

# **SIMPLY START**



A Simple Plan for Beginning and Deepening  
Your Relationship with God



Kerry Holton



*This ten-chapter book recommends a simple plan for beginning and deepening a relationship with God. After proposing what friendship with God can do for a person, and suggesting ways in which one can carve time out of every day to be alone with God, it lays out a simple strategy for reading and meditating on just a few Bible verses a day, applying scripture, and prayer.*

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*A Simple Plan for  
Beginning and Deepening Your  
Relationship with God*

Kerry W. Holton

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First Edition



**Who Wants to Develop a Closer  
Relationship with God?**



I grew up in a very religious home. Dad was a minister, Mom was right by his side, and whenever the church doors were open—be it a Sunday morning or evening worship assembly, a Wednesday night Bible class, a “gospel meeting,” or a weekend youth rally, they were there. So were their children. For as long as I can remember, the church was very important to our family.

In addition, my parents were more than religious. They were devout. They took very seriously their relationship with God and the responsibilities, which they felt attended it. For example, they made sure that prayer and Bible reading were frequent activities in our home. And they cared for and served people as if they were serving God. (They were, of course. As one of my mentors once said, “The only way to love God is to love people.”)

Because of the home in which I was raised, I owe my parents an incalculable debt. Why? Because they were the ones who launched my lifelong pursuit of God.

And that is what this book is all about. It is intended to give you a peek into my pursuit of God. My only reason for sharing my experience is that I hope it will help you to begin or advance your pursuit of God.

*Kerry W. Holton*



My siblings and I dressed for church.

Please note that this book is not about how to become more religious or how to become a better church member. Those are worthy goals, which have their place, to be sure. But here, I want to discuss something that I consider to be far more important. It's one thing to be religious, but it's quite another to be spiritual. Wouldn't you agree? What this book offers is a simple plan for becoming a more spiritual person, one who enjoys a growing connection with the supreme being of the universe.

My guess is that you already have a connection with God and want to make it better. If so, I hope you'll read on. I wrote this for you.



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**It's one thing to be religious, but it's quite another to be spiritual.**

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Or, perhaps you would like to connect with God but don't know where to start. You've probably heard what a friendship with God has done for others. How it enriches and improves every other relationship in life. How it provides a deep sense of joy and peace, no matter the circumstances. How it makes life meaningful. Productive. Vibrant. (It has done all of these things for me, and more.) But, perhaps, you thought: "I want that, too, but I wouldn't know how or where to begin." If this is true of you, please read on, because I wrote this book for you, as well.

*Thought and Discussion Questions*

1. Who are the people in your life whom you consider to be spiritual? Why do you think they are so? What do they do or what characteristics do they possess that demonstrate their spirituality?
2. Reflect on this statement: "It's one thing to be religious, but it's quite another to be spiritual." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

*Kerry W. Holton*

3. What are your reasons for wanting to begin or deepen your relationship with God? Why now? What are some of the barriers that have kept you from developing a closer friendship with God in the past?



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