

— Neale Donald Walsch —

*on*

RELATIONSHIPS



*Applications for Living*

by the author of  
*Conversations with God*

## ***Introduction***

Relationship is the most important experience of our lives. Without it, we are nothing.

Literally.

That is because, in the absence of anything else, we are not.

Fortunately, there is not a one of us who does not have a relationship. Indeed, all of us are in relationship with everything and everyone, all of the time. We have a relationship with ourselves, we have a relationship with our family, we have a relationship with our environment, we have a relationship with our work, we have a relationship with each other.

In fact, everything that we know and experience about ourselves, we understand within the context that is created by our relationships. For this reason, relationships are sacred. All relationships. And somewhere within the deepest reaches of our heart and soul, we know this. That is why we yearn so for relationships—and for relationships of meaning. It is also, no doubt, why we have such trouble with them. At some level, we must be very clear how much is at stake. And so, we're nervous about them. Normally confident, competent people fumble and fall, stumble and stall, crumble and call for help.

Indeed, nothing has caused more problems for our species, created more pain, produced more suffering, or resulted in more tragedy, than that which was intended to bring us our greatest joy—our relationships with each other. Neither individually nor collectively, socially nor politically, locally nor internationally, have we found a way to live in harmony. We simply find it very difficult to get along—much less actually love each other.

What's this all about? What's up here? I think I know. Not that I'm some kind of a genius, mind you, but I am a good listener. And I've been asking questions about this for a very long time. A few years ago, I began receiving answers. I believe those responses to have come from God. At the time I received them, I was so impacted and so impressed that I decided to keep a written record of what I was being given. That record became the *Conversations with God* series of books, which have become best sellers around the world.

It is not necessary for you to join me in my belief about the source of my replies in order to receive benefit from them. All that is necessary is to remain open to the possibility that there just might be something that most humans do not fully understand about relationships, the understanding of which could change everything.

That's the frame of mind that a small group of about 40 people held when it gathered at a home just outside San Francisco, California in January, 1999 to explore with me more deeply what *Conversations with God* has to say on this subject. I shared with the group all that I understood about the material on relationships that appears in the dialogue, and answered questions as they came up. The synergy of that afternoon produced an electrifying experience, resulting in an open flow of wonderful wisdom that, I am happy to say, was captured on videotape and audiocassette—edited versions of which have since been made public.

This book is a transcript of that event, and reads in a much more free-flowing—and, I think, more stimulating—style than text that is written for the printed page. And because the book format is not limited by time and production constraints, we were able to include here material not found in the video or audio versions, which necessarily had to be shortened for production reasons.

Essentially, what God tells us in *CWG* is that we most of us enter into relationships for the wrong reasons. That is, for reasons having nothing to do with our overall purpose in life. When our reason for relationship is aligned with our soul's reason for being, not only are our relationships understood to be sacred, they are rendered joyful as well.

Joyful relationships. For too far too many people, that phrase almost sounds like an oxymoron—a self-contradicting, mutually exclusive term. Something like *military intelligence*, or *efficient government*. Yet it is possible to have joyful relationships, and the extraordinary insights in the *Conversations with God* books show us how.

Here are those insights, as I have received them, and understood them. I share them with you here in humility, straight from the Take It For What It's Worth Dept., with the hope that if even one comment opens a new window, or throws wide a doorway, to greater happiness, you will have been served.

Neale Donald Walsch

*July, 1999*

*Ashland, Oregon*



# Excerpt

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