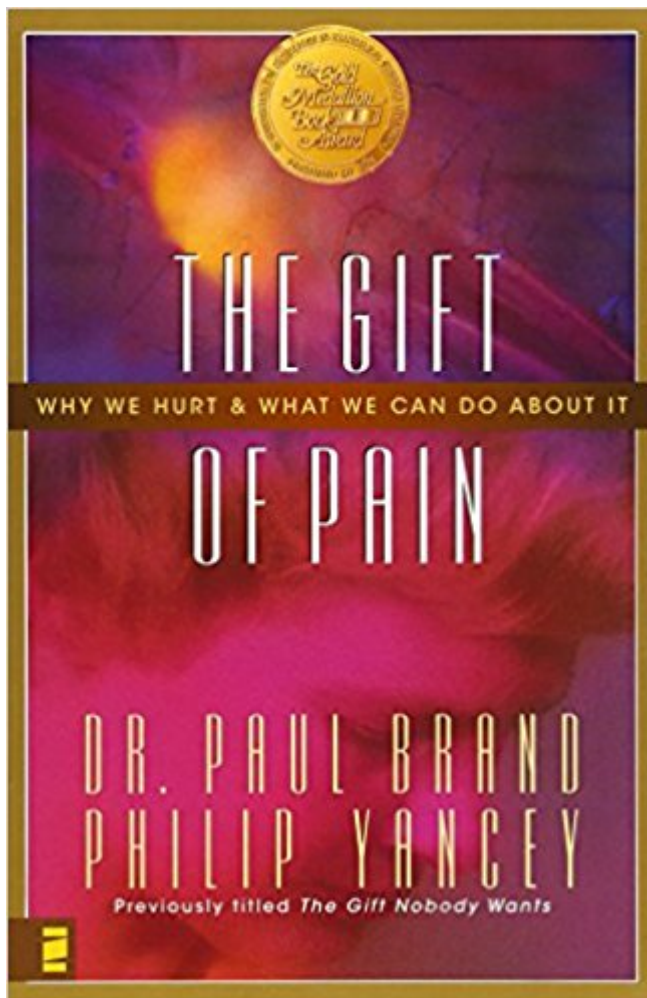


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# Gift Of Pain, The



## Synopsis

A WORLD WITHOUT PAIN? Can such a place exist? It not only can—it does. But it's no utopia. It's a colony for leprosy patients: a world where people literally feel no pain, and reap horrifying consequences. His work with leprosy patients in India and the United States convinced Dr. Paul Brand that pain truly is one of God's great gifts to us. In this inspiring story of his fifty-year career as a healer, Dr. Brand probes the mystery of pain and reveals its importance. As an indicator that lets us know something is wrong, pain has a value that becomes clearest in its absence. The Gift of Pain looks at what pain is and why we need it. Together, the renowned surgeon and award-winning writer Philip Yancey shed fresh light on a gift that none of us want and none of us can do without.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Pain is nothing that most of us would count as a blessing. But his fifty-year career working with leprosy patients in India and the U.S. convinced Dr. Paul Brand that pain is one of God's great gifts to us. As an indicator that tells us something is wrong, pain has a value that becomes clearest in its absence. Those who feel no pain reap terrible consequences. In *The Gift Nobody Wants*, Philip Yancey and Dr. Brand look at pain--what it is, and why we need it if we're to live life fully. "This is no dry-as-dust philosophical discussion of pain; rather, it's a vital, flesh-and-blood account fine reading for anyone."

Philip Yancey has a knack for tackling the tough questions; for articulating the knotty issues of

faith, the nitty-gritty realities of being Christian. These five Gold Medallion Award-winning books are vintage Yancey, exploring topics common to us all

This book is wonderfully written. As a reader, I truly felt like I was there with Dr. Brand. This is a story that really makes one think about the fact that we, as human beings, all feel pain. We almost always see that pain as only a burden none of us wish to carry. However, Dr. Brand's story is about the hardship experienced by lepers in the mid 20th century which was exacerbated due to the absence of pain in their lives. Long after the individual had taken the medication that would arrest the virus of leprosy, they were still left with the inability to feel pain due to the damage wrought by the disease. This absence of pain is what caused all the serious infections and loss of limbs, etc. Incredible what he did to help these people.

This is a very interesting book, not your typical book about pain. It starts off by the author talking about leprosy patients that had all kinds of issues (chewing their fingers, breaking bones, losing limbs) all because they had no sense of pain. Pain or discomfort wasn't even a thought in their minds because they had no warning system in their body. All they could feel was pressure and tingling with intense pain, and they became fascinated with the effect it had on their body, partly because other people would have extreme responses. Not to sound gory or anything, but this book does give real details about real people that struggled with a life without pain and the destruction it led to in their body. In modern society, most people think that it would be great to never experience pain and to never have to take drugs again to deal with the pain. The reality is, pain is a GOOD thing! Pain is the body's built in warning system that something is going wrong and needs to be fixed. Far too often we seek to relieve pain by living in comfort, pampering ourselves or drugging our systems to feel "normal again", yet completely ignoring the true source of the problem. This book will definitely give you a new perspective on pain and how thankful you should be for it! Pain truly is a GIFT!

Dr. Brand begins his book with the story of a mother who brought her lame little girl to see him. The mother explained how she first found out that something was wrong with her daughter: one day she went in to check on the baby in her playpen and to her horror, found her 'drawing' on the sheets with her own blood...the girl had bitten her fingertips until they bled and was now happily scribbling away! This little girl couldn't feel pain, and by the age of 11 she was a pitiful wreck living in an institution with stumps instead of limbs. Let me tell you this story drew me in right from the start! Dr. Brand's

own incredible life experiences growing up as the son of medical missionaries in India, to his days of training in England as a medical student during the war, to his fascinating stories of pioneering work on leprosy, make this WELL worth the read. Add to that the philosophy he's developed on pain based on these experiences, and you may very well never look at pain in the same way again. His conclusions on what actually causes pain and what we can do to help us bear it or overlook it are also very interesting. (He became known as the "doctor with the brush" in his younger hospital days after he discovered that the sensation of brushing the skin of his night patients helped considerably decrease their feelings of pain.) There are so many anecdotes from the book I'd love to share but I'll try to restrain myself. :^) Let's just say this is the best book I've read for a long time, and you would not regret buying it.

Is a very good book to read and it helps you to understand you and your pain and how to deal with it. I found it to be a very interesting book, enjoyable to read and is very informative. I highly recommend it, especially for those who have had an abundance of pain in their lives.

I picked this book up looking for material/thoughts about why it is better to learn to live with/manage pain, instead of following the path of physician- assisted-suicide which is now in the media so much. I got what I wanted, but more than that it was a fascinating book about an inspirational doctor's career, and great details about his work which I found fascinating. I knew nothing about leprosy, so I liked learning more about that disease, and the long process the Dr. went through for his research to be heard. What a remarkable life Dr. Paul Brand has lead, and the story is well-told by Philip Yancey. If you're squeamish about medical stuff, like autopsy details, then maybe not for you.

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