

Introduction



The state of affairs for mainstream Christianity and conservative churches in America has reached a critical point, headed for a complete meltdown. Absent from the high profile religious pulpits of this great country is a fundamental message that cries against sin, and efforts to educate the church of the disastrous consequences for presumptuous sinners have been muted. Our attention is now conveniently diverted from our Christian fundamentalist teachings to the lore of material wealth seminars and to spellbinding motivational speeches being advocated by religious holy men and ministers of the prosperity gospel throughout the world and to ever growing crowds of anxious devotees.

Unfortunately, such teachings do have a semblance of an ethereal proclamation, promoted by some of the greatest New Age religious spin masters and charlatans within the body of Christ. Unlike our predecessors, the Apostles and Prophets including Jesus Himself, who, through much deprivation and suffering, displayed a character and mind-set that were forged in the crucible of spiritual warfare. These attributes laid the foundational bedrock and became the standard by which self sacrificial efforts were measured as a witness and testament against this generation who unfortunately, will leave behind a predisposition of rebellion, deceit and greed, as a legacy indelibly engraved in the history of time. Make no mistake

about it; Christianity as it stands in the 21st Century is at an impasse, which can easily cascade itself over the precipice into the junk yard of irrelevancy. This crisis has now reached alarming proportions, when seemingly influential ministers and graduates from today's religious Seminaries are the authors of book on the New York's best seller's list with titles such as; "Seven steps to prosperity" "Living the good life," and "Believe in yourself" to name a few, which in themselves, redefine the whole concept of Eastern Mysticism which includes self-actualization, self-worth and human self esteem as a viable alternative to the good old fashioned gospel of "denying yourself" and putting your trust in Jesus, which form the vanguard of the Christian mystic.

Nowhere in these print mediums is the word "suffering" or the more expressive term "long suffering" remotely mentioned, eliminating one of the premier indicators of our spiritual and ethereal existentialism. The absence of this spiritual credential gives a distorted perception to the levels of spiritual maturity in the lives of genuine Christians. This is indicative of a people in denial and a rejection to parts of the "fruit of the spirit" as defined in Galatians 5:22, which expresses one's level of moral development through a measure of self imposed humility and submissiveness. This lapse in judgment underscores our inability to reconcile the absence of a genuine spirit of humility in organized religions, and is simply unacceptable.

I am certainly not in the business of vilifying Christian authors; on the contrary, but I am alarmed at the seemingly endless streams of religious oriented books entering the market place, which have nothing to do with Christianity and the gospel of Jesus Christ, but are potentially destructive religious viruses capable of infecting tremendous amounts of people, as they embrace a dangerous New Age theology that has instituted a 'pie in the sky' mentality, fostering a culture of greed for material prosperity, wealth and easy living as the premier indicators promoting the tenets of Christian values. I

challenge anyone to visit the average Christian bookstore in your neighborhood and witness what I've oftentimes referred to as the seduction of Christianity. Not a single topic makes mention of the gospel of Jesus Christ such as the redemptive effect of salvation through His death burial and resurrection which is fundamental to the message and core principles of Christianity. The message of prosperity is the most prevalent topic represented on any given day of the week, written by the most high profile authors in Christendom. One needs to be alarmed at this disturbing trend, which focuses primarily on a Utopian panacea of wealth. To ignore such development would be an indictment of our complicity and culpability in the destruction of future generations, which is tantamount to open warfare on our sacred Christian values, perpetrated by leaders who are derelict of their sacred trusts. Propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ expressing His death burial and resurrection is no more an enriching enterprise, and is not as lucrative as propagating the myth of the prosperity doctrine with its illusion of wealth, which is attainable as a dancing mirage of rivers in the scorching sandy deserts of Arabia.

In addition to this, The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is experiencing a three-prong assault from both New Age prosperity teachers and religious aficionados, who tend to be critics of brimstone and fire preachers who preach and teach holiness without which, no man shall see God. This assault includes secular humanists who have absolutely no interest in being part of any religious organization where one has to conform to the standards and principles of holy living. Popular New Age Pastors have replaced preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ with motivational speeches which run parallel with "get-rich-quick" pyramid schemes and is reminiscent of swindlers and snake oil peddlers enriching themselves at the expense of a misinformed public. This enterprise has left the majority of Christians blind to the gathering menace, leaving them vulnerable to religious exploitation. Such efforts to reconstitute our religious landmark should be repudiated and glared upon with contempt and

outright scorn. The very mention of the word “hell,” or accusing non-penitent sinners of having a one way ticket to the fires of hell are sure to traumatize most congregations as they undergo an emotional crisis far worse than a car-jacking experience. Such topics are avoided like the death plagues of yesteryear to prevent dampening the morale of these delicate and pious individuals, who have been fed a consistent diet of; “God is love, God loves you, God loves any and anyone; God wants all of us to be rich and enjoy life,” and as far as they are concerned, a loving God assigns everyone to the pearly gates irrespective of their spiritual condition. This is as close as it gets to a complete mess.

Implosive sub-human crisis reflecting the transgressions of our social ills such as the abortion issue and racism are also at an impasse and remain unresolved, tearing the delicate fabric of our society. The moral compass which directs and conducts our human consciousness is disoriented, causing a breakdown in the social order, and has led us to be the leading perpetrators of infanticide in the history of mankind. This evil tide has left in its wake an infamous legacy of millions of guilt-laden and broken hearted women nursing their silent pain, besieged by unending sorrow clothed in dark robes of shame, which will certainly accompany them to their graves.

If abortion is so legally right, why does it feel so terribly wrong, is a vexing question posed by many unfortunate victims of abortion. This moral and social dilemma of abortion on demand cannot be litigated in the courts of public opinion, nor will it be vindicated through the subjective scales of human injustice. As long as abortion is being used as a disposable after-thought of human sexuality, there can be no serious consideration for the sanctity of human life. This term abortion is the result of a politically correct and clinical sanitization of the dismemberment of a living child in the womb of its mother. Such irrational disconnect eliminates the need for a measure of guilt stemming from the emotional trauma in the aftermath of this horrible and ghoulish crime. This medical terminology has been

a complete success by its deliberate attempt in masking the social stigma from the brutal acts of homicide and mayhem perpetrated on the unborn by agents of the abortion industry. Mothers, what will your answer be when you come face to face with your murdered victims on the day of judgment? For some it will be a time to embrace in a long awaited reunion in an expression of forgiveness and love. For others, it will be a time of sorrow, coming face to face with their victims on judgment day, waiting to be condemned. The presence of acrimonious protest from a unified Christian populous relative to the rights of the unborn is almost non-existent. This is simply unacceptable. While most pulpits remain deathly silent, other liberally minded and fringe religious groups with self imposed holy men bordering on the peripheral with titles such as “Reverend,” have given political correctness new meaning by condoning such practice as a woman’s right to choose, which is an attempt by religious leaders in promoting legitimacy to the acts of modern day genocide. Projecting a human face as a diversionary facade cannot obscure the true identity of this grotesque and murderous diabolical monster employed as the ultimate killing machine of the unborn masquerading as a civil right. Something is wrong with our society and worse is yet to come.

Since the infamous 1973 landmark United States Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, 99.9% of the abortions performed in the black community alone, were conducted solely on the basis of personal convenience. Abortion on demand is the perfect storm. No antisocial organization including the infamous diabolical killing machine of Nazi Germany and various violent racist organizations could have conceived such a flawless operation for the expressed purpose of exterminating a targeted community such as the effect of Roe versus Wade. Faced with the scourge of poverty, isolation, single parenthood, desperation and downright shame, in conjunction with an opulent and carefree lifestyle, black babies are being aborted at tax payers expense in disproportionate numbers in comparison to

other minority races in America, upsetting the calculus of a projected growth pattern relative to nature's growth cycle. This trend has begun alarming black community leaders of diverse political persuasion, and especially social scientists, who lament the seemingly demise of the once vibrant and thriving black race. One person's right to choose under a skewed legal system has truncated the rights of the unborn of an entire generation, putting in peril the existence of an entire people. I've yet to find a single "solitary" woman of any race who has stated categorically that her abortion was the result of her life being in mortal danger. Augmented by the mechanism of partial birth abortion, this procedure has injected a level of insanity to murder way over the threshold of the criminally insane.

The African American population alone has suffered a deficit of 20 million murdered victims and rising under the auspices of a government approve legal framework, making for the greatest genocide of a minority people in the history of the 20th century and the world; victims to the most efficient government sponsored ethnic cleansing operation in history. The most dangerous places on earth for a black child are not the back streets of the run-down urban ghettos of the inner cities, or the incarceration of blacks in the confines of the dangerous state run penal system. The most dangerous place for a black child today is in the womb of its black mother.

Their wombs have become the modern day killing fields of the African diaspora, and no external forces from hell will succeed in silencing the quiet echo from the voices of these walking tombs, which are the silent graveyards of the unborn. The final word on the abortion issue will not be the edict of the United States Supreme Court, but will be finalized in the halls of justice in the Supreme Court of the Supreme Being in heaven. Already, nature has begun taking a devastating toll on this post abortion generation, as aging victims of abortion languish in dreaded nursing home facilities, forsaken, alone and abandoned, their posterity obliterated by the scourge

of abortion, leaving behind no enduring legacy. Others, unable to conceive through years of habitual and reckless abortions, plunge into the darkened dungeons of depression, which lead to the portals of drug dens and mental institutions, and others to eventual acts of suicide. Our self-appointed prophets of this sin-laden nation are false prophets indeed, who have acquiesced to such human self-destruction as the fulfillment of human rights. It's quite obvious they are not hearing from God and are silent, judging from their passive response expressing a dumb dog mentality with a patent for sleeping. They lie idly while the genocide and carnage continue. America has no doubt defaced her once pristine image, which was perceived as a bastion of Christian morality and her dark chapter of social engineering is not unique to the abortion issue.

Unlike abortion, which has seared the social conscience of a nation gone mad, eugenics however, was an earlier form of social or rather anti-social experimentation targeting thousands of underprivileged and unsuspecting women for forceful sterilization by those who perceived them to be America's social underclass. It was a despicable and insidious act of self-righteous medical assault on those who were categorized as intellectually or biologically inferior, or given the dubious status of being social undesirables. There is absolutely no justification for preventing the conception of unborn babies against the will of their unsuspecting mothers, or the killing of unborn babies by their acquiescent mothers. No matter the rationale it is wrong.

With hands dripping with the blood of the innocent, America has shocked the conscience of the civilized world with her decadent lifestyle and immoral acts. Future generations will mourn such loss as they reconcile the mistakes of their forefathers. If God chooses not to exact retribution on this great country He has blessed from "sea to shining sea," then He must apologize in person to the sinners of Sodom and Gomorrah on whom He exacted a heavy toll of destruction and complete annihilation. The ultimate penalty for presumptuous

sinners has always been a death sentence, as is so often the case when dealing with a Holy and Righteous God. God spoke through the Prophet in the book of Isaiah the 58:1, and tried to convey a message of hope and intent to the sinners in Israel; unfortunately, such warnings were completely ignored.

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.” KJV

Today, the cry of holiness is muffled or somewhat non-existent. In its place, reside feel good doctrines, errant religious ideologies and idiosyncrasies which reflect the current mind-set of a seduced and deceived Christian nation. The integrity of our moral authority, which was once held to the highest standard is now seriously compromised due to our thirst for the mighty dollar, which has become the god in which we have established our trust. Let the reader beware that the doctrine of prosperity is older than the deep blue sea. Its roots lie in the rebellious disposition of God’s angelic creation of the pre-angelic Heaven for which I intend to make the case.

The doctrine of prosperity has surpassed by sheer popularity every other topic preached in the pulpits of America, and has overshadowed fundamental teachings such as; how to live holy, how to get saved, how to be a good Christian, how to be spirit filled, and last but not least; how to foster love and healing to the spiritual great divide among the multi-cultural and multi-national body of Christ, which supposedly are heading for the same heaven. The standard of holiness has degenerated to levels comparable to that of the secular world, as the attire of our Westernized and supposedly modest and peculiar adorning women according to first Timothy 2; and verse 9, are partly responsible for desecrating the sanctity of our sanctuaries, rivaling the adornment of unsaved sinners exiting the confines of the most outrageously decadent nightclubs.

This trend is well documented and observed by many young

men, who complain of the difficulty of concentrating on spiritual affairs after being bombarded with eye-popping, semi-clad women in Christian church convocations. Once again pulpits remain silent. The current profile of our modern Christian persona is the facade of an altered state. This is a radical shift from our traditional sanctified disposition that was fundamental to holiness. The church is in a state of denial at the extent of its collective spiritual deterioration. What was once inherently abnormal and frowned upon with contempt, is now perceived as normal among the church's current leadership. The older women are locked in an insecure, competitive and ideological confrontation with younger women that is no less shocking, making a mockery of the word "holiness."

This single infraction alone has fundamentally changed forever the role of the "Mothers in Zion," who were to be role models for younger women. It is inconceivable that there are no distinctions between those exiting the confines of a night club before dawn, or our women attending a church service early on Sunday morning, but such is the case and something is definitely wrong. Everyone looks the same, particularly the older women trying to compete with the young, showing off as much exposed cleavage as possible to enhance their sex appeal, which constitutes an additional lowering of the standard of holiness. What constitutes holiness does not rely on a physical appearance exclusively, but be it known dear reader, our spiritual temperament will reflect a visible physical manifestation.

This spiritually diseased condition of the churches in America also reflects a grim prognosis relative to its collective spiritual health, and is failing precipitously. Undeterred by the voice of conscience, unscrupulous Pastors are routinely using high pressure techniques such as "the Lord say," "God wants to bless you," "or the Lord told me to tell you" to exploit their congregations and the congregations of others, by wresting thousand dollar checks and other concessions from the hands of poor working class individuals, who are desperate to try anything for a way out of their grinding poverty. This is the nexus

of unmitigated arrogance by religious leaders and the promotion of evil, invoking the spirit of “white witchcraft as they deceitfully weave a lie attached to the name of God. This unholy alliance of convenience is unjustifiably a slave and master relationship, much like the horse and his rider that is seen riding off into the sunset. Such unscrupulous behavior has now created a growing backlash in an already skeptical and jaded society, questioning the very foundation of our religious relativism, making Christianity the laughing stock in a circus sideshow.

The mental, psychological and emotional exploitation of God’s people is a travesty of justice and must be stopped. The church world is guilty and pulpits remain silent while this practice goes on. Pastors, who are presumably the shepherd of the flock, are routinely being transformed from a trusted Mister Hyde to a despicable and insidious Doctor Jekyll personality. Like ravening wolves, they personify a diabolical menace who easily subdue and seduced lonely and vulnerable women whom God has entrusted in their care into a bed of fornication and adultery, bringing shame to the body of Christ and causing haters of the cross to blaspheme the name of Jesus. Such moral dilemma calls into question the integrity and viability of the church in our socially integrated communities.

Pastors are now engaged in a game of role reversal, which has taken the phrase “servants of God” to the next level, where the servants become masters and the people become slaves. Becoming a genuine servant to the people has become taboo, as they the Pastors, expectantly wait to be catered to by those who are hopelessly used and abused in the most shameful way. To add insult to injury, some Pastors have the audacity to flamboyantly parade themselves down main street with shameless abandonment, driving the most expensive foreign cars, portraying images of hustlers dealing drugs and small time pimps of young prostitutes. This is in conjunction with living in multi-million dollar homes, while a great portion of their congregation live in economically depressed communities with

a majority surviving on living assistance, while some go hungry and others unable to pay the rent. This is a disgraceful embarrassment and reprehensible insult to the integrity of God's people. The public is up in arms at this shocking display of insensitivity on the part of these so called "men of God," who blatantly engage in a culture of excess, that skeptics are routinely vilifying all Pastors regardless of innocent or guilt and Peter is now paying for the sins of Paul. The secular world has justifiably coined the phrase "Pulpit Pimps," which unfortunately, characterizes unscrupulous religious leaders, who are panhandlers of the gospel for self-serving interests and illicit gains. This is a disgraceful and unsavory characterization of the church's leadership, which is having a profound and negative impact affecting the ecumenical relationship between honest and legitimate church leaders and the public at large.

The willful and malicious cover-up and sheltering of known pedophiles by the church's hierarchy is a testament of the church's culpability in promoting the exploitation and sexual molestation of thousands of innocent young boys enduring a reign of terror spanning decades. This is an insidious and disgraceful act reflecting the church's failed leadership responsibilities and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Victim advocacy groups have won millions of dollars in punitive damages, leaving some offending entities on the brink of virtual bankruptcy. Such depravity on the part of the church's conduct is self inflicted, erasing centuries of goodwill in the eye of public domain and is tantamount to blunt trauma on its moral psyche and an assault to its spiritual equilibrium.

A TIME TO READ

Isn't it amazing, that of the myriad of books that line the shelves of Christian Book Stores, not a single copy represent a genuine attempt to reveal the empirical and spiritual side of the Christian

odyssey. The majority of these books portray a theological dictum that is vague, ambiguous, and is predisposed to promoting only the temporal side of Christian existential living. These genres of print media are often times latent deceptions that will never allow anyone to fulfill his or her levels of expectation; to the dismay of some and the consternation of others. Not a single author has had the audacity to publish a testimonial manuscript that reflects his or her personal success and signed by Pastors Tom, Dick, or Harry, which would inspire others to overcome life's inevitable surprises by their testimonies. One is most likely to see book titles reflecting subject matters such as;

- How to be a successful prayer warrior:
- How to have a successful prayer life:
- How to have a happy and successful marriage:
- How to love your wife as Christ love the church:
- How to overcome the Devil:
- How to endure suffering:
- How to be the good Christian;
- How to do this; how to do that; and the list goes on and on:

One has yet to see Christian book stores carry titles such as:

How I became a successful prayer warrior:

My successful prayer life:

My happy and successful marriage:

How I overcame the Devil:

How I endured through long suffering:

My good Christian life:

I love my wife as Christ loves the church.

There is an old cliché; “do as I say, but not as I do.” This philosophy has lost its relevancy to the majority of serious minded Christian. People are sick and tired of hypocrites writing about “how to do it” and church leaders are not living it. Some are preaching

and teaching on sanctified anointed pulpits on Sunday morning, after dancing with the devil all week long, with most of Saturday nights spent locked in the arms of their illicit lovers. Leaders are simply not living what they preach. Before one can share the fruits of righteousness, one must first be a partaker.

The purpose of this book is not to agree or disagree on any particular aspect. The objective is to shine a spot light and bring awareness to those who can make a conscious decision on the social and moral issues that are hovering beneath the religious radar screen. It is simply to wake up the moral consciences of those who lie in stupor, and in a profound way affect those who don't know, don't care, and engage the minds of those displaying total apathy and mental disconnect toward the prevailing issues that are fundamental to our moral development.

We are about to embark on a journey of which I'm certain you may not have traveled before. This road map was not forged by the typical naive Seminary students, who spend four or sundry years in an anti-God environment, and have become attached to the acronym PhD, writing books advocating the irrational nuance of a new age philosophy. Years of research into the Hebrew and Greek scriptures, is in itself a religious and archaeological rite of passage leading one to infinite rivers of truth flowing from the pages of the Bible. This experience will hopefully lead to a clearer and greater understanding of the spiritual and natural sciences of the Most High God. We are hopeful that the reader will be entreated to approach this book with an open mind, seeing this is not the profile of a novice. I pray this book will become a divine instrument of learning in religious institutions and secular establishments, and read by as many Pastors for provocative insight and engaging dialog.

THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET

Our loving God has truly shown a degree of utter ruthlessness, portrayed in the annals of ancient human history. Yet, His patience and willingness to suffer long are underscored by the revelation of His true nature and character as was revealed to Moses, one of Israel's foremost and greatest prophets, in the book of Exodus the 34:6:

*“The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, KJV
long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth.”*

God, having reiterated through numerous prophets His intent to reconcile the actions of a rebellious and disobedient people if only they will repent, and that He will not destroy a nation or people without a comprehensive effort to forewarn them, showcased the metaphorical Ezekielian mandate; “the watchman on the wall,” to sound the alarm or trumpet to an impending disaster. This principle holds true then and now, and was relative to Apollyon, formally called Abaddon in the Hebrew Scriptures and Apollyon in the Greek; the Angel of Destruction and initiator of perversion, for so is his nature. A destroying angel of the pre-angelic heavens, synonymous with a sadistic ruthlessness of chaos and destruction for which there has been no equal. God, having relegated him to chains of darkness in the bottomless pit with continuous incarceration, soon to be released to initiate a disobedient mankind to the perils of consummate destruction, as narrated by the Apostle John in the book of the Apocalypse; Revelation chapter nine.

In contrast to Lucifer a later creation; angel of light and beauty who was ornately adorned with nine precious stones of radiating horns of light embedded upon a breastplate of gold: His sanctuary being defiled by the multitude of his iniquity and constant trafficking, hoping for the glory of self-adulation, self-glorification and rewards of prosperity. His audacious scheme to undermine the authority and power of the sovereign God was the ultimate lesson in futility. His

attitude towards spiritual headship brought about his ultimate demise and forced capitulation as portrayed in the book of Ezekiel 28:18; a stark reminder to leaders who have scaled the height of holiness, yet dabbling in secret sins. Their night will finally turn to day. Their day of reckoning is at hand. And for those who aspire to go beyond the threshold of their levels of spiritual competence to a level of gross incompetence, will sooner rather than later, succumb to the perils of their own device, falling off their galloping horse of pride. To the destruction of the three previous creations; the first by fire, to which God has made clear references in the 46th division of Psalms, leaving much physical evidence to substantiate that claim and to identify that creation in question: The second creation destroyed by water and the removal of its natural lights, sun, moon and stars, remained a frozen wasteland of ice to which there is ample biblical and physical evidence; and thirdly; the antediluvian world of Noah; destroyed by water, all for the sins of perversion and unnatural cohabitation:

To Judah the southern kingdom of Israel; the quintessential poster child of Jewish affirmation in religious piousness and self-righteous hypocrisy, boasting the great Jerusalem; the Holy City with its first standing temple, first called Jews in a derogatory and condescending manner; the precursor of things to come: Portrayed a brazen and bellicose behavior by her leaders with her abominable lifestyle of idolatry, human sacrifice and demon worship according to 2nd Kings 16:6: And finally the rejection of her Messiah prompted the third major and cataclysmic destruction of her third temple and forced migration of the children of Israel, permanently residing as captives and strangers in foreign lands. Albeit, being firsthand witness to the complete destruction and dispersion of the ten northern Israeli tribes by the Assyrian army, a vindication of God's judgment; yet, southern Israel remain unrepentant and was obstinate in their heart towards the God of their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, utterly refusing the warning sound, such as the blowing of the trumpet by her prophets.

To modern day man, God's ultimate creative masterpiece; will witness God's fourfold destruction and final attempt to chastise creation with an instrument of fire: as it was in the beginning, so shall it be in the end. Contrary to popular belief, the contrasting sides of a loving God will be displayed as He sits in judgment, exercising His great power and complete authority as sovereign ruler over the universe including a decadent world, which will shake and tremble in an uncanny way. To Him will all creation bow as King of kings and Lord of lords. To God be the glory; great things He has done.

AN INTROSPECTIVE LOOK

Living in Brooklyn, New York where the murder rate had surpassed the birthrate of some states had become a very dangerous proposition from my prospective. I had just finished my first year of Business College and saddled with the prospect of three more years of complete isolation in this concrete jungle, I decided life would be too boring to continue the status quo. Needing some excitement and fulfillment in my life, I decided to take a bold leap into the deep waters of the unknown. I will never forget that cold October night, my first night in boot camp as I peeked over the high concrete partition from the warmth and security of our second floor. Beneath us at the bus depot, a Greyhound bus had just coasted into the arrival station bringing additional Air force recruits to their final destination.

Being late arrivals and having recently disembarked from a long and arduous journey, the recruits stood with a certain laxity and heightened suspicion, nervously investigating their new surroundings. Suddenly, the huge imposing silhouette of a man through the darkened black drop of the night mysteriously appeared out of thin air. His stealthy approach was reminiscent of the Phantom of the

Opera in a classic horror flick and had a traumatic and shocking effect among the unsuspecting recruits. His presence unannounced invaded the darkness like the specter of a ghostlike being, disturbing the stillness of the night.

Without warning, his booming voice shattered the serenity of the darkness with a heavy base-like rumble causing a loud and menacing decibel, took the young recruits by complete surprise. “All right you guys, pick up your suitcases!” He hollered. “No! Put it down! Pick it up! Put it down! Pick it up!” To the best of my recollection, all these commands being given in rapid succession lasted approximately fifteen seconds. The recruits by this time were so frightened out of their wits, were involuntarily picking and dropping their luggages long after the instructor had suddenly and intentionally vanished into the darkness unnoticed, creating an ambiance of terror and an incredible scene of confusion.

My attention by now was so riveted to this unusual fiasco happening outside just below my window, made me oblivious to my immediate surrounding. A commotion inside suddenly drew my attention as I turned and saw half of my companion on their backs kicking and hollering in uncontrollable fits of laughter. I couldn't laugh; I just couldn't laugh as I looked in disbelief. I had just watched what I perceived to have been a shocking episode of the twilight zone. I was about to ponder and analyze the situation when I heard the familiar voice echoing like a clap of booming thunder; “fall in!” “Fall in” is a preparatory command to form a straight line to correct any chaotic or intentional disarray. “Fall in” commands immediate response by the attendees as requested by the commanding official.

Bewildered, and unable to decipher the meaning of “fall in,” the recruits began opening their bags to what was sure to be an inspection. A chorus of laughter roared in the background. Some continued lifting and dropping their suitcases like a bunch of mechanical robots hitting the pavement in an nonrhythmic cadence. The noise

echoed like workers operating equipment and hammering nails on a construction site disturbing the stillness of night. He suddenly appeared and hollered; “follow me! Left! Right! Left! Right!” To my amazement, everyone made a mad dash to gather his belongings that were now scattered on the pavement, trying to make certain not to be left behind. They all headed into an undisclosed location with everybody in tow, willingly following in complete obedience. Some were hurriedly following in what seemed to be a slight jog; others were trying to march but in a hurried pace. The rest were walking like robots swinging their bags in every direction and were completely out of step. They all looked dazed and confused.

Pandemonium had settled in the building. Some recruits were lying on their bunks faced up with blank stares on their faces unable to comprehend the magnitude of this shocking incident. Others were being resuscitated from indulging in raging fits of laughter, sounding very much like a pack of howling wolves. I personally witnessed one guy who seemed to be gasping for breath. This episode is indelible engraved in my psyche, I cannot forget it, nor do I wish to forget. The lessons learned were invaluable to my understanding the psychological makeup of an individual. I had a first-hand encounter with the military’s use of psychological warfare to intimidate, control and ultimately changing an individual’s predisposition. Armed with what I knew, I had absolutely no problem passing boot camp and was certainly ready to face whatever challenges I would ultimately encounter in a military or religious setting.

MY DAMASCUS ROAD

Three years having transpired since that infamous October night, and after having finished a grueling Basic Electronic and Electrical School in some remote Air Base in Illinois, I was stationed at a small Air Base in Northwest Florida, where I attended more

electronic classes relative to that aircraft system and on-the-job training. I enrolled in the base's Aero Club, where I completed ground school and commenced flight training. My ultimate ambition was to become a pilot for American Airlines and was certainly heading in that direction. I had the world by the proverbial tail. A young Italian looking airman in our unit named Steve kept hounding me day after day with annoying speeches such as; "God wants to save you." At this particular time I was not interested in any God saving me, or to be side-tract by religious zealots, and in a polite and respectable manner declined his offer. I was having the best time of my life and I simply was not about to let God control my life and tell me what to do. I did not consider myself to be egocentric, but I was very self-conscious of my self image and could not see myself approaching total strangers saying; Hi! Are you saved? God wants to save you. Everything however, was about to change.

One Friday evening in particular, while attending one of the local clubs, all hell seemed to have broken loose. After consuming a relatively small amount of rum and coke to bolster my confidence, I was savoring the ambiance of a glorious evening and being very much in control, my female companion and I decided to do a disco number. Suddenly, I was completely immobilized by an unseen force on the dance floor and became rigid like a lifeless statue. My entire body froze in a kind of suspended animation and I was unable to move any part of my body. Like a statue frozen in time, I just looked on.

I could hear the music, people's voices, but not a single part of my body was able to move. I stood there immobile, confused and frightened having absolutely no control of myself whatsoever. My partner seemed alarmed and ask; "are you all right?" "Yes!" I replied, lying to myself as I was suddenly released by this unseen force and rushed to my table to consume my unfinished drink, but to my complete amazement it tasted like a glass of tap water. I thought to myself, this must be some sort of mistake, so I immediately rushed

to the bar to order myself a new drink. “Heavy on the rum” I said, hoping to erase this incident from my mind. I was speechless as I realized I was once again drinking plain water. I stood there feeling utterly confused and unsure of what to do next. The mind can play tricks on you in periods of distress, but I pride myself on having a sharp logical mind and was not prepared for what happened next. Out of the clear I heard a voice speak distinctively, as it echoed within my head, “leave this place!” I hurriedly excused myself, grab my keys, rushed out of that club, jumped into my car, hit the peddle to the metal and disappeared into the night.

You might say I had a Damascus road experience. Remember that friend who relentlessly pursued me about God? I finally accepted one of his invitations to attend his church one Sunday morning. I was expecting a big fancy church with posh pews and crystal chandeliers, only to be taken to a small white painted church into a black neighborhood, which made me extremely suspicious. It was there that I was introduced to what is typically referred to as a sanctified church. He beckoned me to enter only to receive the greatest shock of my life. Practically everyone in this multi-racial church setting was shouting without being prompted to do so by the pastor. Some were literally running up and down the isle with the rest speaking in tongues.

When the music started, it seemed as if someone had poured gasoline and lit a match; the place virtually caught fire. What an experience that was. I stood there in amazing wander, only to feel a sense of calmness and tranquility come over me. I cannot explain the magnitude of the entire awesome experience, nor the transformation of my predisposition to become part of this strange bunch of individuals. My soul finally found peace. For some strange reason I felt this was where I belonged. Shortly thereafter, I gave my heart to Jesus Christ and accepting him as Lord of my life; the rest is history. Something unique transpired a few months after my conversion. While we were having midnight prayer one Thanksgiving

night, at midnight to be exact, I was suddenly baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I know some doubtful individuals and pious Christians out there do not believe simply because it's not part of their experience. Quite obviously, no such thing is possible unless it is sanctioned by their belief structure or advocated by their religious organization. It is your prerogative to doubt. However, if there were any semblance of doubt on my part it completely disappeared. I became fully persuaded because seeing is believing; it made a believer out of me. That was the most amazing thing that ever happened to me.

The morning after, all my sensory perceptions were heightened many fold. The sun seemed to have shone with an unusual brilliance and had a dazzling effect like diamonds sparkling in the air. All the trees seemed greener with the sky radiating in an ethereal blue like a vast heavenly ocean. I couldn't stop laughing and was constantly smiling to myself. I must have looked like a complete lunatic with a constant grin on my face. Everyone would ask: Man! Are you okay?

I've heard skeptics say "speaking in tongues" is a thing of the past and was given primarily to the Apostles. This is a lie perpetrated mostly by religious leaders who are unable to justify the absence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in their lives with the evidence of speaking in tongues. The Apostles are not of the past, but are of the New Testament era, which includes us. Others who are ignorant and unlearned say speaking in tongues is of the devil with no particular Biblical justification. My advice to them is; go argue it with Jesus; or rather, have a little talk with Jesus. I challenge you to do a little research and Google the word "Azusa Street." There you will find the inception of America's great spiritual Pentecostal awakening in the early part of the Twentieth Century being spearheaded by an African American preacher, who was primarily the catalyst for the entire Pentecostal movement with its emphasis of Holy Ghost filled tongue

talking believers spreading their movements throughout America and eventually all over the world.

I left the military a few years after that assignment and was fortunate to find employment with Lockheed Martin, an aircraft company in California and spent two years in Saudi Arabia as a civilian contractor and trainer/technician to the Saudi Royal Air Force. Retrospectively, these two years in a foreign land where elements of the Old and New Testament were probably conceived, and where I was forbidden to practice my faith, including being involved in numerous illegal underground church assemblies at risk to my personal freedom, laid the initial framework for my spiritual foundation and moral development. It gave me an introspective look into the sacred writings of the word of God: The Bible, which is without question the written word of God, finally began to come alive.