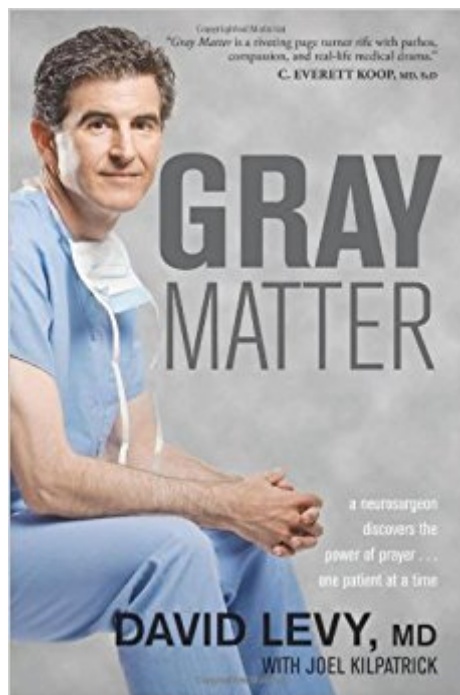




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# Gray Matter: A Neurosurgeon Discovers The Power Of Prayer . . . One Patient At A Time



## Synopsis

A perfect blend of medical drama and spiritual insight, *Gray Matter* is a fascinating account of Dr. David Levy's decision to begin asking his patients if he could pray for them before surgery. Some are thrilled. Some are skeptical. Some are hostile, and some are quite literally transformed by the request. Each chapter focuses on a specific case, opening with a detailed description of the patient's diagnosis and the procedure that will need to be performed, followed by the prayer request. From there, readers get to look over Dr. Levy's shoulder as he performs the operation, and then we wait right alongside Dr. Levy, the patients, and their families to see the final results. Dr. Levy's musings on what successful and unsuccessful surgical results imply about God, faith, and the power of prayer are honest and insightful. As we watch him come to his ultimate conclusion that no matter what the results of the procedure are, "God is good," we cannot help but be truly moved and inspired.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Gray Matter is a riveting page-turner rife with pathos, compassion, and real-life medical drama."

--C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD, former US Surgeon General --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

What happens when prayer and surgery mix? When highly respected neurosurgeon Dr. David Levy decided to ask his patients whether he could pray with them prior to surgery, he had no idea what to expect. What if the surgery went poorly who would be to blame? What if it went

well—would God or science get the credit? And how would introducing prayer into the surgical process change his patients' and colleagues' opinion of him as a surgeon? While some patients found comfort in Levy's request, others were skeptical or even downright hostile. But in the end, everyone—even the good doctor himself—was transformed by the experience. A perfect blend of pulse-racing medical drama and profound spiritual insight, *Gray Matter* not only provides a fascinating glimpse into the elite field of neurosurgery as we watch Levy perform some of the most challenging surgical procedures in medicine today, it also provides a refreshingly candid and revealing glimpse into the heart and mind of a neurosurgeon—those divinely fallible beings we sometimes expect to play God. Levy's musings on what successful and unsuccessful surgical results imply about faith, forgiveness, and the power of prayer are at once unexpected and insightful. And as he arrives at his ultimate conclusion that regardless of the results "God is good," one cannot help but be truly moved and inspired.

After 18 hip surgeries at 4 different hospitals, I've met more than my share of M.D.s. If you don't advocate for yourself, they can run over everything you want for yourself. Dr. Levy is clearly what we all want - a doctor who LISTENS and responds to our concerns. His prayer is comforting, although a little too fundamentalist Christian for my taste, I like the idea of a doctor who shares his spirituality with people he's going to cut on.

Interesting read by and about a neurosurgeon who prays with his patients, as well as the tangible and intangible benefits and challenges that come from it. My only criticism would be that personally, I don't need the tedious, ultra detailed descriptions of medical procedures. A few of the reviews seems to think it is unprofessional, foolish mythology to bring God into the medical arena, the fact that many patients seem to be greatly comforted by it notwithstanding. I guess doctors should be here to heal folks physically, not emotionally. The last thing we would want to do would be to offer patients some spiritual comfort, even if it does make them feel a whole lot better. Why, it's witchcraft I tell you, witchcraft! But seriously, offering a brief, simple prayer is hardly a slide off the cliff into magic and the Dark Ages. The simple solution is if a doctor ever asks to pray with you, just say, "No thanks."

I read a lot of books, but few actually leave me feeling inspired and glad I invested my time. This is one of those books. I wasn't sure what I was getting into, but the deeper into the book I went, the

better it became. Cons: This book has a lot of testimonials. If you don't like reading about faith and the spiritual lives of others, you may be bored. But then again, you might change your mind during the read. Pros: Now that the long list of cons are out of the way, on to the things I liked about the book. First, I learned a good bit about the physical problems of the circulation around the brain. Levy wove much information into the book, and did it in a way to keep the reader from getting lost in the technical information. What I liked best was Levy's honesty. He showed his struggles to integrate his faith into his life. The wrestling that we all have when it comes to stepping out in faith was presented well in the book. Inner turmoil, the desire to be accepted, times of failure, and prompting of the Lord that guided him to success are all part of his journey. Dr. David Levy shows how meeting the spiritual need of people plays a critical role in physical health, and his position as a doctor allows him a great opportunity to minister to the real needs of everyday people. If you know someone struggling with bitterness and unforgiveness, this book does a GREAT job showing how learning to forgive improved the health of some of the patients he encountered. His story also convicts the reader. Seeing faith lived out in a tangible way shines light on the fact that our lives also provide an opportunity to be real, and to present an unpretentious faith to those we come in contact with in our lives and places of work. If you read one book this year, this should be the book. Eddie Snipes  
Author of I Called Him Dancer

Inspiring Convicting When David Levey follows the leading of the HOly Spirit and starts praying with his patients and staff before surgery and during appointments amazing things occur. In this book David takes you through story after story detailing the power prayer has held for himself and his patients. He gives examples of how a simple opportunity given to speak hurts/anger can make physical symptoms almost disappear. Also, he walks you through medical procedures that could be boring but end up very interesting. I was challenged with this book to pass through the fear that holds me down and speak the truth in my heart. I feel like sometimes I act insecure just to fit in when I am anything but, I pray I can find the strength to be Bold just as Dr. Levy was. If you want to be inspired, and aren't afraid of being convicted then please pick up this book, it is worth the time! To comply with new regulations introduced by the Federal Trade Commission, please mention as part of every Web or review that Tyndale House Publishers has provided you with a complimentary copy of this book or ARC.

A wonderful book about a real man under real conditions as a neurosurgeon who now lives by faith. A practical storyline that through his dealing with his patients shows even brilliant men and women

need the Lords help in practice. But it doesn't stop there. The Doctor himself goes through dynamic changes that will last forever spreading to everyone he comes in contact. Xlnt read.

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