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Introduction to Spiritual Formation (Online)

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Reading Report

Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?

With integrity, I have read Spiritual Journey thoroughly but not in its entirety. It was read cover to cover with missing parts in between. There were times that I would begin to read the chapter and struggle with my own “demons” and feel like I was not worthy enough as I went through about three of the weeks. In other words, this caused me to begin to read particular chapters, but not having the heart to finish some.

This book “took me apart” as we looked into the belonging and being accepted as I am. God used this concept in Chapter 3 to remind me not to feel hard on myself and that in return I should also allow people to feel as if they belong in the family of God instead of just saying it verbally. What was also important to me was the quote in reference to I Corinthians 12:15-20 which states that “It is impossible for the body to be considered as separate parts, because no part can exist on its own” (p.68). When I first read this, I was quickly able to remember how it felt when my church made me feel that I including others were useless and not good enough to be apart of the body. We all play apart in winning souls for the Kingdom because we all have various talents and skills that aren’t possessed by others. From time to time that same negative behavior comes across to me and during this semester found myself not using discernment, but

rather outright telling others at my church that they are not able to lead out in a program. Who am I to tell them they can't when their relationship with the Creator and skill set speaks for itself? "God is the One who has put this body together" (p.69) and He needs for us as believers to function properly and accept each other so that others who want to be a part of the journey will not be turned off as well.

Although I did not disagree with anything that I read, in chapter 8 I was able to agree with the author as far as what this generation would call it "keeping the same energy" when nobody is looking. The focus of this chapter was on building and keeping a moral character lacking bad choices and uplifting integrity. Behaving the same way when nobody is watching is important to character building because we can have less trust issues with one another and it allows for others to unintentionally gravitate and pick up the positive traits as well. This helps with making our earthly home a better place. Repentance is key first. Admitting that you are wrong and asking the Father to forgive you and help you to be better and build a better character. The author did an excellent job in explaining the purposes of persevering and resisting temptations in order to be obedient and submit to the Father's will. It brought us back to our mask project as well by mirroring ourselves.

There were a few key spiritual truths that I found I was able to take away from in this book such as identifying in Christ through His mission and His compassion to help myself and others who are broken. "Jesus knew He had come to earth to represent the Father" (p.126) and this was from since He was a child. In my adulthood I realize that although I profess with my mouth that I am representing the Kingdom, my fruits do not show healthy. I need to work on

character and try my best to do what Jesus may do in certain situations and not what I would do either. As much as my heart is willing and is compassionate, I must “keep that same energy” that others see up front behind closed doors. I already started to and intend to continue to monitor this as I go through my spiritual formation process especially at work where I believe it matters the most. When supervisors are getting under my skin and co workers lie and attempt to make me look bad instead of lashing out as I used to before I have taken steps such as counting, praying, and singing when I have those urges.

Works Cited

Walborn, Wanda. *Spiritual Journey*. Franklin Tennessee, Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020