190

Vocation, discovering one's, 220–222
 Voice of God, recognizing, 125–126

W

- Ward, K., 72, 208
 Weakness and humiliation, 69
 Weaknesses: revealing, place for, 198; serving out of our, 220
 Weight of sin, 46–48, 57, 59
 Weirdos, seeing churchgoers as, 165
 Welcoming newcomers, 201
 Welcoming others, 203
 Welcoming us, 206, 207
 Wesley, C., 169
 Wesley, J., 11, 169
 Wholeness, 41, 211, 230
 Why God Became Man (Anselm), 64
 Why prayer, 132
 Wiesel, E., 132
 Wild Goose Resource Group, 172
 Will: of God, dividing, 96, 97; human, 76, 77–78, 91
 Willingness: to be swept up in meaning, 16; to suffer, issue of, 222–223
 Willis, P., 11–12, 15
 Wind in the Door, A (L'Engle), 109
 Wind metaphor, 180
 Wisdom: of Christianity, 58; collective, 4–5; desire for, 45; figure of, 30; of God, known as the, 230; suffering teaching us, 104–105; tonic of, 40
 Wisdom sayings, presenting, 127
 Wisdom traditions, 4–5, 209
 Witness: compelling body of, 10–11; hearing, of others, and meaning, 16; to the resurrection, 106
 Wizard of Oz, The, 228
 Wolterstorff, E., 96, 109
 Wolterstorff, N., 96
 Women, treatment of, 150–151, 152, 187, 194
 Wonder, at mysteries of life, 5–6
 Word, the, 29–30, 32, 145–146
 Wordless imaging prayer, experimenting with, 135
 Words: communicating beyond, 178, 179; ordering of, and actions, 204
 Work ethic, 212
 Work-centered view, 212, 213
 World Trade Center site, 39, 68, 88, 89
 World view, Christian, 85
 Worship: aspects of, 162–182; as central, 204–205; confession in, 132; days structured around, 189; faithfulness in, 180–182; focus in, 30, 31; mysterious certainties of, 227–228; ordinary wonders of, 167–170; and physical matter, 33; prayer in, 123–124, 130; and the Psalms, 127; purpose of, 77, 79; questions about function of, 171; shared practice of, 188; showing up for, 163–164; staying away from, 164–167; treasures of, 174–177, 180; two-service, 203
 Worship movement, alternative, 72
 Worship partners, 203
 Worship reform, 169–170
 Worship songs, 68, 127
 Worship structure and style: bad and good, determining, 173–174; elements of, 167–170
 Worship wars, 171, 202
 Worship-band-driven worship, 173
 Worshiping congregation, community beyond, 195–196
 Wright, N. T., 157–158, 172
 Writings, the, 153
 Wrong doing, admitting, 194. *See also* Mistakes; Sin

Y

Youthful piety, 138–139, 140

Z

Zaleski, C., 224
 Zechariah 14:20–21, 238n2(Ch10)
 Zero-sum game, 53
 Zion, 21, 24