

## NABEEL QURESHI

The following bio is taken from Dr. Qureshi's official site: *"Dr. Nabeel Qureshi is a former devout Muslim who was convinced of the truth of the Gospel through historical reasoning and a spiritual search for God. Since his conversion, he has dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel through teaching, preaching, writing, and debating. Nabeel has given lectures at universities and seminaries throughout North America, including New York University, Rutgers, the University of North Carolina, the University of Ottawa, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Biola University. He has participated in 17 moderated, public debates around North America, Europe, and Asia. His focus is on the foundations of the Christian faith and the early history and teachings of Islam. Nabeel is a member of the speaking team at Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. He holds an MD from Eastern Virginia Medical School, an MA in Christian apologetics from Biola University, and an MA from Duke University in Religion."*

(In case you didn't know Dr. Qureshi died of stomach cancer on Sept.16, 2017 at the age of 34.)

Wikipedia observes that his first book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, was awarded the Christian Book Award for both "Best New Author" and "Best Non-Fiction" of 2015. Dr. Qureshi was the first to earn both honors. They also state that Qureshi lectured to students at more than 100 universities, including Oxford, Columbia, Dartmouth, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Hong Kong. He has participated in 18 moderated, public debates around North America, Europe, and Asia. In 2015, Qureshi debated at Wayne State University with Muslim scholar Shabir Ally.

In 2010 Qureshi and others were arrested at a Muslim festival in Dearborn, Mich. for disturbing the peace and refusing a lawful order from a police officer. Soon after they were put in jail the mayor released a statement indicating that the missionaries were engaged in hostile, angry shouts and that Qureshi was getting violent and confrontational with police officers. In 2013, a jury looked at videos of what happened and reached a unanimous verdict that Qureshi was not guilty. As a part of the settlement the city of Dearborn had to issue a formal apology and maintain it on their official web site for three years.

Ravi Zacharias said: *"I invited Qureshi to join our team four and a half years ago. He reached tens of thousands in live audiences, but his books reached even more people. He was a powerful speaker and debater."* His wife Michelle remains rock solid in her Christian faith and stated that this whole ordeal has allowed her to see scripture come "alive in totally new ways." One example, she says, is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."

Qureshi's article "Crossing Over" describes his own intellectual journey from Islam to Christianity. He learned Urdu and Arabic at the age of 4. By age 5 he had read the entire Qur'an in Arabic and memorized many chapters. Islam was not just his religion, it was his life. In Aug. 2001 he met a Christian named David Wood who was just a devoted to Christ as he was to Islam. As he carefully examined the evidence, Qureshi's intellectual integrity forced him to renounce both his former faith and his family to follow Christ. As with many other Muslims, his intellectual conclusions were enhanced by a series of dreams and visions.

On the one hand it seems sad that such a promising young man should die at such an early age. On the other hand we realize that Jesus also died at about the same age. The life of Jesus was certainly not in vain, and we can also conclude that the life of Nabeel Qureshi was not in vain either. As Ravi Zacharias would say, his memory will help believers think, and thinker's believe.