

Rebekah James

Dr. Constance Diggs

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READING REPORT FORM

1). Where did this book “take you apart?” How did God use it in “spiritual surgery?” (please use quotes & page numbers)?

- In chapter 1, the section titled “Pride” spoke to my heart because I often struggle with dependency and pride. Growing up in an Indian family meant that I had to learn to be independent very quickly. Skills such as time management, financial responsibilities, and even daily chores required me to learn these skills quickly and efficiently.

In turn, my independence enabled a behavior that taught me to not rely on others, including God. It became difficult to let go of situations that were out of my control or even friendships in which I had invested ample time. As a result, my independency made it difficult to trust. Dr. Walborn stresses the importance of surrendering ourselves so that we can “eliminate the third for power and recognition” (Walborn, page 28). The fear of the unknown can be intimidating for some. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ provides consolation when we place our faith and trust in him. Dependency on him alone allows us to abandon our pride.

2). Where did you agree most with the author? Disagree most?

- In chapter 5, Dr. Walborn brings up a valid point when it comes to authenticity. I’d be lying if I said that I did not care about my image or how I’m perceived by others. There is an expectation to hold a certain image, especially within the church. The notion of allowing others to believe all is well forces our true image to stay behind closed doors. Dr. Walborn states “Image-conscious relationships remain shallow, and the church becomes an event to attend, rather than a place for broken people to come for healing” (pg. 96 – 97).

Though I don’t disagree with Dr. Walborn, I do understand how difficult it may be to express personal struggles within the church setting. Not everyone may be accepting of a person’s situation or willing to help even after. Situations like this can prevent others from sharing their personal struggles or even worse, coming to church at all. To be accepted is desired by all, however, not all are accepting of others.

3). What was the key spiritual truth you gleaned from this book? How are you integrating it into your personal spiritual formation process?

- In Dr. Welborn's book, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close To God*, a key spiritual truth that I have learned is to never back down in a battle with the enemy. As children of God, it's imperative to remember that our hearts and lives belong to Christ. Regardless of how often the enemy attempts to pursue our lives, we must use the fruits of the Spirit to defeat or overcome his lies. In chapter 6, Dr. Walborn states "agreement with the lie gives it a place in your mind, which is why you must take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ (II Corinthians 10:5)". This is a very powerful statement which has resonated with me from the moment I read it.

How can untruthful lies from the enemy make me feel weak and cripple my soul? Confusion and depression nearly stripped my light-hearted spirit away. Nonetheless, through God's word, I was reminded of God's faithfulness and negative thoughts that were once implanted in my mind were wiped away. Submission to God and following his word will block the enemy from his doings.

With integrity, I have read this book thoroughly and entirely—100%

Signed: Rebekah James