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**Two Peas in a God Pod – A Different Look at Faith and Religion
Spring 2024**

April 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, and 19
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Room E204

**April 14 – On Being with Krista Tippett: Foundations for Being Alive Now” - 4 podcasts 13 minutes or less**

Four short offerings, more wisdom practice than podcast: life-giving, hope-generating words, ideas and practices that can literally shape your experience of reality — and shape what can become possible. At this juncture in the life of the world, we are all stretching. We are finding the ground shifting beneath our feet, whoever we are. Think of these as tethering foundations towards walking our way into our callings in this world of so much pain — and so much promise.

# **Foundation #1: Seeing the Generative Story of Our Time (7 minutes)**

<https://onbeing.org/programs/seeing-the-generative-story-of-our-time/>



# **Foundation #2: Living the Questions (8 minutes)**

<https://onbeing.org/programs/living-the-questions/>



# **Foundation #3: Taking a Long View of Time, and Becoming "Critical Yeast"**

# **(13 minutes)**

<https://onbeing.org/programs/taking-a-long-view-of-time-and-becoming-critical-yeast/>



# **Foundation #4: Calling and Wholeness (9 minutes)**

<https://onbeing.org/programs/calling-and-wholeness/>



**April 21 - On Being with Krista Tippett – with Barbara Brown Taylor on the Hunger for Holiness (84 minutes)**

Being in the presence of Barbara Brown Taylor’s wonderfully wise and meandering mind and spirit is a true joy. I might even use a religious word — it feels like a “blessing.” And this is not a conversation about the decline of church or about more and more people being “spiritual but not religious.” We both agree that this often-repeated phrase is not an adequate way of seeing the human hunger for holiness. This is as alive as it has ever been in our time — even if it is shape-shifting in ways Southern Baptist and Barbara’s Catholic and Methodist forebears could never have imagined.

Link: <https://onbeing.org/programs/barbara-brown-taylor-this-hunger-for-holiness/>



**April 28 – Nomad Podcast: “Rachel Held Evans – Losing My [Evangelical] Religion” – (63 minutes)**

Rachel Held Evans was a hugely successful and influential progressive Christian blogger, author and speaker. We talk to Rachel about her journey from a conservative evangelical faith characterized by certainty, to wrestling with questions, doubt, cynicism and despair, through to a new kind of faith. And we discuss the trials and tribulations of embarking on this journey under the gaze of social media. It's a fascinating and insightful story.

Rachel was one of the early pioneers in the deconstruction space, blogging about her experiences of growing up in a fundamentalist Bible Belt culture, and her experiences of publicly questioning this.

Rachel became a beacon of hope for thousands of people wrestling with an evolving faith. But sadly she died suddenly in 2019 at just 37, leaving a husband and two young children.

https://www.nomadpodcast.co.uk/nomad-83-rachel-held-evans-losing-my-evangelical-religion/



**Bonus Podcast: New York Times: The Daily: “The Legacy of Rachel Held Evans” (28 minutes)**

In a brief but prolific career, a young writer asked whether evangelical Christianity could change. In doing so, she changed it.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/03/podcasts/the-daily/rachel-held-evans.html>



# **May 5 – The Russell Moore Show: “Kate Bowler Tells Us Where We’re Wrong on Suffering” (33 minutes)**

<https://www.russellmoore.com/2024/01/31/kate-bowler-tells-us-where-were-wrong-on-suffering/>

For historian Kate Bowler, grief and suffering are more than just a topic of interest. She’s intimately acquainted with pain herself as someone who was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, faced a small chance of survival, and lives with chronic pain. As she puts it, “I spent a long time almost dying.”

On this episode of The Russell Moore Show, Bowler shares words of wisdom honed from her research and her personal life. She and Moore talk about her new book Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!: Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs & In-Betweens and discuss the vulnerability of being human. They explore the anxious tenor of the modern era in a historical context and talk about the ways people discuss (or avoid discussing) hard things. They consider what it looks like to keep the faith in times of trial and how powerful acts of kindness and tenderness can be in seasons of suffering. Their conversation covers theology, Christian history, and the specific ways that the prosperity gospel has shaped evangelicalism.



# **Bonus Podcast: Fresh Air – “A Stage-4 Cancer Patient Shares The Pain And Clarity Of Living 'Scan-To-Scan' (42 minutes)**

<https://www.npr.org/2018/02/12/585066841/a-stage-4-cancer-patient-shares-the-pain-and-clarity-of-living-scan-to-scan>

Religion scholar Kate Bowler used to believe God had a plan for her life. Then she was diagnosed with incurable colon cancer. "I really had to rethink what trust and hope looks like," she says.



**May 12 – Veritas Forum September 24, 2020 – “Francis Collins: The Language of God”**

Dr. Francis Collins, world-renowned geneticist, physician, and Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is uniquely positioned at the intersection of science and faith. Formerly an atheist, his New York Times best-selling book, The Language of God, chronicles his conversion to Christianity and its impact on his scientific practice. In this talk, given at a Veritas Forum at Caltech, Collins explores the evidence that now informs his worldview.

<https://www.veritas.org/podcast>

(Scroll to September 24, 2020)

(Website) (Apple) (Spotify)

Bonus Podcast: Another version of this talk back in 2017.

<https://app.resonaterecordings.com/hosting/the-veritas-forum-podcast/1a08087b-330d-4286-8faf-350e839488e8>



# **May 19 – Unlocking Us with Brene Brown “U2’s Bono: Songs of Surrender and Carrying the Weight of Our Contradictions” (Part 1 – 52 minutes, Part 2 – 42 minutes)**

<https://brenebrown.com/podcast/songs-of-surrender-and-carrying-the-weight-of-our-contradictions-part-1-of-2/>

<https://brenebrown.com/podcast/songs-of-surrender-and-carrying-the-weight-of-our-contradictions-part-2-of-2/>

My conversation with Bono, recorded live at the historic Paramount Theatre in Austin, Texas. I have been a U2 fan since the very beginning, and this event, presented by Austin City Limits Festival’s Bonus Tracks, was sheer magic. I don’t know what happened, but we got mentally in sync, spiritually locked in together, and we talked about everything from rock and roll to love and faith. His new memoir, Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story, is the ultimate love story — to his wife, Ali; to his family; and to all of us who’ve found all kinds of peace and challenges in the music and the lyrics. In Part 2, we take it back to Bono’s early days in Ireland — most notably the school where he’d meet his future bandmates, his future wife, and a headmaster who modeled what it was to live in the radical center, in a space forged by complication and contradiction. “How casually our destiny arrives,” Bono writes of this formative era. From there, our conversation rolls through matters of faith, creativity, and what it means to truly surrender.

(Part 1) (Part 2)