
Introduction ?

The book is intended for anyone with some (possibly confused) religious feelings or convictions, but who does not feel God - A Primer: A Newer Testament comfortable with any of the established religions. I believe the majority of Americans might fit this description.

The only competing God - A Primer: A Newer Testament title of which God - A Primer: A Newer Testament I am aware is *Conversations with God* by Neale Donald Walsch. The vocabulary he uses is educated and the book seems intended for college graduates. In contrast my book is aimed at everyone, seldom uses more than an 8th grade vocabulary, God - A Primer: A Newer Testament and should easily be understood by any high school graduate. God - A Primer: A Newer Testament

This book consists of meditations I have had on the nature of God and His relationship to us. They consist solely of my opinion although some of these ideas have origins from people other than myself. At times I am convinced that this entire venture is based upon nothing more than my own arrogance. At other times I believe there really is an Entity outside of myself who is influencing my writing of at least a part of this.

Because some sections, especially the evaluations of the founders of other religions, consist of opinions which I have long held, I have to say that these are solely due to my own opinion, and have nothing much of inspiration in them. Take them as they are, please. In your own mind discard parts which offend you and take away only that God - A Primer: A Newer Testament which you find friendly to your own way of thinking.

Other parts, such as why evil things happen in the world, are so close to the arguments of philosophers going back to Leibnitz or further, that I fear to claim any originality in them. Since these together cover most of the writing, then it might properly God - A Primer: A Newer Testament be stated that the book is nothing more than a series God - A Primer: A Newer Testament of plagiarisms. It avoids this criticism only because almost everything in it is part of the American view of the world in the beginning of the 21st Century.

Yet, something is driving me to write, and especially to see this published even if the God - A Primer: A Newer Testament best I can do is to self-publish. Is this force impelling me to waste thousands of dollars simply a psychological aberration, or does it truly come from something greater than myself? I do not have the answer to that.

Please read passages which disagree with or seem to criticize your own vision of the divine without anger or rancor. Like every one else, God - A Primer: A Newer Testament I am fallible and prone to error.

Nothing was taken from golden plates presented by an angel. Nothing consists of an angelic figure talking poetically in my ear to inform me about what God wants God - A Primer: A Newer Testament of us. God - A Primer: A Newer Testament There was no declaration of thunder ordering me to write or else. There was only the still small voice from within, and if that were no more than my own imagination, so be it. All I God - A Primer: A Newer Testament ask

is that when reading you God - A Primer: A Newer Testament listen to your own still, small voice and accept the parts God - A Primer: A Newer Testament which agree with what your own inner voice tells you, and reject the sections which your own inner voice demands that you do.

Note: some of this text began as early as 2006, though by this time I have tried to integrate the different versions into some sort of coherent whole. However, I recognize that different discussions about the same material are at times so different as to appear contradictory. While editing, I was about to eliminate the contradictions, when a strong impulse told me, “No, leave it as it is. It is an example of the way you necessarily distort the material. God - A Primer: A Newer Testament If anything is incoherent, get a professional editor and let her fix it.” So, I have left it in.

May 25th 2006 (or thereabouts)

“Hey there.”

“Yeah?”

“I’m the small voice within. Don’t you think it’s time you paid attention to me?”

“OK, so I’m talking to myself again. There’s nothing new in that.”

“Yes, you do have a very vivid and active imagination. But why should that stop you from listening?”

“OK, let’s pretend you are not me. Then what are you?”

“Wouldn’t a better question be, ‘**Who** are you?’”

“So?” Nothing. “Who **are** you?”

“I already told you. I’m the small voice within. Some people call me their ‘higher power.’”

“Higher power, huh? What can you do God - A Primer: A Newer Testament for me, help me leap tall buildings at a single bound?”

“No. I can’t do much except to talk to you.”

“OK, now I know who you are. I can still ask, ‘**What** are you?’”

“I am. Who I am. I am. You’ve read those words before, remember?”

“Which still means you’re like the imaginary God - A Primer: A Newer Testament friend I had as a child. Nothing more. And I am grown up now.”

(A little louder) "Why are you people always so difficult?"

"Hey," I said. "It's your fault. You made us this God - A Primer: A Newer Testament way."

"So you really *do* know who I am."

"You've been trying to tell my you're God. People who speak to God are usually not crazy, but those who hear answers usually are."

Sarcastically) "Funny. Ha, Ha."

"Seriously, I mean it. Look at Andrea Yates. If I hear God talking to me, how am I any different than her?"

"There's a very simple way to find out."

"How?"

"You know what is right and wrong. Actually, you have a very strong moral sensibility. Well, if God - A Primer: A Newer Testament and when you hear me demanding you do something you know is wrong – run, don't walk, to the nearest psychiatrist. You're certifiably nuts. But if I never tell you to do anything you already know is wrong God - A Primer: A Newer Testament or evil, why worry?"

"What do you want?"

"I want you to write me a book. You already know that."

"But you are me. So, I want to write a book. What's God - A Primer: A Newer Testament new?"

"Actually, I am not you. But there will never be a way for you to know that."

"Well, it isn't as if I hear some commanding voice in my head like schizophrenics do. All I am doing is talking to myself."

"That's the best I can do. Any more would burn out your brain."

"So, there is no way for me to tell if you aren't a figment of my imagination? No way you can give me information I didn't know before and couldn't God - A Primer: A Newer Testament know in any other way?"

"No."

"That's it? No?"

“Yep.”

“Well, why not?” plaintively.

“Just because (that’s the way it is.)”

“Why?”

“Who are YOU to question ME?”

“ME? You ARE me. You are God - A Primer: A Newer Testament a figment of my imagination.”

“Ever hear the phrase, ‘a still small voice?’”

God A Primer A Newer Testament

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