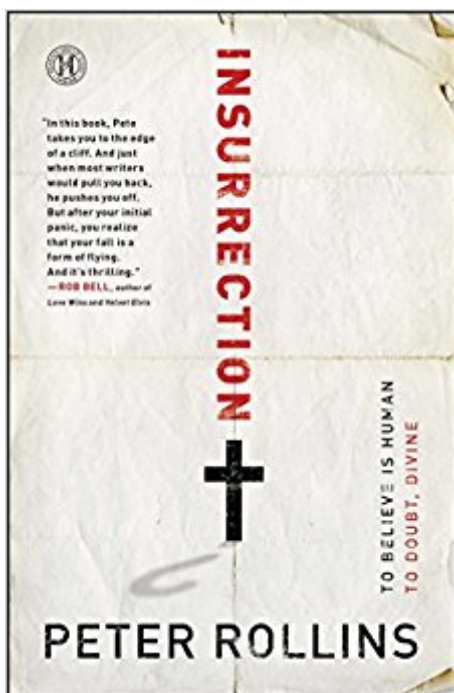


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# Insurrection: To Believe Is Human To Doubt, Divine



## Synopsis

In this incendiary new work, the controversial author and speaker Peter Rollins proclaims that the Christian faith is not primarily concerned with questions regarding life after death but with the possibility of life before death. In order to unearth this truth, Rollins prescribes a radical and wholesale critique of contemporary Christianity that he calls pyro-theology. It is only as we submit our spiritual practices, religious rituals, and dogmatic affirmations to the flames of fearless interrogation that we come into contact with the reality that Christianity is in the business of transforming our world rather than offering a way of interpreting or escaping it. Belief in the Resurrection means but one thing: Participation in an Insurrection. "What Pete does in this book is take you to the edge of a cliff where you can see how high you are and how far you would fall if you lost your footing. And just when most writers would kindly pull you back from edge, he pushes you off, and you find yourself without any solid footing, disoriented, and in a bit of a panic—until you realize that your fall is in fact, a form of flying. And it's thrilling." --Rob Bell, author of *Love Wins* and *Velvet Elvis* "While others labor to save the Church as they know it, Peter Rollins takes an ax to the roots of the tree. Those who have enjoyed its shade will want to stop him, but his strokes are so clean and true that his motive soon becomes clear: this man trusts the way of death and resurrection so much that he has become fearless of religion." --Barbara Brown Taylor, author of *Leaving Church* and *An Altar in the World* "Rollins writes and thinks like a new Bonhoeffer, crucifying the trappings of religion in order to lay bare a radical, religionless and insurrectional Christianity. A brilliant new voice—an activist, a storyteller and a theologian all in one—and not a moment too soon." --John D. Caputo, Thomas J. Watson Professor of Religion Emeritus, Syracuse University "What does it mean when the Son of God cries out, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me'?" Brilliantly, candidly, and faithfully, Rollins wrestles here with that question. You may not agree with his answers and conclusions, but you owe it to yourself and to the Church at large to read what he says." --Phyllis Tickle, author, *The Great Emergence* "Excellent thinking and excellent writing! I hope this fine book receives the broad reading it deserves. It will change lives, and our understanding of what religion is all about!" --Rohr, O.F.M., Center for Action and Contemplation; Albuquerque, New Mexico

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"What does it mean when the Son of God cries out, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' Brilliantly, candidly, and faithfully, Rollins wrestles here with that question. You may not agree with his answers and conclusions, but you owe it to yourself and to the church at large to read what he says." (Phyllis Tickle, author, *The Great Emergence*) "Peter Rollins is the Anti-Christ for all fake Christians." (Creston Davis, Professor, Rollins College, Department of Philosophy and Religion)

Peter Rollins is a widely sought after writer, lecturer, storyteller, and public speaker. He is the founder of Ikon, a Belfast, Northern Ireland, faith group that has gained an international reputation for blending live music, visual imagery, soundscapes, theater, ritual, and reflection. He currently resides in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Basically, Rollins says we must endure Crucifixion times without the "security blanket" of the church of a heavenly reward or any thought that God particularly cares about how we conduct our lives now. The Crucifixion Times are a period where we are forsaken of God and undergo the stress of meaninglessness, anxiety and guilt in this life, which is when he says that we are closest to Christ. The Crucifixion Times are countered by Resurrection Times, which is basically loving the manifest universe and our fellow man in order to see God in them. He has some beautiful passages on what it means to love God's creation. My problem with the book is it leaves no room for the spiritual side. Where is the Holy Spirit? Where is the Cosmic Christ? Is there nothing but pure realism to carry us through? I happen to believe that there is some continuity of this life after death, which is a source of hope and comfort to me. But I don't think that the church holds

out this hope to the exclusion of loving God's creation and entering into the Kingdom of Heaven here and now. So, as far as it goes, the book is good; it just left out the spiritual part, which is so much a part of my life.

I am a Christian and my husband deconverted ((and now identifies as an atheist) a year ago. Life has been very difficult and I am always searching for a way to find some sort of "common" ground. This is painful because both views are polar opposites of one another. However, this may be a start. The author calls himself a Christian atheist, or a/theist. His belief is that there is a lot to be taken and used from the teachings of Christ, but rejects the supernatural and the divinity of Christ. Coming from a Christian point of view, it was hard to read at times, but at other times, I felt like I understood where the author was coming from and could relate with many of the things he had to say. Often times I felt like he WAS a Christian. I thought overall that the book was very interesting, well thought out, and at times fun to read. I would recommend this book to atheist and Christians alike. It is definitely food for thought. I think regardless of where you stand in belief or non belief, something can be learned.

The subtitle of "Insurrection" is "to believe is human to doubt, divine." One will certainly find much to reflect on in this book regarding the central role of doubt in the Christian life, but much more than a book about doubt, "Insurrection" is ultimately a deep affirmation of resurrection. In fact, Rollins betrays his evangelical sympathies in this book more than his previous books--this is a book all about being born again, converted, and transformed. "Insurrection" should appeal to evangelicals as much as progressives, perhaps more so--if only evangelicals will read Rollins with this in mind. Despite the subtitle, this is a book more about resurrection than doubt and crucifixion. In "Insurrection" Rollins does not reject the resurrection but argues we must take it more seriously than ever. This book is a must read.

This is probably the most important book I have ever read. I don't say that lightly. I've read all of Rollins' other works, which are provocative and intelligent, but often difficult to interpret and understand. Insurrection is written in wonderful prose and while it is deep (I had to re-read many paragraphs several times), it is clear and straight-forward. Rollins presents faith in terms of two events - the crucifixion and resurrection - claiming that life is meant to be lived in the re-living of those two events. As each chapter began, I found myself unsure if I could go with Rollins to the places he leads, but ultimately, each time, I found myself in a place of familiarity - not that I had

been there before, but simply that it felt right. His words are always challenging and often uncomfortable, but he speaks of faith and freedom and purpose in ways that are fresh and exciting. We, as Christians, need to hear these words. I believe this book provides an amazing framework for transformative engagement in the world. I am an evangelical Christian minister from the holiness tradition. This book does more to conceptualize our theology for a post-modern world than anything I've yet discovered.

I... Have no words. I just started reading Peter Rollins' books and... freedom. Basically rejecting the blue pill of platitudes and self satisfaction; and choosing the red pill of Christianity. Read only if you are willing to risk all certainty for your freedom.

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