



Journey to the Veil

John Pontius, Terri Pontius (Compiler)

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When doctors gave him 6 months to live, John Pontius (author of "Visions of Glory") created a blog to leave his testimony with his children. However, thousands of followers of "UnBlog My Soul" were touched. Share in the journey as Pontius expresses his love and understanding of the gospel in a clear, beautiful way. This book compiles the most compelling blog entries and weaves the narrative of his journey to the veil.

Journey to the Veil Details

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From Reader Review Journey to the Veil for online ebook

Kathy says

Although it was a different style of writing (entries from his unblog), I really gained a lot of insights, inspiration, and growth.

Anna says

This is a series of blog posts compiled into a book by the author's wife. He writes this blog at the end of his life through a terminal cancer diagnosis. There were some very inspiring essays and beautiful reflections on what in life is worth living and how we should treat one another. Other posts were less engaging for me, but it was an excellent book overall for an LDS perspective.

Carma says

Need to buy myself a copy of this one for reference. I kept wanting to underline in the library copy.

Sher says

I was really sad after I read Pontius's book "Visions of Glory" and found out that he had died. He is a spiritual giant that has a lot to teach all of us. I hope those who read his books are humble enough to accept the fact that John had a gift for expressing his knowledge of spiritual things so that they can learn from him. He must have been an amazing man.

Maria says

It's a must to read this book slowly. So much goodness and truth to ponder and apply. I will be reading this book again!

Christy says

Why did it take me so long to pick up this book and read it? I actually got it on audio. It was like Anatomy of Peace and Bonds That Make Us Free to me. Perfect inspiration to be a better person. Definitely a classic and one to be studied and reread over and over. I need to get out my hard copy and take notes, mark it up, ask myself questions and make goals. I need to step it up and this was just the book for that. I feel the same about Following the Light Of Christ into His Presence. He is indirectly, probably directly, responsible for Preach My Gospel. The short story is included.

Sandy says

This is an uplifting and enlightening book. The faith and dedication of this religious man are inspiring, and many life lessons can be learned by reading of his experiences. Much of the book is a compilation from John's public blog, "UnBlog My Soul", as shared during the final years of his life while fighting terminal cancer. He writes with great insight of many events in his life previous to the time he became ill, in addition to challenges he faced during his final year or two of life. His wife Terri, who received his permission to make the compilation and publish a book after his death, illustrates great faith herself in the undying support and encouragement she gave her husband. An author by profession, John Pontius wrote several books during his lifetime.

UnBlog My Soul URL with Archived posts by John Pontius
<https://unblogmysoul.wordpress.com/>

Audrey L says

My brother suggested this book to me after reading, "Visions of Glory."

Brother Pontius felt prompted to start his blog after the LDS church encouraged members to be a positive influence online. Here is the church internet policy: <https://www.lds.org/pages/social-media>....

This book is a compilation of blog posts from John Pontius' online blog titled, "Unblog My Soul: Building Zion in our Hearts and Homes." Found here: <http://unblogmysoul.wordpress.com/> After Brother Pontius' death, his wife selected blog posts to be published as a book.

I think this book will be loved and appreciated by those who are ready to hear/understand his counsel and wisdom in striving for more spiritual growth and further gospel light to illuminate their lives. I found it fascinating and full of brilliant spiritual insight and advice.

There is a chapter addressing those who have lost their way spiritually and have doubt that God exists. He presents a very simple scenario that proves God is real and at work in everyone's lives.

He gives missionary advice about the three tests of Satan that new investigators/members will face and how to easily recognize and combat them. I read this advice to the Sisters missionaries in our Ward and it has already helped them with their investigators.

He helps you know where you are on the path back to God and how to become a person who will be able to live in Zion.

I loved this book and HIGHLY recommend it to anyone seeking further spiritual insight and knowledge. Especially if they feel/know they are spiritually regressing or they are stuck on a spiritual plateau. I am going to be re-reading it many times in the future.

Cindy says

This will get a very mixed review from me. I was under the impression that it was about near death experiences when I picked it up. It was not, not really. It was more about how one man got so close to the veil in his lifetime.

I like a lot of the doctrine he taught, and will never dispute gospel doctrine. He seemed sincere.

My problem was, as I read...and when I finished...I felt bad. How would I ever do the things he has done to become so righteous! Either it seemed very extreme to me...or I just don't understand how spiritual we can BECOME here on earth. I'm not totally sure what I think yet.

Some experiences and stories were good...and some were fairly self righteous sounding. I am not sure ...if it came from a place of utter humility, then I am most likely misjudging him big time.

In the end, if I don't feel GOOD or HAPPY reading a book, then it is not for me.

I think we need to be careful who we take instruction from. Prophets and apostles for me...I will stick with that.

Carol Nicolas says

If you knew you were dying, what would you do with the time you had left? John Pontius has six months to live, so he begins a blog called Unblog my Soul, which was later compiled by his wife, Terri. In this deeply moving account, John shares his wisdom and the experiences of a lifetime with his children and friends, which ended up including thousands of readers. He tells of the things most dear to his soul and gives advice that if followed would increase their spirituality. I loved this book. It was an uplifting and joyful experience to read it.

Verona says

What an interesting journey, and such a spiritual one! John Pontius, the author, has a terminal illness and wrote this book, calling it an unblog, to share his spiritual experiences before he passed away. My husband and I read this book aloud, taking turns reading his daily "unblogs." We were amazed at the number, variety, and deep spiritual thoughts and experiences that he experienced in his life. He shared so many experiences he had in coming closer to Christ. He shared what he considered life's plan and the way to happiness, especially the way to obtain life with our Heavenly Father in the post mortal life. He thought of things that I have never thought about before, but which stimulated my spiritual thinking. We enjoyed and benefited from his journey in life as he made his way home to the veil.

Audrey Matthews says

Wonderful. Completely, spiritually, uplifting--- the entire book! Hard to put down once you start reading. He writes about profoundly spiritual things to HELP teach us how we bring ourselves to Christ's will. He has inspired me and my husband many times and is still leading us to Christ.

Jaylynn Bryson says

I loved reading these journal entries. I learned life changing principles and am not the same after reading. I could definitely read it again right now and still learn just as much, I'm sure.

Elaine Dransfield says

This is a book to read each small section every day in order to fully absorb the magnitude of what the author is sharing. John Pontius was an absolute spiritual giant, someone I would like to be like but he was so 'obedient' to the laws of God I don't think I can duplicate his spiritual greatness. I need to buy this book so I can underline the great thoughts.

Cami Evans says

I have very mixed feelings about this book! My rating bounces between 4 stars and 2 stars, depending on the page you're looking at. Ultimately, I have more issues than praises, so I am going with 2 stars.

I picked up this book expecting to read about a near-death experience (that is apparently the subject of his other book though, which is shamelessly promoted several times throughout these pages). Then I read the Foreword and Introduction and realized this is more of a last lecture before dying. John Pontius has cancer and knows his time on earth is short, so he sets up a blog to write down his spiritual wisdom as a legacy for his loved ones. After his death, his wife compiled some of the blog posts into this book. I kinda hoped to read more about the cancer side of his story, but I did get glimpses of it through his wife Terri's thoughts being interspersed between the chapters. Somewhere along the way he gathered thousands of followers and wrote the blog for years, and in my opinion, things got a little carried away at times.

I started off loving the book and needing to stop and think about some of the concepts presented. I loved his explanation of "the three voices" of our minds, his boldness about "choose ye this day," the challenges he gave his institute classes, and the amazing experiences he had growing up in Alaska and organizing a ward there. I definitely agree with his approach to studying the scriptures topically instead of solely from beginning to end. I like how he talks about recognizing that the light of Christ is in fact the voice of Jesus talking to you. He has a wonderful way with words, a profound faith and a great understanding of the gospel plus a necessary boldness in declaring the truth. It began very uplifting, inspiring, and thought-provoking.

But somewhere in there the stories seemed to become fantastical. It was almost as if John was incorporating every urban legend into his life so he could share it on his blog to inspire people. I am just not 100% sure I believe everything he wrote here, although I do think he believes it was all true when he wrote it. We can take comfort and inspiration from powerful experiences, but we must be careful to not expect them or to think that is the only way the the Spirit communicates with us! You don't have to fast for consecutive days or say ridiculously bold things to strangers or have profound miracles occur in order to feel the Spirit!

I am hesitant to put my stamp of approval on a book that discusses meeting the Three Nephites or how to understand the Holy Order or seeing visions of other people's divinity, and multiple utterances of the 144,000 at the Second Coming while trying to appeal to an audience of early gospel learning... some of this book is just looking beyond the mark. I would definitely not hand this book to someone new in the Church. We must

be careful not to cast our pearls before swine and to hold our sacred experiences sacred and only share them in intimate circumstances with those that we trust will receive them, or not share them at all. At times it ventured a bit into the land of philosophies of men mingled with scripture. I am a little surprised Heavenly Mother and Kolob weren't discussed, but maybe those are on the blog for further reading.

I was a little offended at the section "the least among us." I do not think that is at all what Jesus was referring to in mentioning the least or being whole and it came across as "see how humble I am??" But maybe that's just the cynical view I was taking to his blog posts by the end of the book. I also do not agree with the author's interpretation of the natural man. I got very worried going into the last chapter where he declares he has found a "grand key that has the power to bring the Saints of this generation to the Zion stature" (page 228). I would be very careful to accept something that magnanimous. I think he sort of has the concept down, but I believe Brad Wilcox does a heck of a lot better job explaining grace.

Take this book as opinion, as the gospel according to John Pontius, and allow it to make you think, but please don't assume it is all doctrine!
