

Salome King-Afuape Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God

In Dr. Wanda Walborn writing she is encouraging and equipping Christians in our Spiritual Journey on how to identify the Sins (dirt) in our Life that is keeping us back from diving in and receiving all of God's love. She offers suggestions how to remove them such as to give God space in our life and stated that she will stand with us as we make that decision to allow God to highlight the places where we are vulnerable that is holding us back such as fear, lies, shame, anger, and rejection, by saying yes to God Love will transform us and give us strength to move on.

I cannot tell someone to do something and I am not doing it, my life has to reflect the glory of God. For example I cannot say to read the Bible and I am not doing it. According to Dr. Wanda, Spiritual disciplines are a means of grace whereby we come to God to seek greater intimacy with him. Participating in these disciplines gives him permission to change us. Many times, I have made a mess of things and come in desperation to seek help, God's help, by giving my life to him. Saying yes to God is therefore the first spiritual discipline to be practiced, because left to myself; I will default to demanding my own way (Pg. 34). Our Lives must speak louder than our words, since we are the representatives of the gospel message (pg. 48).

My understanding of spiritual value and my belief reveal in Dr. Wanda writing states our reflection of God, our formation through the church and our participation in the mission of God give us purpose on the spiritual journey. Made in his image as the people of God, we have a unique mission to fulfill with him to bring others back into relationship with him (pg. 45). In addition, the apostle Paul used an example of belonging in Corinthians 12:15-20 when he wrote about having one body with many parts. It is impossible for the body to be considered separate parts, because no part can exist on its own. An eye, ear, or head by itself will not live. Each needs the connection with the whole to function. The emphasis is on the fact that God is the one who has put the body together. Every part is needed for the body to be healthy and function properly I Corinthians 12: 21-26 (pg. 69).

In addition, Dr. Wanda taught and reminded us that as son and daughter, we have full rights and privileges of our father's inheritance. All that belongs to God now belongs to us too. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1). Paul warns the reader to stand firm and not let yourselves be burdened again (Pg. 157). When God set some one free he is free idea.

I mostly agree with the statements that Dr. Walborn made on we need community. The book of Hebrews exhorts the reader, "Let us draw near to God, let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, let us spur one another on toward love and good deeds, encourage one another

and let us not give up meeting together” (10:22-25). It appears from this passage that meeting together in community is where we can gain strength to be able to do these things (pg. 76). In addition, I agree with Dr. Walborn that community is a gift from God to speak his words of love affirmation, significance, and acceptance as well as instruction, correction, rebuke, and reprimand. First John 3:16 reads, “this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters” (Pg. 79). I like this part where it stated that Jesus was broken so those who looked to him could live. Jesus chose death so we could experience life—a simple exchange for those who believe. Our God knows and understands brokenness. By choosing Him, our brokenness is restored with healing and wholeness (Pg. 87). However, I disagree with Dr. Walborn somewhat because some of the people that hurt me in my life time it took many years for me to pray and forgive and receive complete healing because it was such a deep hurt.

This book will really impact my theology and current ministry knowing that “there is a God who loves us just as we are and our identity is established by security in this kind of love.” This love is the perfect Love of God (Pg. 130). First we have to be authentic to God and be vulnerable to open up and accept his cleansing power that we can be made whole. In order to reach the present and the next generation and the lost, we have to accept the fact that all of mankind is searching for something that can satisfy. According to Dr. Wander the psalmist wrote, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you (Ps. 119:11). Hiding God’s word in our hearts keeps us tender toward Him and empowers us to know the word that sustains the weary (Pg. 105).

We as Christian needs an intimate relationship with God, so that we can emulate what the bible says about love “god so love the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John3:16). So we should be authentic and be a model that shows and emulate Christ because our aim, in our spiritual journey is to be more like Christ loving and compassionate as we travel along on our spiritual journey. God is not looking for perfection, rather a heart that desires to obey Him and do whatever He wants (Pg. 172). The book was awesome, it was a beautiful journey. On every journey there are stops to be made either to get refill with something to eat or something that needed emptied in the garbage. In this case I stop at the cross to unload at the feet of Jesus all the heavy load that I carry. I stopped and asked Jesus to give me a fresh touch. The spaces that because available needed to be filled with something and I asked the Lord to fill me with His love and His Holy Spirit. You weren’t made to limp through life. You were made to walk at God’s pace and in step with the Spirit (Pg. 179). God love is life giving and compels you to want to tell others and bring them along on this adventure (Pg. 180).

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one): Thoroughly and Entirely 100% Quickly but
Completely____% Thoroughly but NOT Entirely____% Quickly and NOT Completely____% Not at all
Signed: _____