

The Truth on “Conversations With God”

What follows is not an attempt to critique the book series exhaustively, point by point, nor even in terms of its conclusions. One would have to be ready to invest almost as much time as the author in order to enter into a serious dialogue with someone who isn't really finished making pronouncements.

What happened is that someone passed on to me the movie version of “Conversations With God” and I found the story quite touching and for many reasons. First, I believe that God has, undoubtedly does, and will again speak to or inspire people. Our Roman Catholic family is a Christian tradition with a rich history of saints – female and male of all ages – who have had remarkable experiences of God that changed their lives and in turn impacted deeply on the lives of many others.

Second, the story the movie tells is very touching. A man has a serious accident and his life falls apart. He ends up on the street trying to survive and makes a few friends among others also on the street. In time, in his exasperation, he flings his angry questions about life at God and has the impression God is answering him. Very believable and even inspiring. However, that doesn't mean it's OK to eat up everything the man goes on to write.

So I checked out his website and saw a lot of products for sale. I went to Amazon first, actually, and found a lot of products for sale and went to the author's website to try to get more clarity but didn't find it. So I next went to Wikipedia. Here is what I found. First, though, I suggest you check it out yourself at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversations_with_God

“God's motive for creation

In Walsch's first dialogue, God notes that "knowing" and "experiencing" oneself are different things. Before creation there was only That-Which-Is, which cannot know or experience itself fully, without something it is not. It cannot know itself as love, since nothing exists but love. It cannot know itself as giving since nothing else exists to give to. It cannot experience itself in [myriad](#) ways because everything is one.

This present creation then, in Walsch's viewpoint, is established by and within God, so that [sentience](#) can exist which does not directly remember its true nature as God. Split into infinite forms, all life can live, experience, and recreate its nature as God, rather than just "know" itself as the creator in theory. It is essentially a game, entered into by agreement, to remember who and what we are and enjoy and create, knowing that ultimately there is no finish line that some will not reach, no understanding that is not without value, no act that does not add meaning to the future or for others. In Walsch's view we have a common interest in keeping the game going, for there is nothing else to do except to experience our existence and then experience more of it, to uncover deeper layers of truth and understanding. There are no external rules, because all experience is subjective, and is chosen. But within this, there are ways that (it is stated and implied) people will gradually come to see their thoughts, words, actions are either working or they are not working. A thing is either [functional](#) or [dysfunctional](#). These rememberings take place over "time" and can take hundreds and thousands of lifetimes.”

My impression about the content of these books is that the author posits god as all the impersonal stuff of the universe. When I was young, they called that pantheism, the belief that god is everything, including us. This is about as far away in the opposite direction as can be from the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Moses and Joshua, the God of King David and the Psalmists, the God of Tobit, Tobias, and Sara, the God of the Macchabees, and the God of Joachim and Anne, the God of Elizabeth and Zechariah, the God of John the Baptist and finally, of Jesus, who called God “Abba!” that is, “Papa!”.

For this reason alone, I would caution anyone feeling carried away by the eloquence of this author and the seductive quality of his words – often accompanied by mood music on the internet – and remind you that our feelings are actually not our best guide after Adam and Eve.

In addition, I listened to the author himself at the following site, which may no longer be posted when you attempt to go there and listen to it yourself, but it’s worth a try:

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x49ydc_neale-donald-walsch-3-abundance-con_politics

or check him out on Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversations_with_God

My chief concern about this author and with the geometric multiplication of personal life coaches and gurus is that people are spontaneously inclined to believe them for a few significant reasons.

1. They may surprise us by declaring the obvious which so many people no longer notice.
2. They tell us what we want to hear or confirm our personal judgements about ourselves that we could do better and feel better.
3. They basically promote a complete focus on personal goals, including eliminating or ignoring anything and anyone that stands in the way of achieving those goals.
4. They do not usually include any moral frame of reference, so that the only absolute reference point becomes successful achievement of one’s goals.
5. They sound far too much for my liking like what Jesus would have become had he succumbed to the devil’s three temptations in the desert: He would have become powerful, influential, and godless.

Check out the Wikipedia piece yourself, and you will see that these relatively impartial anonymous authors who contribute such articles have gleaned from the books that the author has no trouble accommodating all kinds of contradictory ideas and beliefs. The operating principle seems to be that if it feels right and good for you, then go with it. There is no absolute truth. Again, that is not at all who God is as the follower of Jesus comes to know Him and to believe in Him and follow Him. Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life.” No one has life unless they come to Him.

That means that anyone else coming along proposing another truth is a liar and a thief, either the father of lies himself or someone being “inspired” by him. Well, since we live in a world where everyone seems to be free to express himself, that is what I believe and hold to be true. You, dear Reader, are on your own with your own conscience, and the choice you have is between what “spirit” or “voice” speaking to you that you will decide to trust with your life and follow. I’m for Jesus of Nazareth, the Lord of Creation, the Risen King, the Victor over death and the “father of lies and prince of this world, prince of darkness.”

All glory be to God our Creator, in Jesus his only begotten Son, in the power of their love called the Holy Spirit. Amen!