

Reading Report for Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?

Monom Teekham

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Dr. Wanda Walborn addressed the challenges that hinder our spiritual growth and the need to peel off those layers of our inner being is needed in order for us to be close to God. Every chapter is designed to tackle specific baggage we had and to realign us with the truth by taking particle action items that would set us free from the lies.

I really like the fact that Dr. Walborn placed “prerequisite” for getting close to God as chapter one. So many in the Christians circle asked Can I really know God, Is He really here with me, Does He really hear me etc. These are good questions. However, it’s really the person’s heart condition that is prerequisite for him/her to experience God up-close and personal. Psalm 34:18 said, the Lord is close to the brokenhearted. The desperation, seriousness, and how truly one desires God is the pathway to his/her intimacy/relationship with God. Because God sees true our hearts and He is not a being who we could fool or manipulate. It’s from the heart that one loves, not the intellect or practice. Dr. Walbord wrote “God wants us to love Him in return and have deep fellowship with Him, but without love as the motivation, our relationship becomes obligatory.”¹ For me, there is no point in reading the entire book, if the person is not serious about getting closer to God. However, if he/she really wants to pursue closeness to God then this book has particle action items to help them get there.

The format of the book is systematized in a way that would create familiarity for the reader to process and follow the practice. Each chapter starts with discussing the objective of laying the groundwork, followed by the obstacle to the objective, how to overcome obstacles by renewing our mind, and ends with actionable instructions. I appreciate Dr. Walborn shared the definition of Spiritual Formation, spirituality often talked about yet not everyone can explain what it means. Dr. Walborn defines it as “is the intentional formal and informal process of giving God space in our lives to help us become like Jesus from the inside out, to reflect the character of

¹ Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?* (Franklin, TN: Carpenter's Son, 2020), 45.

God, form a people of God, and participate in God’s reconciling plan with mankind.”² Thus, the depth, quality of the experience of spiritual journey greatly depends on how committed one is in making time and space to commune with God on a regular basis.

I appreciate the fact that Dr. Walborn addressed critical biblical foundations and truths that one needs to read, review, reflect, and to internalize. We all had shortcomings, and we were hurt and disappointed by institutions, society, close friends, or even family members. If we don’t take time to do self-assessment, we are opening space for the enemy, satan to take a foothold and plant seeds into our thoughts and beliefs. Sometimes, it is our own doing, our ego/pride, insecurity, busyness, or lack of motivation that prevent us from experiencing God intimately to grow spiritually. But there are times when the battle and stronghold is in the spiritual realm, and we need to read, to hear, to be reminded of the biblical truths and God loves toward us. For me spiritual maturity means, when it is so effortless aka easy for me to yield to God’s way with a willing/joyful heart, when I am quick to run to Him first and foremost before running to any person, and when I know His heart in every situation and His heart toward people. I cannot not boast about my spiritual maturity, because it’s such an oxymoron, how foolish it even sound. But I will celebrate and praise God for molding me and disciplined me to be spiritually in-tune with Him since I was 12 years old. It is my desire that everyone will be so excited to practice spiritual disciplines, and to be rooted in the words of God, and eager to have frequent check-ups with God daily. Christian’s life on earth become fully alive and powerful when we are one with our Abba Father, Our Savior Jesus, and Holy Spirit. In addition to the Spiritual Discipline book by Richard Foster, I will recommend this book for those who are navigating their way to spiritual journey.

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

Thoroughly and Entirely	_____ %
Quickly but Completely	_____ %

² Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?*, 44.

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely _____ %
Quickly and NOT Completely _____ %
Not at all

Signed: Monom Teekham

Bibliography

Walborn, Wanda. *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?* Franklin, TN: Carpenter's Son, 2020.