

- 0. THE PATH TO GOD - Story Preface
- 1. DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?
- 2. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
- 3. THE PATH TO GOD**
- 4. THE PATH TO FAITH
- 5. LEWIS and the INKLINGS
- 6. BROADCASTS of C.S. LEWIS
- 7. C.S. LEWIS and JOY DAVIDMAN GRESHAM
- 8. LEWIS and A GRIEF OBSERVED
- 9. LEGACY of C.S. LEWIS
- 10. MORE BACKGROUND on C.S. LEWIS

The path to God did not come easily for Jack Lewis. Completing his studies, he chose a career which took him to Oxford and the world of medieval literature. Not content with fantastic tales of the past, he became close friends with one of the greatest storytellers of his time: J.R.R. Tolkien (author of *Lord of the Rings*). And he closely studied George MacDonald (author of *Phantastes*).

Interrupted briefly by service in WWI (where he was injured at the front), Lewis returned to Oxford and became a tutor at Magdalen (pronounced MAUD-lin) College, where he remained for 29 years. He took part in brisk discussions about faith (or his lack thereof). Although now an atheist, he continued to speculate whether God did, in fact, exist.

In 1929, Jack "admitted God was God."

***You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all of England.***

C. S. Lewis  
*Surprised by Joy*

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-PATH-TO-GOD-C.S.-Lewis>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-PATH-TO-GOD-C.S.-Lewis>

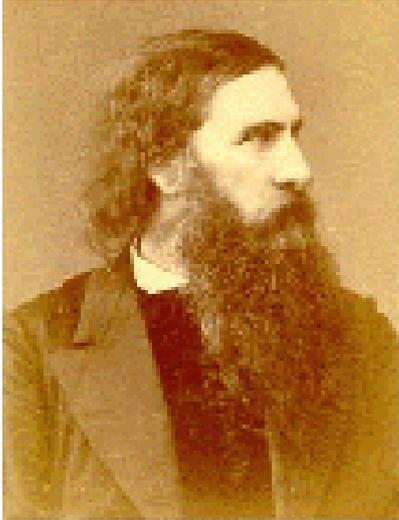
Media Stream



### C. S. Lewis

Image online, courtesy the Into the Wardrobe website.

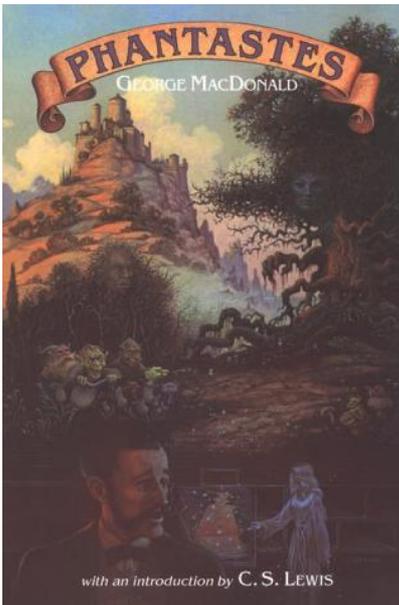
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### George MacDonald

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### Phantastes

Image online courtesy, Amazon.com.

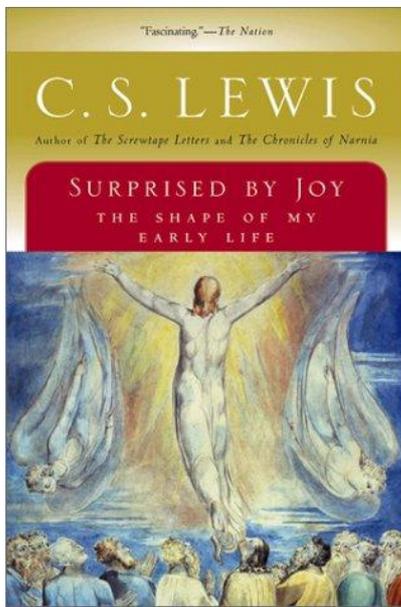
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### Magdalen College

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### Surprised by Joy

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### C.S. Lewis - From Atheist to Faith in God

Video clip online, courtesy PBS - *The Question of God: Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis* (2004)



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**Executive Producers:** Mike Sullivan, Catherine Tatge and Doug Holladay.  
Complete [four-hour video](#) available from PBS.

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