

Reading Report

Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close To God? By Dr. Wanda Walborn

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Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry
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Summary

Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close To God by Dr. Wanda Walborn is a book that is almost like a self-help book to help people get close to God. She goes in-depth into important topics like accepting God's love, accepting and loving ourselves, finding belonging, exposing our anger and fear, being intentional with God, hearing God's voice, and building character through submission. Dr. Walborn goes through many ways of getting to each goal and how people can use tools like "Mirror Moments" to get closer to God. She shares the present obstacles in each situation and exposes the lies that people may believe that are keeping them from getting closer to God. She exposes the lies that keep people from starting or finishing their healing. She asks the reader to invite God into the deepest wounds and most painful memories as she has and shows how beautiful a life with God can be.

Interaction and Critique

In the case of the ministry that I currently serve, this book is very relatable. My current ministry would be these five 11th grade ladies that I met recently and had the privilege of getting to know these past two years. These girls continue to struggle with discovering who they are, seeing God working in their lives, finding a place they belong, and hearing the voice of God. As I was reading, I kept thinking of people in my life that would benefit from reading this book. When I finished reading, I realized that not everyone could read this book and benefit from it unless God was already doing something in their hearts. To someone who isn't ready to give God their all, they could be disappointed in themselves and afraid to step out of their comfort zone. Especially when Dr. Walborn says "We want to be our own God."¹ This book is full of necessary truths that people may not be ready to digest. I think everyone wants to get close to God but do

¹ Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close To God?*, (Tennessee: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 173.

not want to do the heart-work that it takes. These people are hurt, broken, and tired. They've gotten into a habit of forgetting that the mask is on. In order to protect themselves, they've learned to live with their guards up without realizing those guards also keep God at a distance. This book has helped me learn better to help the girls I'm currently ministering to and hopefully lead them to a God that wants to be close to them.

To be quite frank, I'm not sure what this book revealed about my worldview. It definitely exposed a lot of my insecurities, my emptiness, and my choices in life. This book told me where I was putting my energy, who took priority in my life, and who I was pretending to be.

"Becoming friends with yourself is highly recommended before becoming friends with someone else."² Interestingly enough, every time I opened this book, I would read something that helped me at those times. This past semester, I realized I had a deep self-hatred welling up inside that Jesus was healing little by little. There were quotes like this one that I want to keep close to my heart to help me continue my healing journey. "Shame becomes the barrier to self-acceptance."³ This book exposed a lot of the shame I was dealing with. It also revealed my lack of spiritual expectation in my life. I'm ashamed of the amount of times I've opened my bible or sat in the silent but powerful presence of the Lord. I've been keeping myself busy, afraid of my thoughts, afraid of having even more of my insecurities exposed.

It's easy to say I agree and have learned from the majority of this book. The only thing I thought I could maybe challenge is when Dr. Walborn mentions M. Scott Peck who talks about fear and laziness and how they keep us away from "practicing presence and proximity" and "regularly being in their world."⁴ I agree that there are things that keep Christians comfortable in their Christian bubble, but I don't think it's fair to say that it only comes down to those two

² Walborn, *Spiritual Journey*, 53.

³ Walborn, *Spiritual Journey*, 72.

⁴ Walborn, *Spiritual Journey*, 49.

things and put Christians into a box. As much as I have learned, this book has shaped my theology in a way that reminds me that God is loving and kind. I didn't know I needed that reminder.

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: _____Jessica Lee_____

Bibliography