

“SPIRITUAL JOURNEY” - READING REPORT

Turron Alleyne
SF505 NA/NOS: Formation For Ministry
March 16, 2023

Two pages isn't enough room for me to fully articulate what I received from reading "*Spiritual Journey*" by Wanda Walborn. I felt the main points in this book unpacked the secret to a beautiful, transformative, love relationship with God that I strive to have. It also allowed me to face the beautiful and ugly truth about me. Each "Mirror Moment" gave me an opportunity to reflect on what I truly believe about me and about God; whether that belief was a lie from the enemy or the Truth from God. This book allowed me to journey into the deep depths of my soul; while experiencing the love of the Father. Even though my flaws were being exposed, I still felt the love of the Father; which drew me closer to God and gave me the strength to be vulnerable and feel His acceptance despite my ugly truth. And THAT is the love I needed and still need to know - that despite my many flaws, that I (we) can STILL get close to God and be transformed.

God's love isn't an excuse to continue in our sin. And I love how Walborn did not exclude this Truth from this book. I feel in today's society that so much "grace" is spoken about without upholding the standards that God calls us to. Walborn states,

Repentance differs from confession in that repentance is a decision to turn away and go in the opposite direction, while confession is an admission of wrongdoing. Many people are able to admit what they have done, but there is no remorse or desire to change. Confession of this kind is simply a catharsis—a release of emotion by speaking it out. Many people on a spiritual journey are immature because they confess their sins, but refuse to repent of their sins. There is a big difference between admitting it and repenting of it.¹

I truly value the clarity in these statements. I need to apply this to my own life, as well as gracefully share it with others when led by God. God gives us grace to come to repentance, not to keep on sinning. And I believe we've lost that reverence for God in some of our arenas in churches and seminaries today.

I can't really say that there's anything that I disagree with in this book. I believe Walborn is spot on with what she wrote. What I would like to point out is something I agree with most.

¹ Dr. Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?*, (Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 169

On page 108, Walborn begins sharing a personal experience she had of being led by the Holy Spirit to share the gospel. She said she heard God tell her to share the gospel with her neighbor but she shrugged it off again and again. She even talked back to God saying that it was too “soon” to share the gospel. Then she goes on to say,

I heard the statement even louder to share the gospel. In my head, I argued that such boldness didn't align with friendship evangelism principles that required a natural relationship before plunging into a gospel presentation. The voice didn't go away. It only increased in volume.²

Walborn ultimately states that she didn't obey in the moment because of this “friendship evangelism principle”, and how the opportunity was ruined, and that she learned that when God speaks that she “...*must listen right away, whether I look foolish or not.*”³

This brings me to what I agree with most – that when God tells us to do something, we must do it. Period. I believe because we break things down to formulas, and principles, and we have so much “knowledge” of the things of God, that we forget the fundamentals of listening and obeying. Too many times I've heard statements like, “You have to be in relationship with someone in order to share a hard word.” I think there is truth to that, but I don't believe it's *the* Truth. I believe that if God prompts you to say or do something, that we should obey no matter what. Now of course, whatever is said or done needs to be said or done in love. Jesus says in John 12:49 that the Father has commanded him on *what* to say and *how* to say it. The Bible also says that we are to speak the truth in love. So whatever God is commanding us to do or say, we must obey and do it in love, and not try to fit it into our man-made spiritual boxes.

In conclusion, this book has truly impacted my walk with God, how I view myself and how I do life with others. Walborn unwaveringly answers her subtitle with a resounding YES! It's a book that I will revisit and share with others as I continue my walk in Christ. Amen.

² Dr. Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?*, (Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 108

³ Dr. Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?*, (Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 109

With integrity, I have read this book:

Thoroughly and Entirely _____ %

Quickly but Completely _____ %

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely _____ %

Quickly and NOT Completely _____ %

Not At all

Signed: Turron Alleyne