

Assignment Title: Reading Report 2

“Spiritual Journey” by Wanda Walborn

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In her book, *Spiritual Journey*, Walborn is inviting us to make space in our lives to discover God, hear Him speak personally to us, and to enter into an intimate and loving relationship with Him. Walborn says, “God’s part is to do the work, Our part is to give God space in our lives to do His work.”<sup>1</sup> This process is called spiritual formation and throughout the journey, Walborn guides us by exposing obstacles that are blocking us from experiencing God more fully such as anger, fear, and noise and offers disciples that will help us overcome those obstacles as well as spiritual practices and probing questions to help us draw nearer to the Father.

In her first chapter, Walborn reminds us that this spiritual journey is not about finding love from other people but accepting the offer of love from God “in a naked and unashamed kind of way.”<sup>2</sup> This was an uncomfortable but needed reminder for me. As a person who works in the church, it is easy for me to make my goal pleasing other people and being a likable and needed spiritual role model. But, the love of people is never going to fulfill me and striving for it can become all-consuming. The truth is that God is waiting and ready to love me in all the ways I desire—fully and completely—but it will require me to lay down my pride and be totally vulnerable and weak before Him. This is a challenge and I am thankful for Walborn’s prayer at the end of this chapter to guide us in saying yes to God and inviting him into the difficult places of our hearts. This is a prayer I will need to pray often.

One of the disciplines Walborn introduced us to that I hope to implement in my own relationship with the Lord as well as in my ministry with other women is that of hearing God’s voice through listening prayer. In fact, I have been convicted of my need for listening prayer recently as I have been teaching my toddler what prayer is. I often find myself explaining to him that prayer is like having a conversation with God but as I tell him this, I realize just how one-

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<sup>1</sup> Wanda Walborn. “Spiritual Journey: What it is and why it’s important,” *Spiritual Journey*. (Franklin, Tennessee: Carpenter’s Son Publishing, 2020), 45

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 31

sided these conversations are. How beautiful that God will talk back! I don't want to miss out on hearing His voice! In this section, Walborn goes on to say that when we are obedient to what He speaks to us in these quiet moments of prayer, that is when we will find true breakthrough. "Our reward is His presence with us to do what He asked in the secret place."<sup>3</sup> She also reminds us that, at first, we might only receive a few nuggets from the Lord but as we continue this practice, we will better learn what His voice sounds like and how to obey. This was particularly encouraging to me as I begin to practice listening. In the last few weeks, I have experienced both a time of direction from Him through prayer where I got to respond in obedience and see a friend feel the kindness of Jesus through me and another time when I stepped out in faith on what I thought was the Lord's leading and nothing came from it that was evident to me. Walborn's encouragement to "keep showing up, and wait for the next place"<sup>4</sup> was what I needed to hear.

Another section in this book that really struck me was chapter 8 when Walborn pressed into the spiritual discipline of submission. Submission is something I have been struggling with lately. I am not good at it and the world tells me it's wrong, but I do believe the Bible commands it of us. When Walborn explained that our motivation for submission has to be love, everything felt like it clicked in my brain and my heart for the first time. "For any reason other than love, submission is a duty or obligation...only love can cause people to give their lives."<sup>5</sup> When I think about submission to my husband, our church elders, and Jesus as an expression of my love for them it becomes easier and so much more meaningful!

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<sup>3</sup> Walborn, *Spiritual Journey*, 162

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 163

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 175

## Bibliography

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

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: \_\_Veronica Torgerson\_\_