

Conversations with God

• an uncommon dialogue •



book 2

Neale Donald Walsch

Introduction

We are living in a different world today. Things are not the way they were when this book was originally published. Yet, not a word in it is outdated. In fact, *the exact opposite is true*. The book may well have been ahead of its time. What is certain is that the words here are more relevant than ever.

The hundreds of thousands who have already read this book and who made it a *New York Times* best-seller have called it easily the most controversial in the original *Conversations with God* trilogy. Whereas *CWG-1* looked at individual life and addressed many questions related to it, this book explores the collectively created reality on this planet, touching on global issues and diving deeply into subjects related to the group experience of the larger human community. It comes not a moment too soon.

The events of the past several years—including the rise and fall of the terribly oppressive Taliban regime in Afghanistan, the continuing and seemingly unending conflict between Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East, the terrorist activities throughout the world and the 9/11 attacks in the United States, the military intervention in Iraq and its aftermath—make it clear that our species has approached the furthest edge of sustainable possibility. In short, we can't keep going on like this.

We can't keep creating our collective experience in a “power over” rather than a “power with” paradigm, and we can't keep trying to solve the problems and end the conflicts which such a paradigm inevitably produces using violence and killing as our chief means. We can't keep doing this because, of course, we are not solving the problems or ending the conflicts at all, but merely prolonging them, or, at best, postponing them.

Sooner or later we must ask a fundamental question: What keeps us coming back to this place? Why is it that after all these years—nay, after all these *millennia*—the human race has still not found the key to living together in peace and harmony?

This extraordinary book provides some striking possible answers. It offers some daring options. It presents sweeping and belief-shaking statements that could lead the whole of humanity out of its nightmare and into its dream at last.

What is needed here, in the reading of this book, is an open mind. I understand that this is not always easy to come by. To have an open mind, we have to agree with ourselves not to dismiss out of hand that which appears to violate every sense of things that we have previously had, every idea about life that we have previously held to be true. We have to be willing to pass over individual statements that annoy or confound us, to see if, in the aggregate, the sum of the argument here at least holds sufficient value to justify our reexamining prior assumptions.

Let me tell you something. We are *already* being forced to reexamine every prior assumption we have had about God and about Life. And we are being forced to do so not by something as benign as a book, but by the horror of human events and the disruptive, angry, and violent people who are causing them.

The human race *will* change course, that much I can promise you. The only question is whether that course change will come about as a result of coercion or cooperative and open-minded exploration. We need to seek alternative ways of being and living together. Clearly, the way we are now doing it isn't working. It is non-functional. This book offers a basis for opening discussion. If it is startling in some of its conclusions, that can serve to shake us loose from our malaise. Indeed, it is the intention of this dialogue to do so.

So, this book will be anything but boring. No exploration of the *Conversations with God* message can be complete without it. You may find yourself agreeing with it or disagreeing with it strongly, or agreeing with it strongly in one place and disagreeing with it strongly in another. That's good. That makes for a good read. It also makes for a good conversation. It is a conversation that I hope *you* will have with God—and with each other.

Read what is here, then check in with God in the best way that you know how, and converse about this material. Talk about our world, too—the world that is discussed here. Ask God what

you can do to help change our world, to help humanity move away from the intolerance and the selfishness, the anger and the violence that seems to permeate our everyday life. If my conversation with God as related here does nothing more than stimulate you to have your own conversation with God, it will have done everything it was meant to do.

There have been those, and there will more, who say (many with some anger) that I have never had a conversation with God, and that to claim that I have is to be a blasphemer and an apostate. Because those who say this so fervently believe it, they condemn this book. Yet condemnation of every thought or idea that challenges those currently held leads not to expanded awareness and growth, but to shrinking vistas and reduced possibilities and ever more limited options in the face of wildly increasing challenges and problems.

Perhaps the way to meet tomorrow's challenges is not to use yesterday's solutions, but to dare to think the previously unthinkable, to speak the previously unspeakable, and to try that which was previously out of the question.

From its first word to its last, this book invites us to do that. To do *just* that. And now, ten years after it was written, more hangs on our willingness to be that courageous than ever.

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Excerpt

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