

God's Whisper: Always Near

Sharon Williams

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God's Whisper is a thoughtful Christian text that meditates on biblical principles to build faith and spiritual maturity.

Sharon Williams's encouraging faith-based guide *God's Whisper* examines the benefits of biblical teachings to contemporary cultures.

Arguing that the world is entrenched in corruption, but that good and considerate thoughts and actions can restore hope and create peace, this is a book built on the notion that God is a present, active force in the world. In turn, it says that the Bible can still be relied upon, and that faith is crucial when it comes to navigating unpredictable times.

With the belief that gratitude toward God stimulates spiritual growth, this text uses straightforward natural comparisons to make its points. The dandelion becomes a symbol of hope and emotional healing, as a late winter plant that withstands harsh weather conditions; the process of planting seeds becomes a metaphor for parenting, which also either yields good or bad results. Intriguing parallels are drawn between scriptural teachings and scientific discoveries, too: the discovery of a mass reservoir of water twelve billion light years away is tied to the creation account in Genesis, and the related religious suggestions are compelling.

The book emphasizes its beliefs in section overviews, making statements such as that there is an intelligent, creative force behind the universe's existence; that love and truth are important elements in spiritual maturity; and that God's grace is free and is given through divine mercy. This highlighting of key points is a helpful throughline. And personal anecdotes become a further means of fleshing such perspectives out: Williams recalls escaping following a vicious attack by a respectable looking young man to illustrate the negative influence that contemporary society has on young people, and to assert that there's a need to teach children proper values.

Still, though the book ties all of its discussions back into faith at some point, its subjects are too disperse. In limited space, it discusses marriage, parenting, spiritual growth and maturity, God's nature, and Christian values and practices, among other topics. Its individual chapters are also prone to diversions: one paragraph discusses the benefits of laughter and contentment, while the next explains the need to build faith and not live in fear. As a result, most topics are explored only in passing, not discussed in depth.

Nonetheless, *God's Whisper* is a thoughtful Christian text that meditates on biblical principles to build faith and spiritual maturity.

EDITH WAIRIMU (April 12, 2022)

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