

OM TIMES Magazine

Holistic Living ॐ Spiritually Focused ॐ Green Adventures

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7 Deadly Sins
through the
light of the
TAROT

Strengthen
your
INNER LIGHT

OVERCOMING
DESTRUCTIVE
Habits

Shirley
MacLaine
was Right
I AM GOD

Neale Donald
Walsch
Conversations with Humanity

OMTimes.com





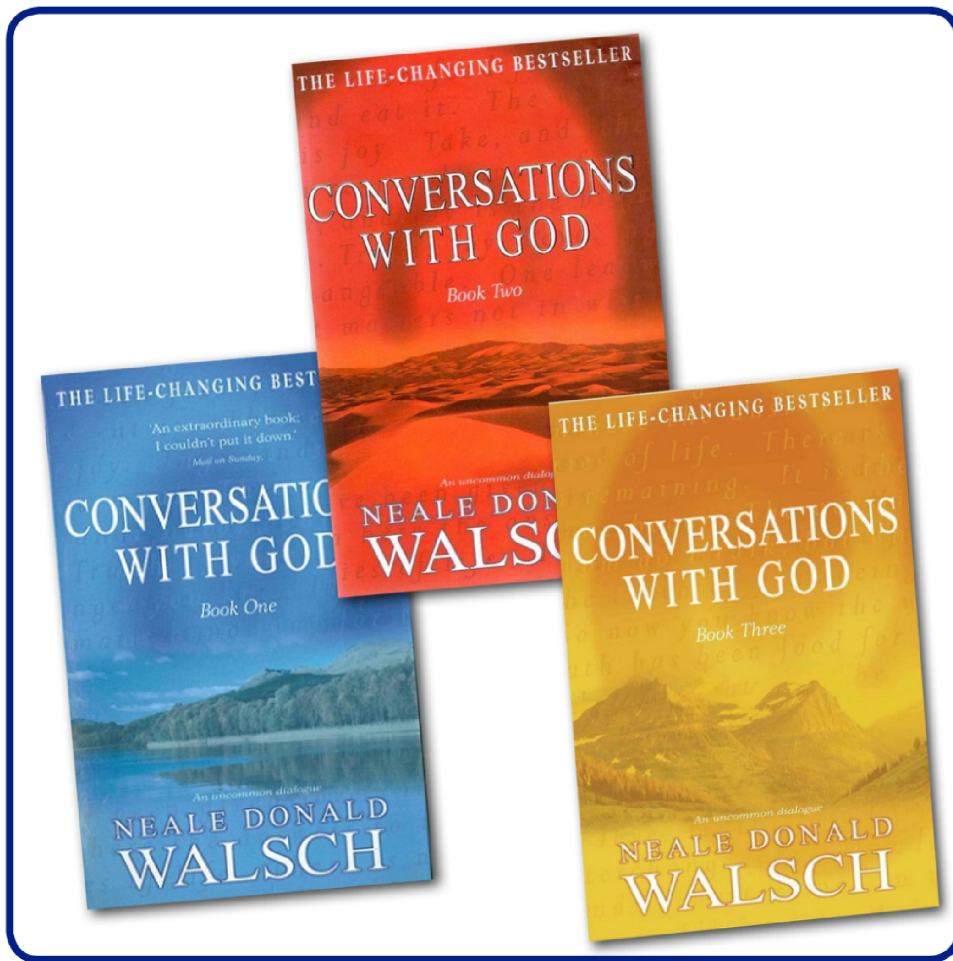
Neale Donald Walsch is considered a modern-day spiritual messenger by millions of people around the world. After working most of his life in communications, Walsch, in the early 1990s, lost his health, his job and his marriage. Homeless at age 49, he relied on the kindness of people he met on the street. He subsequently wrote the nine-book, bestselling *Conversations with God* series which gained him a worldwide following.

Walsch was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and raised as a Roman Catholic. He started his career working in radio, including as program director for an African American station in Baltimore. He later worked as a newspaper reporter and editor, as a public information officer and as a publicist for

Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, whom he credits with rekindling his interest in spirituality.

It was in Portland, Oregon that his life was upended by a series of personal disasters. He lost all his belongings in a fire, suffered a broken neck in a car accident, and saw his marriage fall apart. He lived in a tent in Jackson Hot Springs near Ashland, Oregon, relying on the kindness of other homeless people until his fortunes changed dramatically.

In February 1992, Walsch had a mystical experience that set his life on an extraordinary new path. That experience became the basis for his bestselling *Conversations with God* series, which established him as an international leader in the New Spiritu-



ality. The series has been translated into 37 languages, touching millions of lives and inspiring important changes in their day-to-day lives.

In addition to authoring the renowned series, Neale has published 16 other works, as well as a number of video and audio programs. Available throughout the world, each of the Conversations with God dialogue books have made the New York Times Bestseller list, Conversations with God-Book 1 occupying that list for over two and half years.

The Conversations with God Series has re-defined God and shifted spiritual paradigms around the globe. In order to deal with the enormous response to his writings, Walsch

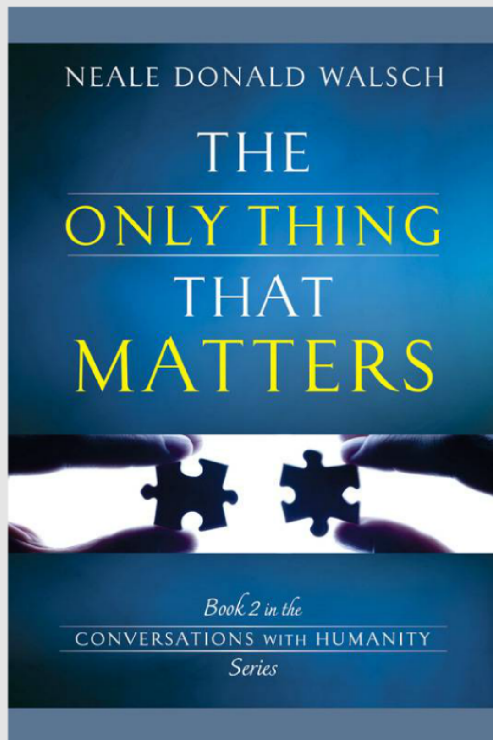
created the Conversations with God Foundation, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to inspiring the world to help itself move from violence to peace, from confusion to clarity, and from anger to love.

His work has taken him from the steps of Macchu Picchu in Peru to the steps of the Shinto shrines of Japan, from Red Square in Moscow to St. Peters Square in Vatican City to Tiananmen Square in China. And everywhere he has gone -from South Africa to Norway,

Croatia to The Netherlands, the streets of Zurich to the streets of Seoul - Neale has found a hunger among the people to find a new way to live in peace and harmony, and he has sought to bring people a new understanding of life and of God which would allow them to experience that.

Walsch's recently released book, *The Only Thing That Matters: Book 2 in the Conversations with Humanity Series* is already getting a positive buzz, 4.5 out 5 stars on Amazon. In this latest release, Walsch discusses the underlying current that most of us are feeling in our lives right now.

The Only Thing That Matters: Book 2 in the Conversations with Humanity Series



Something very unusual is occurring on this planet right now. You have no doubt noticed it. It may be producing a more than normal amount of challenge and disjointedness in your life, and perhaps even some major upheavals. You are probably noticing it in the lives of others as well.

For a while you may have thought that this was all just your mind playing tricks on you; that things were not really happening any differently, and that you're just a little tired, a little overcommitted, a little oversensitive.

But now, as each day presents itself with obstacles mounting and challenges increasing and more and more personal issues coming up to be faced and healed, it is apparent that all of this is not an illusion, not an exaggeration. So you may be asking, "Why is all this happening? What am I doing wrong?"

And here's the answer . . . You're doing nothing wrong. AND . . . there is something very unusual going on right now in your life, and all over the planet.

OMTimes talked with Neale Donald Walsch about *The Only Thing That Matters*

OMTimes: Why after 27 books have you chosen to write another?

NDW: Do you know, that's a very good question. I don't like to write a book just for the sake of getting something into print. If it doesn't add value in some way to the discussion that the early books have started, I'm not interested. I can't get my-

self excited about producing it.

This particular book was exhilarating for me because it answers the central questions that I think the Conversations with God books raise, which are: What's the point of all this? What is the purpose of our lives beyond simply creating and ensur-

ing physical survival—and then, perhaps, some degree of comfort and joy—for ourselves and our loved ones? Is that all there is? And if there is more of a point to life than that, what is it? And most important of all, how can we cause our own lives to serve that larger agenda? Those are the questions I sought to answer here.

OMTimes: What makes you think you have the answers?

NDW: I don't. I don't have any more answers than the average person does—which means, not very many. And the answers that I carried around with me for years—given to me by my family, my society, and my culture—were not very good ones, not very accurate or very helpful in terms of giving me the tools with which to create a better life.

OMTimes: Why would our readers be interested in the answers in this book?

Because the answers in the book didn't come from me. I believe they were inspired by God, and that they are an extension of the messages given to us in the Conversations with God dialogues.

OMTimes: You believe these answers came directly from God?

NDW: I do. Because that is my personal experience. But this is not a "dialogue with God" book, where I ask questions and God answers. It is an "inspired" book, in which I believe the narrative to have been inspired by God.

OMTimes: Why should

anyone else believe that?

NDW: There's no reason at all for anyone else to believe that, and I'm not asking anyone to. I believe that the material in the book emerges from Divine inspiration, yes, but I also believe that it speaks for itself. It feels to me that its wisdom is self-evident. A fresh reader will either agree or disagree, and in both cases that is totally okay with me. Whatever one's opinion, however, I don't think that many people will find the book uninteresting.

OMTimes: What do you believe people will find interesting here?

NDW: Well, the book starts off by saying that 98% of the world's people are spending 98% of their time on things that don't matter. I think that notion is fascinating in itself.

OMTimes: That's a pretty strong statement, is this true?

NDW: Strong statements are required to encapsulate a sad state of affairs. Of course, the "98%" figure is rhetorical, not statistical.



I mean, no one did a study and came up with that number. It's a rhetorical statement, meant to indicate that most of what most of us do has little connection with anything that really matters.

OMTimes: According to whom?

NDW: According to people themselves, at the end of their lives. Surveys show that, overwhelmingly, people feel at the end of their lives that too much of their life—most of it—was spent on things that simply were not important.

OMTimes: Is this one of those 'I should have spent more time with my family' or 'I should have smelled more roses and eaten more ice cream' books?

NDW: Actually, no. Because while spending time with family and giving oneself more of life's treats can be very important, it is not what we have done and are doing with our time that is significant, it is the reason that we are doing whatever we are doing.

OMTimes: What is the importance of understanding the reason we do something, as long as

we do it or did it, does it really matter?

NDW: It is not the activity of our lives that makes them matter, it is the purpose for which we undertake the activity—it is a person's innermost motivation—that causes what one is doing in life, and one's life itself, to matter. Let me use a simple example from everyday life to illustrate the point.

You can be doing the dishes because they are piled high in the sink and there's no more space, or perhaps you're expecting guests and you're embarrassed at how your kitchen looks...or you can do the dishes because having a clean and tidy personal space speaks richly to you of who are at your core...or because you want to save your partner—who you know has had a long day—from having to do them.

In each of the instances above the activity is the same: you are cleaning up the dishes. Yet in each of those instances the motivation is decidedly different.

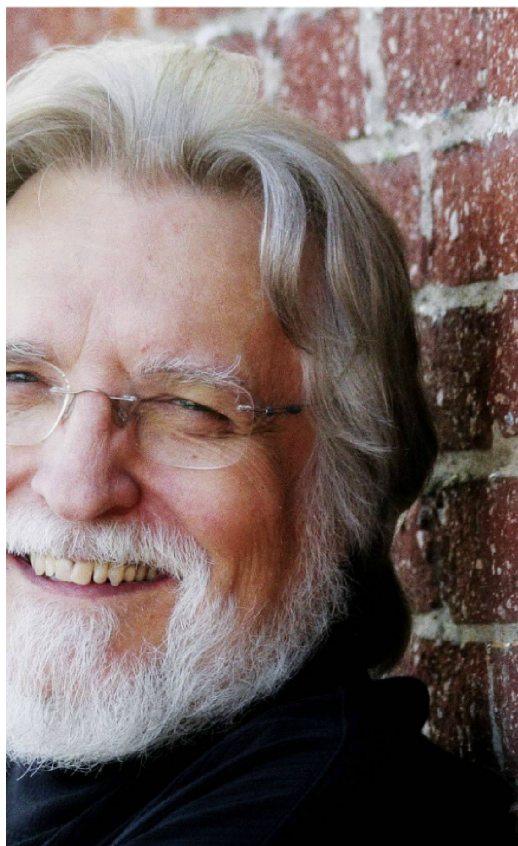
In some moments in life the motivation to do what one is doing emerges from the Soul serving what I call the Divine Purpose. The book



makes the point that when it does this, it matters. When it does not do this, it does not matter, in the sense that it has little or nothing to do with our reason for being here.

OMTimes: What is our reason for being here?

NDW: As I understand it, we are here on Earth to do more than just live and die and make the best of the experience. We are here to advance a larger agenda. We are here to move forward an eternal evolutionary process in which our soul is involved. It is a process through which each individual soul experiences



its true identity fully, and by which Life Itself expands its expression to reflect the wonder of its ultimate and true nature.

OMTimes: What is the 'true identity' of the soul?

NDW: I have been told that the soul is the individuated aspect of Divinity Itself, and that its purpose through physical life is to express and to experience Divinity at the next highest level, in a constantly escalating spiral.

OMTimes: If this is true, why do we have to do this? It seems like such

a monumental and never-ending task.

NDW: We don't 'have to' do it. Nothing is required of us in this or any other lifetime.

OMTimes: You're saying we don't 'have to' do this? We don't 'have to' strive for Divinity being expressed through us?

NDW: Divinity is expressed through you no matter what you do. It is impossible for you not to express Divinity, since Divinity is Who You Are. It is simply a matter of how you want to define Divinity in This Moment, Now.

Put another way, God is what you say God is, by how you are being in any given situation or circumstance. As Conversations with God says, "Every act is an act of self-definition." And Life Itself, throughout the multiple universes, is God in the act of defining Itself as it wishes to know Itself through the here-and-now expression of Itself.

OMTimes: You're saying the way human beings are is the way God wishes to express Itself? That's hard to believe. That's stretching credibility about as far as it can go. It seems more likely that we are defy-

ing God's Will, not doing God's Will, and thus, we are not expressing God Itself, but just the opposite.

NDW: The greatest gift we have been given by God is Free Will. We can express our Selves in any way that we desire. The question is not, "How can the way human beings are be an expression of Divinity?" The question is, "Why would human beings choose for Divinity to be expressed in this way?" And, more transformationally, "What could cause us to define Who We Are, and Divinity Itself, in another way? A higher way? A grander way?"

If we are in the act of defining God, would we want to do it any differently? That is the question of the day. The answer to that question will determine the future of humanity, and so is, in both human terms and Divine terms, The Only Thing That Matters.

OMTimes: Thank You

To learn more about Neale Donald Walsch and his latest book, The Only Thing That Matters visit <http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/>