



Reference Book



Neale Donald Walsch

Reference Book

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Introduction

Over the years since the *Conversations with God* experience, I have been asked many questions about the material in the over 800 pages of dialogue which form the Trilogy. In letter after letter, e-mail after e-mail, phone call after phone call, I have also been asked for advice on how to apply the wisdom in *CWG* to every day life. Finally, I have sought to articulate what I understand to be the meaning and the implication of many of the dialogue's most pungent comments and poignant points in hundreds of media interviews, scores of lectures, dozens of retreats, and countless informal commentaries, both public and private.

Fortunately (since many of these responses came flying through me in some cases faster than the dialogue itself, and could in no way be duplicated were I to simply sit down and try to remember them), a large number of these exchanges happen to have been recorded, either electronically or through copious note-taking by members of my staff. The letters and other written material were, of course, a matter of record.

Even more fortunate was the fact that this data was systematically saved, organized by topic and sub-topic, as it was being produced—the result of the foresight of my personal assistant, Rose Wolfenbarger, who kept insisting (as the pile of material grew larger and larger) that “we may want to refer back to all this one day.”

A parallel (but at the time seemingly unrelated) development during this same time was the spontaneous formation of *CWG* Study Groups in the United States and abroad, cropping up without the slightest instigation by us at the rate of three to five a month. None of this had any day-to-day effect on us until the questions from the groups started rolling in. The groups' founders and facilitators wanted to know if our Foundation had any teaching materials, other than the *CWG Guidebook*, which most were using. They wanted to know if there existed some sort of *reference book*, in which could be found brief and accurate explanations and interpretations of the dialogue material alphabetized by topic.

These inquiries increased exponentially, and when the number of Study Groups topped 200 globally, we realized that there was a very real desire out there in the world at large for just what Rose had been compiling for years. Actually, I shouldn't say that "we" realized it. It was Rose who made the connection for us, calmly announcing one day that she had, in her files, what everyone had been asking for—all she had to do was pull it all together.

Well, pull it together she did, and the result is the magnificent Reference Book you hold in your hands. That you will find this useful, if you have any reason at all to want to be able to answer questions about what *CWG* says on a wide variety of topics, I have no doubt. Even *we* find it useful at the Foundation! And while this guide to correct interpretation and application of the *CWG* material was envisioned originally for use by Study Group leaders and by in-house staff, it was Rose who also suggested that *members* of those Study Groups, and others in the general public, might also like to have such a document.

So, a better title for this manuscript might very well have been *Rose's Book*. Certainly that would have been more aesthetically pleasing, to say nothing of being more intriguing. But The *CWG* Reference Book it is, for better or for worse, for at least in that way most people instantly understand what it is, and how it may best be used.

Speaking of that, a few words, please. Some of the material which was collected for this book defied the strictest kind of categorization—or could easily be placed under more than one topic heading. In noticing that, we faced a decision. Do we place the material in only one location, and then require you, the user of this reference guide, to bounce around the book, should you have looked originally under another heading where you thought it might be found? Or should we print the material twice, or even three times, thereby increasing the odds that you find what you are looking for in the first place you sought to find it? We chose the latter course, making this reference book easier and more convenient to use. What that means for anyone who may choose to read this book from cover to cover, as if it were a narrative, is that the same material, often in the same exact wording, may be encountered more than once. We trust that this will not prove to be too distracting.

I am pleased that Rose had the perseverance to produce this book, and that it has found its way to your hands. I know that, if you have the slightest interest in the original *CWG* material, you will find this interpretive reference of immense value.

Now go, and use this reference book to help change the world. I am convinced that the *Conversations with God* material is among the most important spiritual literature of our time—perhaps of any time. This book will help you interpret, and even teach, *CWG*, and better apply its extraordinary wisdom in your daily life.

Many Blessings,



Neale



Ashland, Oregon

ABOUT GOD/SPIRITUAL BEINGS

Angels/Spirit Guides

- What are angels? You are. And I am. Says God in *Book 2*, “I have sent you nothing but angels.”

Angels are exactly that. Angels. That is to say, wonderful beings, compassionate, warm and loving creatures, aspects of the Divine, and partners in the life experience. Angels are explained in complete detail in *Book 3*, but I can tell you there are such things as what we call “guardian angels,” and they love us unconditionally, as you very well might expect. Assistance at the non-physical level is being offered to us every minute of every hour of every day. These guardian Angels, or whatever you want to call them, are part of a larger cosmology of intertwined existences which is deeply explained in *Book 3*. You can depend on the fact that these Angels exist, however, and you may rely on them with absolute assurance that they will be there for you when you need them.

- Can you ask your angels and guides for help? It would seem to me that you can ask - in fact, that you almost have an obligation to ask for help anytime you really want it. However, I would caution that you not be attached to getting the results that you are asking for. We on this plane are usually not able to see enough of the bigger picture to know what is really in our Soul’s best interest. It’s like the old saying, “you’re too close to the forest to see the trees”. Go ahead and ask, but trust your own inner feelings about the answers and/or help that is forthcoming.. Just remember that they see more of the overall picture than you have access to, and therefore may not answer in ways that you might hope.

- Angels are real. They are wonderful beings of love who minister to us every moment of our time in this Reality. They become very attached to us, and in this sense are our guardians. They hover over us and do exert some control over physical life and the dangers around us.

Examples? The driver careening toward us who swerves at the last minute. The manhole around the corner that we just miraculously avoided. The paint bucket falling from the window ledge above us as we walk by the office building, missing us by inches. Even emotional collisions. That “bite your tongue” feeling which comes over you at just the last moment, saving you from blurting something which would surely have led to an enormous emotional “accident.”

Those feelings, those maneuverings of physical form, are the manifestations of angels, who walk a delicate line, seeking to protect us from the hurts of life without interfering in any tangible way (which they may not do) in our own free choices and creations, or the path we are walking.

Are Angels “angelic creatures” who have never been human, or are they the spirit forms of beings who have once lived upon the Earth? That’s a very good question. Some

would say they are both. In fact, I understand us to have two kinds of “helpers.” There are what I call our “guides” — these are spirit forms of beings once incarnated — and there are “angels” — spirit forms which have never incarnated; “Fingers of God,” if you please, tapping us on the shoulder to make us aware of danger, holding us in their embrace to comfort us through our tears, dancing with joy in their hearts when we celebrate our own wonder and our softest moments of love... which is God truly expressed.

The previously incarnated souls who choose to act as our Guides do so out of love for us. They may be beings who have been close to us in this very life (although this is not very often so), or beings who have partnered with us in the life experience prior to this present incarnation (more often the case). They have chosen to be close to us at times because... well, simply because they *are* close to us (that is, they feel a closeness to us always), and it pleases them to give us guidance from time to time.

Guides, as opposed to Angels, are not with us always. As previously incarnated beings, they have other things to do, other adventures to take, other challenges and growings to experience in what we would call “the Afterlife.” But they fly to our side instantly when they can feel we need guidance or help, or when we call upon them. Because they have shared a special kinship with us in this or another life, their presence can often be “felt” by us.

The presence of Angels is much more etheric... a “wispier” sort of feeling, if it is felt at all. Yet their power is greater than that of Guides, if I could put it that way. It is not really a case of “power,” but our human words are so inadequate to describe Larger Realities. Perhaps the word Purpose should be substituted here. Or a new word, a combination of the two. Then we could say that their *purvey* is greater than that of Guides. Their Instant Intercessions can change the course of physical or emotional events in ways I have mentioned. Guides do not have this *purvey*.

- We are guided by Spirit all the time, every moment of every day. Yet “Spirit Guides” are not “assigned” to us, as some mythologies would have it. Who would do the assigning? And what would be the penalty for not accepting the assignment?

Souls simply *choose* to look after other souls, to guide them, to assist them, to bring them to new awareness, new understanding, new levels of consciousness. This is done out of sheer love.

The love, the compassion, you will know as a free spirit in the life which follows is indescribable; unlike anything most of us have ever experienced. Only a few incarnated beings -- The Buddha, Krishna, Jesus, Babaji, Sai Baba, Paramahansa Yogananda and others have expressed this kind of love while in the body.

Much more on this in *Book 3*.

- People are “Earthbound,” as you put it, because they choose to be. There *are* spirits who are there to help them “move on with no problems,” but in the Afterlife as well as in this life, no spirit, no guide, no angel, no being of any kind... not even God... will ever interfere with our Free Choice. Ever.

Generally in so-called NDE’s the spirits to whom people say they have spoken are Guides (often loved ones who have gone before), or Ancient Ones... souls of once

incarnated beings, and not what we would call Angels. On the other hand, there *could* be a conversation or an interaction with an Angel. I very definitely feel that I had such an interaction during an out-of-body experience in 1980 which profoundly changed my life.

When we have left the body, the work of Angels is done, so to speak. Angels are literally the “fingers of God.” They are God’s spirit, moving into form (however etheric) and hovering over physicality. This is the Holy Spirit, or the “Holy Ghost,” which is mentioned in so much theological literature. It is the part of the One Soul which Knows. Its primary function is to inform that which is physical. When we become nonphysical once again, we already know that of which the Holy Spirit would seek to inform us.

In short, the Holy Spirit is our connecting link between physicality and spirituality (or between what I would call Non-reality and Reality). When we, ourselves, shed our bodies and become free spirits once again, we are *experiencing* ultimate Reality, and that which *connects* us to ultimate Reality is no longer needed. *We are* that which connects us to ultimate Reality. Indeed, we and ultimate Reality are One.

This is also true of Who We Are in our physical bodies. It’s just that we don’t know this. And so the Holy Spirit is the part of All which re-minds us of this... and brings us other information from the Realm of the Absolute about our physical experience in this, the Realm of the Relative.

This “Holy Spirit” aspect of God is working through me right now, as I seek to answer this question for you. This is my “guardian angel” at work!

(He is grinning right now, and dancing, because She is well pleased. That means I must have gotten most of this right. Or as close to “right” as I am going to come, given my human filtering system!)

Channeled Entities

- The entities who channel through other individuals are all part of God making themselves manifest in the imagination or in the objective experience of those channelers in whatever form they claim to take. In other words, they are exactly who they say they are. All of it is part of God, and there is nothing which is not part of God. That’s the whole point of the book, that’s the whole point of the teaching, that’s the whole point of the great mysteries of life, and once those mysteries have been unraveled we see this very clearly.

God makes Herself known to each person and to all of us in whatever way God feels will be most effective and most immediately productive. Because that is so, God takes many forms. Yet all of it is God — every single bit of it — and there is nothing in the universe that is not God. Therefore, *The Door of Everything* has come from the same source as *Conversations with God*, but you must understand it came through a different filter. Ruby Nelson’s filter may not be the same as my filter, nor may Ruby Nelson’s understanding. So we have this difficulty of the filters through which God speaks, whether those filters be Ruby Nelson, Neale Donald Walsch, or Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. Nevertheless, we see if we carefully analyze the writings of all these people and others, that there are some striking similarities. Perhaps it is these similarities to which we should attach ourselves and to which we should pay considerable attention. It seems to me that when twenty different people who do not know each other and live at twenty

different times on the planet write essentially the same things, that there may be something here for us to look at very carefully.

God's Abiding Love

- I think the most important thing I got out of the book was a deep sense of God's abiding love. I learned in an extraordinary way of God's unremitting, unconditional love and total acceptance of us... even the worst of us. This came through to me even as I was "writing" the book by the bare fact that *I was writing it*. I mean, by the earthly standards of many people (including my own), I am the last person who deserves to have been chosen to put this information into a book. Yet I *was* chosen, and I *have* put it into book form. So by that measure alone, I am clear that God loves without condition; that God rejects not even the least or the worst of us, and that all we need do to understand and experience that salvation is to accept it, claim it, honor it, and hold it as true.

Now there are those who disagree with me. Many, in fact, who do. They say that God's word and God's law and God's love is worthless and pointless if there was no such thing as the possibility of God's rejection. They say that the only way to God is through obedience to God's commands, adherence to God's laws, and — in some theological constructions — acceptance of God's Son. Failure to do any or all of these things means certain damnation, they say, and we'd better be aware of that, and ready for it, because we'll get what's "coming to us" if we don't watch out.

In fact, we not only had better watch out, we'd better not cry. We'd better not pout... I'm tellin' you why...

Oh... sorry... that's a different myth.

You see? Every myth we create, we create around a system of Judgment; around a construction of Reward and Punishment. It is inconceivable to us that there is a being in the Universe — in Reality *or* in Mythology — who could accept us just the way we are, and just the way we choose to be. That is because we cannot believe in the ultimate *purpose* of life. We believe that the purpose of life is to follow God's law, do as God wants, and, essentially, *please God*. Yet pleasing God is not the purpose of life. Only an egomaniacal deity would create beings whose essential purpose was to please Him. And only an *insane* egomaniac would then add such treachery and misery to the mix as life contains in order to make it virtually guaranteed that his created beings would stumble and fall. And only an *incredibly cruel* insane egomaniac would go further, saying it doesn't *matter* whether they fall or not, because they have *already* fallen! *Before birth!*

As improbable as this scheme might seem, that is the theological construction which millions upon millions of people have laid upon their so-called "loving" God. So I think the most important thing the book did for me, and does for me daily, is free me from the shackles of a belief in an angry, vindictive, judgmental God. I am now more open to creating my life as I want it, not as I imagined it had to be.

The ironic part of all this is that I am now acting more in accordance with what the *old* teachings asked of me than I was when I was *told* to act that way, *or else*. In other words, I am finding that "being good" (whatever "good" means) feels... well... *good*... when it isn't having to be done because I'll be condemned if I *don't*. Put another way, I tend to rise to higher expectations of me, and aspirations *for* me, when these expectations and aspirations are *mine*, not someone else's. This is a Great Secret which God

understands, but which Man refuses to believe: we are basically Good... not basically *bad*. We do not *need* an angry, vindictive, punishing God to scare us into doing what is “right,” act in the interests of others, or “show up” grandly. Our basic nature — *human* nature — is loving and kind. We are *taught* greed. We are *taught* fear. We are *taught* ugliness, prejudice, violence. We are LOVE... and we are *taught* to be something else!

The second most important thing I learned from the book is that there is only one reason to do a thing — anything — and that is to be and to decide, to create and fulfill, Who I Really Am, and Who I now Choose to Be. You see, I thought there were all sorts of reasons that I was supposed to do this or that. My father told me. The world expects it of me, God demands it of me. Whatever. Now I’m clear that God demands nothing, the world’s expectations are distorted and misplaced, and my father’s orders no longer need to be followed.

God – Angry at Our Thoughts

- I'm certainly not afraid of God. About other human beings, I'm not sure. I saw a bumper sticker recently that caused me to think. It said, *God, Save Me From Your People*. But no, I am not concerned about, or afraid of, God's "reaction" to what I may be thinking or saying.

If God did not want you to think, God would not have made it possible for you to do so. Do not worry about offending God. That is something you cannot do. The only Beings in the universe who can be offended are Beings who have an Ego Investment in what's being said about them; in what's being done. God has no such ego investment. God is above ego. So far above ego that you cannot even imagine it. God resides in pure love. That's it. End of sentence. And Pure Love would *never* punish you or anyone else for wondering, for thinking, for exploring *any* point of view. Life is meant for the *living*, for the *creating*, for the *experiencing*, not for abjectly obeying someone else's rules and remaining within someone else's constructions or ideas (certainly not God's) about what is Right and Wrong. Keep thinking your own thoughts. God would have it no other way.

God – To Whom Grateful

- God is grateful to *Godself*, who else? Haven't you ever thanked yourself for anything? Of course you have. I've thanked myself many times. I've also blamed myself, berated myself, congratulated myself...

And for what is God grateful? For Her own Perfection. Remember this always: *Gratitude is the attitude*. It is when we are *grateful in advance* for that which we desire that we make it manifest in our daily lives. This is because that which we choose *already exists*, and all that is needed is our perception of it. *Gratitude* changes our perception; it alters our Point of View. It assumes that a thing has already been experienced. *This is the truth of it*. For in Ultimate Reality, there is no Time or Space, and nothing which is imagined is not experienced. It's all happening Right Now. Yet our limited perception sometimes makes it impossible for us to see that, to know it. Gratitude changes our perception. In the case of God, it announces it.

God – How to Get to Know?

- How does one get to "know God" when God is only a concept and not an experience? *CWG* points out that most people only come to "know" about a thing when and if that particular thing is experienced. What enlightenment asks us to do, the book says, is to "know" a thing *first*, and *thus* experience it! For instance, if you *know* that life will always work out, it probably always will. If you *know* that the world is a friendly place, it will usually show up that way. If you *know* God, you will experience Him. And if you just *know* that your prayer will be answered... it will be. You would do well to re-read the section of *CWG* dealing with "knowing" something before you experience it.

One way to get to "know" God is to take some time each day to meditate quietly. This may, of course, lead to nothing. And so, if you are attached to results you may soon become discouraged and disappointed. Only if you are detached, only if results are not

the point of it all, will your meditation be serene. And it is in the serenity that God will be found.

A second way to get to know God is to cause another to know God. The experience you encourage in another you encourage in yourself. That is because *there is no one else out there*. So don't spend your days and times wondering how you can come to know God. Spend your days and times wondering how you might be an instrument through whom *others* come to know God. For what you bring to others, you bring to yourself. And that is a great truth.

God – Interest in Our Daily Life

- *CWG Book 2* addresses in concrete terms every aspect of our group experience on this planet. It looks at how we interact with each other in the areas of religion, politics, education, economics, sexuality – the works. It offers specific commentaries of what we're doing now, and what we might do differently, given where we say we want to go as a society. It is illuminating, confirming, yes, at times a bit disturbing, but always fascinating, exciting in its overviews, and just enough “on the edge” to be, for some, a little bit controversial. (What ground-breaking book is not?)

Did God really write this stuff? Of course She did. Why would He not? Do you really believe that God has no interest in anything other than spiritual things? And, for that matter, are “spiritual things” somehow separate from our minute-to-minute, “daily life” experience?

Perhaps that is the problem. Maybe too many people see the two as separate, having nothing to do with each other. You can sit in meditation all you want, but sooner or later you're going to have to take your Inner Peace out into the street. And when you do, there is a good chance you are going to find the “opposite” there. And then you will face a choice, “Who am I in the face of that which I am not?”

Conversations with God Book 2 takes a very close look at that question for our whole society, our entire worldwide community of souls. As such, it is more than an important book. It is an unmissable one.

- There is no better place to be than Fed Up. That's the place of new beginnings. That's the place of letting go. That's the place of “giving up.” You are giving up what's been going on so far, and getting ready to create a new reality.

I know what you're going through right now, and what you have been going through these many years. Now, just as you are giving up everything, there is one thing more I'd like you to give up, and then you will be totally ready. I'd like you to give up your idea that you can't find an answer.

I'm here to tell you that you can.

God will never let you down, and if you have not received any response from God before it is not because He hasn't answered, it is because, like me, you have been unable to hear the response. But trust me. God is responding. Right now. And every day and moment of your life.

I'd like to take a look here at how you have characterized God, though, because I think you've got Her all wrong. You've paraphrased *Book 1* to say that God “couldn't care less about your daily experience” and just wants you to “go out and play.” That

would be a mischaracterization and I don't want you to hang in there with that. God does care about your experience. God simply doesn't care how you go about creating it.

Imagine loving parents watching their children at play in the yard. They "don't care" whether their children play Tag or Hide-'n-Seek. It matters not to them what games are invented. But they do care about whether the children are safe, and having a good time. So they make sure the yard is safe, and, if the children get hurt and call out for help, the parents are right there, running out to the yard to see what's up, and to make everything better. It is not so very different with God. She gives us the toys with which to fashion the most wonderful "games" (read that, life) and a safe place in which to play. Then, He leaves us alone to have our experience, and has absolutely no preference whether we play Tag, or Hide-'n-Seek. But if we call for help, God is there - right there - to make everything better.

That is not someone who "doesn't care" about our daily experience - that is someone who loves us enough to give us our freedom to do as we wish, and promises to be there for us whenever we need Him. Sounds like a pretty neat God to me.

So now, call on God to answer you. Ask God to show you a sign, give you some help, and provide you with some special insight that might help you now. But be on the lookout. Her response may come in a form other than the one you are expecting. It could be the lyrics of the next song you hear, the story line of the next movie you see, the text of the next book that falls into your hands. It could be the chance utterance of a friend on the street, or a thought that comes to you in the middle of the night. So watch! Look! Listen! For you do not know the hour, nor the Form, in which God will come with your word of encouragement. For all you know, it could be something you read in a book somewhere...

God – Speaks to All

- Receive God's response to you in whatever form it comes. God has a habit of responding to people in the form with which He knows they will be most comfortable — and of which they will be most accepting. If God thought you could accept and receive His responses to you verbally, you would be given verbal responses. God probably knows you would pooh-pooh such voices in your head as hallucinations or whatever, and not listen to them anyway. So God chooses forms of communication to which you WILL listen . . . not the least of which may be this very answer to you, through me!

You see? God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. Allow that. Permit that. Don't seek to limit God, or direct Her actions. Let Her choose Her own form of communication. But listen. Watch. Stay alert. For you do not know in which hour the Master may come. *CWG* puts this very nicely, very succinctly, I thought. Read the back cover. It says it all.

- You can speak directly to Goddess/God any time, any place. You DO speak to Him with every thought, every word, idea, every choice, every action. You cannot *not* talk to God. And God talks back to you every day in a million ways. She may even be talking to you now. Listen . . . look . . .

- The most wonderful thing about our wonderful God is that She has never, ever left us, never, ever stopped communicating with us. He is within you always, even unto the end of time. He will speak directly to you, in the bosom of your heart, whenever you sincerely ask a question, pose a dilemma, or send your love. God, of course, did not stop communicating via the written word 2000 years ago. Nor did God communicate through only one instrument, only one document, only one time in all of human history. What purpose would God have for limiting Himself to that? What reason? If God is All Powerful (which He is), and All Loving (which She is), why would God end all two-way communication 2000 years ago? Love, and Power, would seem to dictate other choices.

The problem is, we have all been turning, not to God, but to Men who claim to have the Right Answers: Popes, Bishops, Priests, Rabbis, Ministers, Men of the Cloth. Most are well motivated. Many are saintly. However, none speaks more authoritatively for God than the voice in your own Mind, Heart and Soul, if you will but listen. Do not give your power (and thus, your GOD) away by believing ANYONE who tells you that God cannot be heard, and HAS not been heard, since the time of Christ. Can you not see that there are those who have a terrific investment in chaining you to that belief? *Conversations with God* lays out a new paradigm. I humbly invite you to explore it.

God spoke through the prophets (who were ordinary men) in the Bible, so why is it so hard for some to believe that God might speak through a contemporary “ordinary man”? Because that would make *all* of us responsible for receiving such communications. If I can do it, then shouldn’t you be able to also? Of course you should. Yet this is a responsibility most people do not wish to share or embrace. Much easier, then, to deny that it could possibly have happened to me. Then it could not happen to them, either, and they are “off the hook.”

Yet for those people who *do* believe God talks to us there is such reward, such fulfillment, such extraordinary opportunity and empowerment, and such spiritual unfoldment, that to have *ever* denied the *possibility* of such an event seems incomprehensible.

- In my dialogue I heard what I have called “a voiceless voice.” It was neither a man’s voice nor a woman’s voice. All I truly remember about the Voice is that it was the softest, most gentle, compassionate, wise voice I had ever heard. Why you weren’t chosen? You *were*. All of us are “the chosen ones.” Not a one of us is excluded. But many of us exclude ourselves, out of our thought that “this sort of thing is impossible,” or “I am not worthy.” When I was a young boy and in a Catholic upbringing, I remember being taught a prayer by the nuns in our school: “Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under my roof. Yet say but the word, and my soul shall be healed.” Prayers such as that, and similar ones from other religions, have caused millions of people to believe in their *unworthiness*, which is exactly the opposite of what God would want us to understand about ourselves. So there are many reasons why “many are called, but few choose themselves.” But wait, my friend, wait. The Game isn’t over yet. There is no telling *what* you might do once you choose to believe in your own worthiness as a Creation of God – Who, incidentally, doesn’t make junk.

- There is no doubt in my mind – none whatsoever – that God deliberately chooses, when God speaks to each of us, the language and the references God knows we will best understand. That is to say, God speaks to us *contextually*. He brings us His wisdom within the context in which She knows we will most readily be able to receive it.

I was born and raised in a spiritual tradition in which the Bible was the central scriptural text. Without question, this is why so many of the passages in *CWG* make use of these scriptures.

God suggests that we not *ignore* scriptural wisdom (of *any* tradition), but use our natural instincts to come to our own inner truth, with the assistance and guidance of all of Earth’s teachers, scriptures and traditions. Too many people have blindly followed scripture, rather than using scripture as a guide to the truth inside.

A guide to the truth inside -- *that* is how we should think of every book and teacher and spiritual tradition. Period. End of sentence.

God – Supreme Being?

- *CWG* makes it very clear that there is *no* Supreme Being. That is, there is no one being who is “higher than all the rest.” To understand this, consider that most people, especially those in the West, tend to think in straight-line scenarios. They think of Time, Life, God...virtually everything...as a straight line. This configuration allows us to conceive of a “beginning” and an “end,” a “highest” and a “lowest,” in our mental and mythical constructions.

Yet what if all that straight line thinking got *reconfigured*? What if we began seeing things differently? What if we began understanding Ultimate Reality in a New Way?

What way would that be? Well, instead of thinking of Time, Life or God as straight-line configurations, try *this* on for size...try taking the two ends of that straight line and *bending them into each other*. Make believe it’s a bar of steel, and you’re a circus strong man, bending the bar until the two ends meet. What do you have then? You have The Beginning and The End touching each other – with nothing in between. You have *recreated* God, Time, and Life as a complete circle, and in *this* configuration there is *no beginning and no end*. Not to God. Not to Time. And not to Life.

This brings us to a whole new understanding. A larger understanding. A correct understanding of How It Really Is. In Ultimate Reality, everything is continuous. There is no place where one thing lets off and another takes up. The great It Is is just that. It’s all ONE. It’s all ONE CONTINUOUSNESS.

I’ve just invented that word.

Continuousness: the state of being continuous.

This is the State of Being in which God resides. It is the State of Being in which Time exists. It is the State of Being in which Life expresses. It is that which God IS. It is that which Time IS. It is that which Life IS.

God is CONTINUOUS, with nothing higher and nothing lower.

Time is CONTINUOUS, with no beginning and no end.

Life is CONTINUOUS, with no start and no finish.

So, God is not the Supreme Being. God is the ONLY Being.

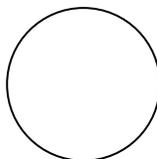
God – the All and the Everything

• If God is everything, then God must be both “Good” and “Bad”. Stop trying to “figure this out” with your mind. In order to understand the Ancient Wisdoms you have to be “out of your mind.” That is, you cannot apply logic and reason and ordinary linear thought systems to this stuff and expect to come up with something that “adds up.” You’re going to keep coming up with $2+2=5$. And it will drive you bananas. So cut it out. Stop it. Go into your *heart*. Get into your *feelings*. Spend some time in meditation on these mysteries. But even there, don’t look for “answers.” Seek, instead, wisdom. Remember, “wisdom” and “answers” are not always the same thing.

Now, in case you are still nevertheless suffering from a “logic attack” (which is something like a “Big Mac” attack!), let me see if I can – all that I have just said notwithstanding –help your mind with all this.

First of all, God IS the ALL and the EVERYTHING. And that ALL, that EVERYTHING which God is, is called Love. CWG teaches, “Love is all there is.” And that is demonstrated in the Realm of the Absolute. We live, however, in what I call the “Realm of the Relative,” where all things exist and can only be experienced *relative to each other*. This reality I am now describing is not Ultimate Reality. In fact, we are *making it all up*. We are pretending, if you will, that the System has Polarities, and so we see THIS:

This is a *straight line polarity* – with, we imagine, “love” on one end, and “fear” on the other. One supposes that somewhere in the middle of this line is a balance point between the two. Yet in truth, how it really “is” is more like THIS:



This is a *circular non-polarity*. Here we see that That Which Is is all the *same stuff*. There is no beginning or end to it, no “balance point,” no thing at all except that which feeds into itself, becomes itself. The condition in this reality is that we cannot experience any *extreme* of it, because in a circular system there can be no extreme. There is just what IS, and there is, literally, *no end to it*.

In order for us to experience any of this, we have to create a *beginning and an end*. A *here and a there*. A *before and an after*. An *up and a down*. And, yes, a *love and a fear*.

We’re doing this is our imagination. It is not real. Not even what you think you are seeing with your own eyes is real. (For more on this, see *The Holographic Universe*, by Michael Talbot.)

God is Everything. *We* are, likewise, Everything, since we are that which God IS. In this life experience, we have chosen to forget that. We have literally forgotten Who We Really Are, so that we can recreate our Selves anew in the next grandest version of the greatest vision we ever had about Who We Are.

On second thought, don’t try to *figure this out*. Just “get it.”

God – True Name/Identity

- What is the “true name of God”? God has no “correct name”. God has only the name that you give God, and that name changes from time to time, from place to place, from person to person. This is perfectly all right with God, though clearly, it is not perfectly all right with man. Do you imagine after reading *Conversations with God* that there is only one “correct” way to address God, and that if we address God in any other way it is not all right with God? If that is your imagining, you need to read the book again and again.

- Here is something which the human mind has difficulty wrapping itself around. God didn’t come from anywhere. The truth is that God always *was*, always *is*, and always *will be*, world without end. There never was a time when God was not, and there never was a thing that was not God. Therefore, no one could have “made” God. The “maker” of God would have had to have been outside of God, and since nothing is outside of God, nothing exterior to God could have created God. How, then, was God “created”? The answer is: God was not.

Therefore, God has no “origin.” No one “made” God. God came out of the Void, and it is to the void that God shall return. *Book 2* explains in some detail that there is only One Moment, and only One Place. That moment is Now; that place is Here. *Here and Now is All There Is*.

Now in *CWG - Book 1* there is an extraordinary section in which God gives us a beginner’s explanation of Infinity, and tells us that She may not be, after all, the Highest Deity. (Begin reading on Page 197.) “Who made God” has, of course, been asked a million trillion times in a million ways (“Which came first, the chicken or the egg?” etc.) There is no answer to the question, because a satisfactory answer which fits our Present Reality depends upon the conceptualization of Time as a linear thing. (In other words, for God to have been “made,” there had to have been a “time” when there *was* no God.) Yet Time is not a linear thing, and all things which Are Right Now — and have Always Been, and will Always Be. This includes, by the way, *you*.

- In *CWG*, God says that “Love is all there is.” God also says that God is All That Is. Therefore, God is Love. Everything in our heart tells us this, too, and the heart is never wrong.

God cannot be *limited* to any one definition or description — and by that limiting be so defined. That does not negate or invalidate the description of God as “love.”

- God wanted to know Himself *experientially*. The same, says the book, is true of me and you. It is one thing to think of yourself or know yourself as, shall we say, compassionate, or loving, but it is quite another thing altogether to *experience* yourself as these things. If you have no one to love, you can “know yourself” as loving all you want — but it is not the same thing as actually *loving* someone through *action* in the *here and now*. God wishes to *experience* Itself as what it really was, and so the whole universe was created. Why? For the sheer *joy* of it! For the *joy* of *self expression*.

- It is one thing to know yourself conceptually, and another thing to know yourself experientially. For example, you may know conceptually that you are a loving person, but if you have never actually expressed your love to anyone, you will merely know love as a concept, not as an experience. You will have an idea about yourself, but not an experience of yourself. Do you see? Do you understand?

Now, God chose to have more than a mere concept about Itself. God chose to have an experience of Itself. God wanted to know Itself in Its own experience. God chose to know what it felt like to be all-powerful, to be all-knowing, to be all-loving. God chose to know what it felt like to be wisdom personified, courage displayed, love expressed. God chose to know, experientially, every aspect of Its Being - that is to say, every aspect of Divinity. To merely “know” *about* Itself was not enough. To merely *understand* was insufficient. For God, only the Direct Experience would do. So God created you. You are the Direct Experience. You are God, “Godding.” You, and everything else in creation.

Since you are God, having the experience of Itself, and since God is The Creator, you, too, have the power to create. You are using that power every moment - usually without even knowing it, usually without intending to. The creative power of God is enfolded into your every thought, your every word, your every deed. This process is thoroughly explained in *Book 1* of the *Conversations with God Trilogy*.

So God’s desire was to experience about Itself what It knew about Itself. That is the greatest desire of your soul, too. All your soul really wishes to do is to have the direct experience of Who You Really Are. And that is what you are doing here. That is what your life is all about. How it is working, the process by which all of this takes place, is what the *Conversations with God* dialogue is all about.

- With regard to God, one must accept the possibility that *there is something we do not know, the knowing of which could change everything*.

You see, this is our chief problem: we think we already *know* everything there is to know about God. And so any description of God which does not fall within our current understandings is automatically rejected as “false,” “wrong,” and “blasphemy.” Yet if there is such a thing as blasphemy, it would be to assert, announce and declare that *we know everything there is to know about God*; that *our* beliefs about God are the *right* beliefs, and that anyone who does not accept our beliefs is going straight to hell.

- God is *neither* a “he” nor a “she.” God has no form which is permanent, save that form which you would call formlessness. Yet God can, and does, take whatever form and whatever shape God knows *you will understand*. And no, God does not “care” what you call Him — as long as you *call* Her. That is to say, don’t ignore Him. This is not because She is lonely and needs your company. It is because God’s greatest pleasure is to be there for you — in as large a way as you will permit; in whatever form you will allow yourself to recognize. Do you recognize God in the form of a flower? How about an inspired melody? The whisper of the wind? The softness of the new fallen snow? How about the face of your persecutor? Do you recognize God in the person of your villain? If you do not, you do not know God at all, nor understand Her ways, nor have any idea at all what He is up to. Only when you see God everywhere you look — *everywhere* — do you see

God at all. This is a difficult concept for most people to grasp; this is a very hard truth for many to accept. Yet it *is* true. It is the Greatest Truth Ever Told.

God's "Work"

- God has no eternal "work." God's eternal *joy* is to provide you with the tools and the opportunities to express and experience yourself in each moment as the grandest version of the greatest vision you ever held about Who You Are. God's great function is to *celebrate* Itself, *know* Itself, *express* Itself, and *recreate* Itself in, as and through You. This is God, "God-ding"!

Jesus

- The impact of Jesus' life was so extraordinary, it will never be forgotten. That is because Jesus was — *is* — a savior to all mankind.

As are you and I.

Now the difference between you and me and Jesus is that he donned the mantle, wore the cloak, accepted the responsibility. Most of us have not. In that sense, Jesus *is* our savior. For he did with his life what very few of us have done with ours. He did what we *all* came here to do! And in so doing it, he "saved" us from the necessity of doing it at all, if we do not wish.

Let me explain. We have *all* come to save the world. Not from the "snares of the devil," or from "everlasting damnation." (As CWG teaches, there *is* no such thing as the devil, and damnation does not exist.) We have come to save the world from its own mistaken notion of itself.

We are right now living in a world of our own creation; a non-truth; an experience which has nothing to do with Ultimate Reality, or with Who We Really Are. Jesus knew this. He also knew Who He Really Was. And he declared it, for all to hear.

He declared something else as well. He said that what he did on the Earth, *we could do also*.

Some people do not believe this. They cannot believe that they could be given - indeed, that they *have* been given— the same abilities as Jesus. Yet this level of faith is the key to *experiencing* those gifts. That is what Jesus taught. That was his Central Message.

I wrote a booklet, *Recreating Your Self*, which addresses much of this directly. I quote from it:

It was Jesus himself who said, "According to your faith be it unto you." It was Jesus himself who said, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt" And the woman's daughter was made whole from that very hour. And it was Jesus himself who said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Still, if you cannot believe in yourself and in your own divine heritage (and because so many people cannot), Jesus, in an act of enormous love and compassion, invites you to believe in him.

"Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

Isn't that an extraordinary promise? So great and so complete was Jesus' understanding of who he was, and of who you are ("I and my Father are one" he said, and later, "all ye are

brethren”), that he knew deeply there was no limit to what you could do if you believed in yourself, or in him. Could there be a mistake about Jesus’ declarations here? Could there be a misinterpretation? No. His words are very clear. He wanted you to consider yourself One with the Father, exactly as he is One with God. So great was his love for all humankind, and so full was his compassion at their suffering, that he called upon himself to rise to the highest level, to move to the grandest expression of his being, in order to present a living example to all human beings everywhere. And then he prayed that we would not only see the evidence of his Oneness with the Father, but our own as well.

(“And for their sakes I sanctify myself that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.’)

You can’t be much clearer than that.

Conversations with God tells us that all of us are members of the Body of God, though we imagine ourselves to be separate, and not part of God at all.

Christ understood our difficulty in believing that we were part of God, part of God’s very body. Yet Christ did believe this of himself. It was therefore a simple matter (and a marvelous inspiration) for him to invite those who could not imagine themselves to be a part of God to imagine themselves to be a part of him. For he had already declared himself to be a part of God...and if we could simply believe that we were a part of Christ, we would by extension necessarily be a part of God.

Jesus must have emphasized this point many times, because the record of his teachings, and the commentaries upon them, in the Bible contain countless references to this relationship. String just a few of these separate references together and you have an extraordinary revelation:

I and my Father are one. (JOHN 10:30)

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one. (JOHN 17:22)

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one. (JOHN 17:23)

That the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them. (JOHN 17:26)

So we, being many, are one body in Christ; and every one members one of another. (ROMANS 12:5)

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one. (1 COR. 3:8)

For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. (1 COR. 10:17)

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bound or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? (1 COR. 12-16)

But now are they many members, yet but one body. (1 COR. 12:20)

All of us are members of the Body of Christ. All of us are The Christed One. And if Christ is one with God, so, too, are we. We simply do not know it. Refuse to believe it. Cannot imagine it.

Yet it is not true that going through Jesus is required in order to be going with Jesus. Jesus never uttered such words, nor did he come close. That was not his message.

His message was: If you cannot believe in me, if you do believe that I am who I say I am what with all that I have done, then you will never, ever believe in yourself, in who you are, and your own experience of God will be virtually unattainable.

Jesus said what he said, did what he did — performed miracles, healed the sick, raised the dead — even raised himself from the dead — that we might know Who He Was... and thus know also Who WE Really Are. It is this second part of the equation which is most often left out of the traditional doctrine about Christ.

And so you see, Jesus is our Savior, to the degree that he has saved us from the illusion of our own separation from God. Jesus is the Son of God, as are we all.

- *If there's no sin, what did Jesus die for?* Jesus died and rose again so that we might know the truth about him, and hence, about us. His act was meant as a demonstration of Who We Really Are. Every act is an act of Self Definition. That is true for you, and it was true for Jesus. Jesus was a Divine Master who possessed Absolute Understanding of the Truth, about himself and about God. He wished to share this Truth with all the world. Thus, he said “I and the Father are one.” He also proclaimed us to be his brothers, and was heard to ask, “Have I not said, ‘Ye are gods’?” With regard to his miracles, he said, “Why are you so amazed? These things, and more, will you do also.”

Jesus did not die for our sins, but rather, to demonstrate that we are *sinless*. We were made in the image and likeness of God, and Jesus kept trying to tell us so. But few believed him. He knew that only a real demonstration of Godliness could prove convincing. Well, he convinced many people that he is God, alright, but quite a few missed the point that *we are all the same thing*. We started worshipping *him*, and that wasn't what he'd intended at all.

- If you will check the index in *CWG Book 1* for references to Jesus and to “sin”, and reread all of them, you will find that God does NOT say that Jesus “died for our sins”.... In fact, as you will read, God does not consider anything a sin (see bottom of p. 85 through p. 87). I believe that you will find more understanding of this if you will also read from the second paragraph on page 136 to mid page 137, page 119 from “what can you expect...” to the middle of 120 and the last paragraph on page 62.

- Who was Jesus? I think a careful reading of the following pages would help provide clarity about this: pages 52, 55, 67, 86, 180 and 197.

- There is not a single reference to Jesus in *Bringers of the Light*. There are several references to Him in *CWG* and in *Recreating Your Self*. In *Recreating Your Self* the New Testament words of Jesus are quoted extensively to make a point that Jesus himself said over and over again and what so many Christians fault “New Ager” for saying: we are all One with God. Jesus was also mentioned as a great teacher who understood the most

intricate laws of the universe, and demonstrated His understanding of them daily. I believe the example of walking through walls was used. I've re-read the books, all three, and nowhere do they say anything about Jesus with which I imagined any Jewish person would take offense. Indeed, it is *Christians* who I thought would be far more likely to be offended by so many of the books' references. For example, this excerpt: "*Yet it is not true that going through Jesus is required in order to be going with Jesus (on the way to God). Jesus never uttered such words, nor did he even come close. That was not his message.*"

Now who do you think would be more put off by that statement in *Recreating Your Self*, a Christian or a Jew? Actually, it would be my hope and my dream that *nobody* would be put off, but that the booklet in its entirety would bring us together, not pull us apart. Yet each person sees what they choose to see.

Soul Mates/Soul Partners

- At the highest level we are All One. *Book 3* says that each individual "soul" (read, "part of The One") is much larger than we at first had imagined, comprising many, many elements, aspects, or what we could call beingness. What some refer to as "twin flames" might be a way of describing the experience of two Aspects, or Elements, of a Single Soul. We have all met people in our lives who we knew, instantly, that we had a deep connection with. These feelings usually defied all rational explanation, violated rhyme and reason. Yet the feelings persisted. When you feel this connected with someone it is because you *are*. The feeling is called love. Let yourself have that love when you experience it. Let yourself move through the experience itself and embrace it fully and richly.

- Don't worry so much about the issue of soul mates, but rather pay attention to who you are in relationship to every other person, place or thing in your life. Remember always that you are in the process of creating and recreating who you are and who you intend to be. That is your job, whether you are doing it in the presence of a soul mate or in the presence of anyone else. Stay close to this purpose. Stay connected with this function. Stay clear about your intention, and the matter of the intensity of soul mate connections will be less of a challenge or problem for you. The entire question of soul mates is addressed in wonderful detail in *CWG Book 3*.

For now, simply know that there are soul partners all over the world and you have more than one soul partner. All of us have many, many soul partners, and that explains why all of us fall in love with many, many different people.

Spirits/Ghosts

- Spirits do what they choose to do, just as we do. Some souls "stay around" for a while after they leave their present body. Some move on immediately to other experiences. It all depends on what the spirit is feeling and knowing and wishes to experience. There are no particular circumstances or conditions necessary for souls to do any particular thing. Spirits do as they wish. That is what is known as being a Free Spirit. Some people choose to be this even while in their body.



Excerpt

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