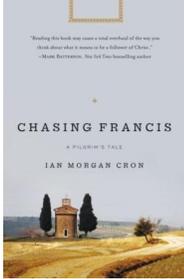


# Books by the Stack



## **Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim's Tale** by Ian Morgan Cron

Pastor Chase Falson has lost his faith in God, evangelical Christianity, and his super-sized megachurch. When he falls apart, the church elders tell him to go away. Join Chase on his life-changing journey to Italy where he struggles to resolve his crisis of faith by retracing the footsteps of Francis of Assisi.

**Why you'll like it:** *Wisdom literature, spirit seeking, redeeming.*

**About the Author:** Ian Morgan Cron is an author, speaker, Episcopal priest, and retreat guide.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Have you ever experienced a crisis of faith or an event that made you question what you believed? If so, are you willing to discuss it?
2. Dave Tomlinson writes, "To be post-evangelical is to take as given many of the assumptions of evangelical faith, while at the same time moving beyond its perceived limitations" (p. 28). Have you found that the culture or theology of evangelicalism suffers from any limitations? If so, describe and discuss them.
3. Have you ever thought of your journey with Christ as a pilgrimage? What does intentionally looking for "answers to the questions of meaning, purpose and eternity" look like? Does this search end once one comes to faith?
4. Thomas Merton said he was drawn to sacred sites, not because he knew the places, but because he believed the places knew him. Have you ever visited a "shrine" or holy place and experienced heightened awareness of God's presence? Do you have a "sacred site" where God is more real to you than anywhere else?
5. In spite of the fact that some segments of the church today are experiencing "success," do you think it still needs repairing? If yes, where do you believe it's broken?
6. What are some of the "stones" we'll need to use in repairing the twenty-first-century church? For example, the stone of a new radical generosity, the stone of the arts, the stone of embracing versus excluding, the stone of community, etc. What stones has God specifically given you to contribute to the effort?
7. Do you agree with Berry's assertion that the destruction or exploitation of the environment is as an act of blasphemy?
8. Respond to this statement: "We can no more say we love the Creator and then ignore the maltreatment of his creation, than we can say we love an artists but despise their paintings."

**9.** It has been said that one reason the repeatedly performing the liturgy is so that it insinuates itself so deeply into your bones that you eventually *become* the liturgy. What do you think of that idea? What might it mean to “become the liturgy”?

**10.** In many churches there is a new level of appreciation for the liturgy and Eucharist. Why do you suppose that is?

**11.** Could a politician or diplomat use Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount as a road map for achieving peace in the world today? How can Christians love those whom their nation has defined as an enemy?

**12.** If you could design and start a church, what would it be like? What would its mission be? Who would you try to reach? How would you do it? What would worship look like?

*(Questions provided by author and publisher)*



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