

*Conversations with God*

• an uncommon dialogue •



book 1

*Neale Donald Walsch*

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For

ANNE M. WALSCH

Who not only taught me that God exists,  
but opened my mind to the wondrous truth  
that God is my best friend;  
and who was far more than a mother to me,  
but gave birth in me  
to a longing for and a love of God,  
and all that is good.  
Mom was  
my first meeting  
with an angel.

And for

ALEX M. WALSCH

Who told me repeatedly throughout my life,  
There's nothing to it,  
You don't have to take No for an answer,  
You make your own luck,  
and  
There's more where that came from.  
Dad was  
my first experience  
of fearlessness.

## Acknowledgements

First, last, and always, I want to acknowledge the Source of everything that is in this book, everything that is life--and of life itself.

Second, I want to thank my spiritual teachers, who include the saints and sages of all religions.

Third, it is clear to me that all of us could produce a list of people who have touched our lives in ways so meaningful and so profoundly as to defy categorization or description; people who have shared with us their wisdom, told us their truth, suffered us our faults and our foibles in their infinite patience, and who have seen us through all of it; seeing the best in us there was to see. People who, in their acceptance of us, as well as their *refusal* to accept the parts of us they knew we really didn't choose, caused us to grow; to get *bigger* somehow.

The people, in addition to my parents, who have been there for me in that way include Samantha Gorski, Tara-Jenelle Walsch, Wayne Davis, Bryan Walsch, Martha Wright, the late Ben Wills Jr., Roland Chambers, Dan Higgs, C. Berry Carter II, Ellen Moyer, Anne Blackwell, Dawn Dancing Free, Ed Keller, Lyman W. (Bill) Griswold, Elisabeth Kbler-Ross, and dear, dear Terry Cole-Whittaker.

I want to include in this group my former mates, whose privacy I wish to respect by not naming them here, but whose contributions to my life are deeply grasped and appreciated.

And as gratitude for the gifts I have received from all these wonderful people swells my heart, I am especially warmed by the thought of my helpmate, spouse, and partner, Nancy Fleming Walsch, a woman of extraordinary wisdom, compassion and love, who has shown me that my highest thoughts about human relationships do not have to remain fantasies, but can be dreams come true.

Fourth and finally, I want to recognize some people I have never met, but whose lives and work have impacted me with such force that I cannot let this moment pass without thanking them from the depth of my being for the moments of exquisite pleasure, insight into the human condition, and pure, simple *Lifefefeelkin* (I made up that word!) they have given me.

You know what it is when someone has given you a taste, a glorious moment, of what is really true about life? For me, most of these have been creative or performing artists, because it is from art that I receive inspiration, to which I retreat in moments of

reflection, and in which I find that which we call God most beautifully expressed.

And so I want to thank. ..John Denver, whose songs touch my soul and fill it with new hope about how life could be; Richard Bach, whose writings reach into my life as if they were my own, describing so much of what has been my experience; Barbra Streisand, whose directing, acting, and musical artistry grips my heart time and time again, causing it to *feel* what is true, not merely know it; and the late Robert Heinlein, whose visionary literature has raised questions and posed answers in ways no one else has dared even approach.

## Introduction

You are about to have an extraordinary experience. You are about to have a conversation with God. Yes, yes. I know...that's not possible. You probably think (or have been taught) *that's not possible*. One can talk to God, sure, but not *with* God. I mean, God is not going to *talk back*, right? At least, not in the form of a regular, everyday kind of conversation!

That's what I thought, too. Then this book happened to me. And I mean that literally. This book was not written *by* me, it happened *to* me. And in your reading of it, it will happen to you, for *we are all led to the truth for which we are ready*.

My life would probably be much easier if I had kept all of this quiet. Yet that wasn't the reason it happened to me. And whatever inconveniences the book may cause me (such as being called a blasphemer, a fraud, a hypocrite for not having lived these truths in the past, or--perhaps worse--a holy man), it is not possible for me to stop the process now. Nor do I wish to. I have had my chances to step away from this whole thing, and I haven't taken them. I've decided to stick with what my instincts are telling me, rather than what much of the world will tell me, about the material here.

Those instincts say this book is not nonsense, the overworking of a frustrated spiritual imagination, or simply the self-justification of a man seeking vindication from a life misled. Oh, I've thought of all of those things--every one of them. So I gave this material to a few people to read while it was still in manuscript form. They were moved. And they cried. And they laughed for the joy and the humor in it. And their lives, they said, changed. They were transfixed. They were empowered.

Many said they were transformed.

That's when I knew this book was for everyone, and that it *had* to be published; for it is a wonderful gift to all those who truly want answers and who truly care about the questions; for all those who have embarked upon quests for truth with sincerity of heart, longing of soul, and openness of mind. And that's pretty much *all of us*.

This book addresses most, if not all, of the questions we have ever asked about life and love, purpose and function, people and relationships, good and evil, guilt and sin, forgiveness and redemption, the path to God and the road to hell. . .*everything*. It directly discusses sex, power, money, children, marriage, divorce, life work, health, the hereafter, the before-now...everything. It explores war and peace, knowing and not knowing, giving and taking, joy and sorrow. It looks at the concrete and the abstract, the visible and the invisible, the truth and the untruth.

You could say that this book is God's latest word on things, although some people might have a little trouble with that, particularly if they think that God stopped talking 2,000 years ago or that, if God *has* continued communicating, its been only with holy men, medicine women, or someone who has been meditating for 30 years or good for 20

or at least half-decent for 10 (none of which categories include me).

The truth is, God talks to everybody. The good and the bad. The saint and the scoundrel. And certainly all of us in between. Take you, for instance. God has come to you many ways in your life, and this is another of them. How many times have you heard the old axiom: When the student is ready, the teacher will appear? This book is our teacher.

Shortly after this material began happening to me, I knew that I was talking with God. Directly, personally. Irrefutably. And that God was responding to my questions in direct proportion to my ability to comprehend. That is, I was being answered in ways, and with language, that God knew I would understand. This accounts for much of the colloquial style of the writing and the occasional references to material I'd gathered from other sources and prior experiences in my life. I know now that everything that has ever come to me in my life *has come to me from God*, and it was now being drawn together, pulled together, in a magnificent, complete response to *every question I ever had*.

And somewhere along the way I realized a book was being produced--a book intended for publication. Indeed, I was told specifically during the latter part of the dialogue (in February 1993) that *three* books would actually be produced--from Easter Sunday to Easter Sunday in three consecutive years--and that:

1. The first would deal mainly with personal topics, focusing on an individuals life challenges and opportunities.
2. The second would deal with more global topics of geopolitical and metaphysical life on the planet, and the challenges now facing the world.
3. The third would deal with universal truths of the highest order, and the challenges and opportunities of the soul.

This is the first of those books, completed in February 1993. For clarity I should explain that, as I transcribed this dialogue by hand, I underlined or circled words and sentences which came to me with particular emphasis as if God were booming them out and these were later placed in italics by the typesetter.

I need now to say that I am--having read and re-read the wisdom contained here--deeply embarrassed by my own life, which has been marked by continued mistakes and misdeeds, some very shameful behaviors, and some choices and decisions which I'm certain others consider hurtful and unforgivable. Though I have profound remorse that it was through others' pain, I am unspeakably grateful for all that I have learned, and found that I have still *yet* to learn, because of the people in my life. I apologize to everybody for the slowness of that learning. Yet I am encouraged by God to grant myself forgiveness for my failings and not to live in fear and guilt, but to always keep trying--keep on trying--to live a grander vision.

I know that's what God wants for all of us.

**Neale Donald Walsch**

*Central Point, Oregon*

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# Excerpt

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