WITH GOD

After forty years in the wilderness of today's church

### GEORGE D. VITETTA with Catherine M. Vitetta



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# **DEDICATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

As always, I would like to dedicate this book first and foremost to the one true living God, who originated the book's concept, developed it, and brought it to completion!

I would also like to give a special word of thanks to my pastors and brothers in Christ, Pastor Tom Patterson and Pastor Dan Hudson. Their friendship, guidance, counsel, and support have been a huge blessing from the Lord.

Finally, I would like to thank Manifest International for their prayer-filled guidance and assistance in organizing the gathered materials into a coherent, published book.

To God be all glory!

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# PREFACE

#### by Catherine

A few short years ago, the Lord placed it on my husband's heart to write a book about his individual journey which resulted in a personal relationship with Christ Jesus. This book was to be about his life's journey and the change he experienced when he went from hearing and knowing things **about** God to having a personal relationship with the living God for himself. He knew that the Lord wanted him to write this down so that it could be of benefit to other people who also wanted and needed a real connection with God.

Then one day, George met with a fellow pastor at his favorite coffee house. It was their first time meeting each other and they knew nothing about one another, but in the midst of their conversation, the pastor's face became quizzical and said to George, "I have no clue what this is about, but the Lord wants me to ask you how the book is coming?" George chuckled and said "Well, let's just say, I better get going on it!" Thankfully, George started writing this book and assembled the significant teachings that he wanted to include. As George looked back on his life and prayerfully considered what was to be included in this book, one of the many things that he realized was that God's hand was on him from the time he was born, even long before George really knew anything about God. Although George's early life was filled with pain and adversity, George could see in hindsight that the Lord's hand of provision was with him, even during those storms of life. He also recognized how the Lord could use his weaknesses and traumatic life experiences for good and for helping others as George fulfilled God's Kingdom purposes for and through his life.

As George considered how his walk towards and with the Lord evolved over the course of his life, he realized that not being well versed in gospel and biblical truths, whether due to incorrect or false teachings or his personal ignorance, was a huge stumbling block in finding and achieving a relationship with the one true living God. It was George's heart to ensure to the best of his ability that others would not struggle with these issues as he had, and that through reading this book your time of struggle could be minimized or avoided altogether!

George had all the pieces in place to complete

the writing of this book when the Lord took him home. George was 65 years old at the time of his passing. The story of his last day in this world is included at the end of this book. The Lord had told George that his time to go was coming soon, but for the rest of us it was sudden. He is greatly missed.

Following the initial phases of shock and grief that I experienced after George's physical death, the Lord placed it on my heart to finish the book that George had started. Completing this book has been a challenge for me, but it has also brought me immeasurable joy and a peace that surpasses all understanding, knowing that God's will for George's book is being fulfilled. I cannot put into words how much the Lord has blessed me through the process of completing what my beloved husband had started for the Lord.

I would like you to know that George and I spent many hours talking about what he believed was to be included in this book. George left behind his outline for the book, sermon notes, and tapings of his sermons that he intended to include. This book has been prayerfully and joyfully completed out of love for and obedience to the Lord and out of love for my husband and the message he proclaimed. All gratitude, honor and glory goes to our Lord Jesus!

George touched many, many lives for the Lord, including mine. It is my hope and prayer that reading this book blesses you as it has blessed me.

## INTRODUCTION

by George

I [George] was inspired to write this book when I realized that my walk with God had finally come to a place where I was **truly** walking with Him. It was what I had always wanted but could not seem to find.

For roughly forty years I struggled with "religion" and all that it means. What I mean by this is that I wanted a real relationship with God, but I struggled with many false doctrines of legalism that can be so prevalent in today's church. These teachings ranged the gamut from telling me that I was going to Hell if I wore a short sleeve shirt or had a mustache all the way to it is "ok to sin" because I am human and God understands. The only thing that I was certain of during those years of searching for God was that I yearned to serve God with all my heart, mind, soul, and substance. But everything else seemed like a maze of confusion and a wilderness of wandering in search of the truth.

It pains my heart to see so many Christians falling away from the faith because they are lost in the wilderness of the same false doctrines that confused me and hindered my connection with God. The teachers of these false doctrines tickle the ears of their willing listeners by telling them just what they want to hear or to ensnare them with legalistic bondages. Usually, these false teachers are more concerned about numbers of people in the seats, money, and fame than they are about the souls and eternal destiny of the people they teach. In the end, after the false teaching proves to be a lie and does not produce the results the listeners were hoping for, many people become disheartened about Christianity and fall away from any sort of faith in the true God of the Bible. Others continue searching and learning but are never able to reach the fullness of God and a real relationship with Him. They have a form of godliness but deny the power God gives us by His Holy Spirit.

I want to make one thing clear. I am no different than anyone else who is struggling to serve God in a world that vexes your soul every second of every day. What I can honestly tell you is that in the midst of the storms of life, you **can** have a peace and joy that surpasses all understanding. You **can** have a relationship with the living God through His Holy Spirit!

You can *truly* walk with God!