

Assignment Title: Reading Report – Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?

Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God? / Dr. Wanda Walborn

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Dr. Wanda Walborn's book *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?* Is a great resource for anyone taking a journey of faith. Each chapter speaks to a different facet of our Christian walk, balancing the weight that we unwittingly give to the enemy's lies, against the truth that God loves us. Each chapter addresses a different facet of our spiritual walk, an obstacle to that, and a way through said obstacle, and a way to practice that method of overcoming.

The desperation we need to seek out God's love, and the spiritual journey that we take with Him is our start. The obstacle is our nature that causes us to become more callous and cry out to God less and less as we feel that our prayers aren't answered or God remains silent to us. The solution to this is accepting God's love for us. This "Discipline of Yes" is a commitment to saying yes to God's control in your life, one that is predetermined. Dr. Walborn explains that the spiritual journey we're being invited into is "about traveling with the One we love to experience life together within each present moment."<sup>1</sup> The practice outlined is reading the Bible, but it seems to me that the stillness, silence, and solitude are all things to practice as well.

The following chapters talk about a desire for belonging, an innate brokenness, and a desire for intimacy (or a desire to recognize God's intimacy with us). Shame is given as the major obstacle for a sense of belonging. It causes us to put up a false front. A supportive community, one that "lives by the standard of God"<sup>2</sup> is the cure for this. Anger is paired with brokenness as an obstacle on our spiritual journey. The remedy given is to learn forgiveness. The final chapter in this set speaks about God's desire for intimacy for us, which is made deeper as we are able to be more honest and intentional in our interactions with God.

Our identity in Christ is next. Fear is illustrated as something that stunts our spiritual development and our image of ourselves. Journaling is the prescription for this, centered around

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<sup>1</sup> Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?*, (Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 31.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 62.

getting one's thoughts and feelings on paper and then seeking God's thoughts on the situation. Which leads to learning to listen for God's voice. The ways that God usually speaks to us are listed out as well as multiple barometers to tell if a word is really from God or not. The obstacle here is noise both external and internal. The solution to this is listening prayer, which brings the reader back to the early chapters of the book, the practices of stillness, silence, and solitude. Dr. Walborn ends on our inner character; the person we are when no one else is watching. We should aim to have good character but learn to deal with the consequences of bad choice, and both the remorse that comes with and the repentance that should follow. The solution to the obstacle of temptation is provided as learning to submit to God, from a place of love for Him, as well as learning to be intentional and willing to forgo things that others may do.

The way that the chapters are split, and the repeating pattern made this read like an instruction manual in some ways. I work for a Sunday school. We have a small, but not insignificant, number of students who have been quite disruptive lately; trying to find "the loophole in the rule they seek to break, arguing about the technicality of its wording if they are found in violation"<sup>3</sup> and I've been trying to think of a way to give those specific students a little more one on one time to figure out why they act the way they do, and how we can come up with a working compromise so that they can have fun, but while learning to be mindful of the other students. "Guidance and mentorship can provide support to people in the midst of character – forming choices."<sup>4</sup> (138) I want our staff to be mindful of this, and the students to know that it's a safe space where they are accepted and invited into a loving relationship with God. I plan to re-read this book with the Sunday school staff, both for our own benefit and so we can try to brainstorm new strategies to help guide our students as they seek after God.

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<sup>3</sup> Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?*, 138.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 138.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely \_\_\_\_\_%

Quickly but Completely 100 %

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely \_\_\_\_\_%

Quickly and NOT Completely \_\_\_\_\_%

Not at all

Signed: Henry Williams

Bibliography

Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?*, (Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020),  
Kindle.