



# Searching for Meaning: Idealism, Bright Minds, Disillusionment, and Hope

By James T. Webb

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## Searching for Meaning: Idealism, Bright Minds, Disillusionment, and Hope

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Many bright idealists find themselves disillusioned in today's world, and they may experience existential depression as they **examine their lives** and **search for meaningfulness**. This book will help such individuals to **understand themselves and their struggles**. It also includes helpful information and suggestions for actions that disillusioned idealists can use to **better manage** their feelings and thoughts in ways that will **nurture their idealism** and provide a sense of **satisfaction and contentment**. People with existential depression need more than medications. It is fundamentally more important for those with existential depression to become aware that **others have had similar experiences** and to realize that someone truly understands their idealism, disillusionment, and anger that **things are not as they "should be."** *Searching for Meaning* bridges this gap and provides a **safety net** of sorts for those floating in the abyss of concentrated disillusionment. This book offers **guidance and support** in taking the first steps toward renewed perspective and helps to **promote a solid foundation** to prevent future relapses.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

"It is the best book on gifted children and adults that has been written in the last ten years. This book should be studied. It should be studied for the wisdom in it and it should also be studied for the beauty of language that is utilized." - Michael F. Shaughnessy, Ph.D., Special Education Professor at Eastern New Mexico University and Consulting Editor for Gifted Education International and Educational Psychology Review

"Dr. Webb addresses the subjects with a style that is at once both welcoming and reassuring while at the same time being thought-provoking and inspirational." - Stephanie K. Ferguson, Ph.D., Executive Director, Early College and Director, Program for the Exceptionally Gifted Mary Baldwin College "Another in a long line of not only informative but life-changing contributions by this author to the psychology of what it means, how it feels, and how often it actually hurts, to be gifted. And how to cope with it." - William H. Smith, Ph.D., ABPP (Former Dean, Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences) "An in-depth and sensitive treatment of this very important topic. Searching for Meaning will be an excellent resource for all gifted individuals and the clinicians who work with them." - Jerald Grobman, M.D., Psychiatrist and Senior Supervisor of Psychology Interns at Lenox Hill Hospital "If you are gifted and are constantly searching for meaning, there is no doubt that this is a book for you." - Susan Daniels, Ph.D., Co-Author of Living with Intensity and Professor of Educational Psychology, CSUSB ..".by laying the foundation of why so many bright minds find themselves confronting disillusionment and depression, [Dr. Webb] is then able to build on this understanding to help us climb back into the light." - Suki Wessling of Avant Parenting "Dr. Webb describes issues and feelings that many of us experience, and he provides a way to cope with and accept them... A soothing balm to the whirlwind of emotions experienced by disillusioned bright idealists." - Paul Beljan, PsyD, ABPdN, ABN, Pediatric Neuropsychologist and Co-Author of Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnoses of Gifted Children and Adults "Searching for Meaning... gave me an immediate connection to my daughter's struggles with plenty of insight and tools for anyone to make positive life changes... Webb understands his subject deeply and knows how to give valuable advice... I'm recommending Searching for Meaning to [my daughter]-and to you." - Wendy Skinner, teacher and author of the book Life with Gifted Children

#### **From the Inside Flap**

Bright idealists often find themselves disillusioned and searching for meaning in today's world. Grasping for answers can lead to existential depression. Searching for Meaning helps idealists understand their quandaries and describes various ways in which they attempt to cope with their disillusionment. Helpful information and suggestions provide courses of action to nurture idealism, hope, happiness, and contentment.

#### **About the Author**

A frequent keynote and workshop speaker at state and national conventions, Dr. Webb, a licensed and board-certified psychologist, has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Sunday Morning, The Phil Donahue Show, CNN, and National Public Radio. A Fellow of the American Psychological Association, he served for three years on its governing body, the Council of Representatives. Dr. Webb is also a Fellow of the Society of Pediatric Psychology and the Society for Personality Assessment. In 1992, he received the Heiser Presidential Award for Advocacy by the American Psychological Association, and also the National Award for Excellence, Senior Investigator Division, from the Mensa Education and Research Foundation. He has served on the Board of Directors for the National Association for Gifted Children and was President of the American Association for Gifted Children. Currently, Dr. Webb is President of Great Potential Press, Inc. Dr. Webb was President of the Ohio Psychological Association from 1974 to 1975 and a member of its

Board of Trustees for seven years. He has been in private practice, as well as in various consulting positions with clinics and hospitals. In 1978, Dr. Webb was one of the founders of the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, and from 1978 to 1995, he was a Professor and Associate Dean. Previously, Dr. Webb directed the Department of Psychology at the Children's Medical Center in Dayton and was Associate Clinical Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Wright State University School of Medicine. From 1970 to 1975, Dr. Webb was on the graduate faculty in psychology at Ohio University. Dr. Webb is the lead author of *Guiding the Gifted Child*, which sold more than 125,000 copies, has been translated into several languages, and won the National Media Award of the American Psychological Association as the best book for "significantly contributing to the understanding of the unique, sensitive, emotional needs of exceptional children." His books *Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnoses of Gifted Children and Adults*, *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*, and *Grandparents' Guide to Gifted Children* have won numerous book awards. In addition, Dr. Webb has authored more than 70 professional publications, 15 books, three videos, and many research papers for psychology conventions or conferences regarding gifted and talented children. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Webb graduated from Rhodes College and received his doctorate degree from the University of Alabama. Dr. Webb is the parent of six daughters.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Donna Bradford:**

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can know everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading skill was fluently. A book *Searching for Meaning: Idealism, Bright Minds, Disillusionment, and Hope* will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think that will open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or ideal book with you?

#### **Peggy Ross:**

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#### **Ruth Ford:**

Many people spending their moment by playing outside along with friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, think reading a book will surely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It okay you can have

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