

**"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)**

www.oakhillministries.org ■ 2115 Graefenburg Road ■ Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
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ONE MAN'S TESTIMONY

(Part Two)

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"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19)

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." (Galatians 6:7& 8)

In the early years of my new walk in the Spirit I was invited to speak to a large gathering of Christian businessmen in Lexington, Kentucky. I shared my personal testimony, which as always included a strong emphasis on the absolute certainty of God's word. After the meeting was over, a local doctor came up to me and prophesied to me the following; "If you really believe God's word to be as certain as you say it is, then God will take you places where you do not want to go." This man's word to me was so strong that the man, who had invited me to speak, apologized for him. While it bothered me a bit, I soon dismissed it as nothing more than the ramblings of a mean spirited brother, if in fact he was a brother. Little did I know that what this man spoke, was in fact, the truth. I had sown tons of seed over the years, that was sown to my flesh and now I was about to experience the corruption of that seed. In the natural, you could say that my business activity, my civic activity and my church activity was all ethically and morally OK. It appeared that I was living a good Christian life. But – I had violated the commandments, precepts and judgments of God and in so doing, I was going to suffer the consequences. The fact that I was now born again, had been baptized in the Holy Spirit and was full of zeal for our God, made no difference. I had sown the seed, and now it was harvest time. Thank God for His mercy.

Someone said "a man with an argument is no match for a man with an experience." This is a true statement. I was now a man who had had a real, totally supernatural experience with the living God. It wasn't born out of a lot of religious hype. It wasn't born out of my falling under the influence of some religious teacher. Neither was it born out of "myself", out of my efforts, my desires. No! What had happened to me was nothing but a sovereign move of God, and it was so totally unexpected, and so totally supernatural, and so totally apart from me and my control of things, that I was completely convinced that Father had called me. Yes, I now had an experience and no man, nor demon from hell could convince me otherwise. It would take this absolute confidence in God to sustain me during the soon to arrive storm. Thank God for His mercy.

It wasn't long after my spiritual awakening that Judy (who had had her own spiritual experience) and I felt led to start visiting a charismatic-full Gospel church. We soon joined that church where we made many friends who also had left all sorts of other denominations. We had much in common with our fellow believers and we were especially impressed by their love of us. I was also excited about a church that I believed was totally free to walk in the full counsel of God from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. As far as I was concerned, we had arrived at our

destination. It would be years later that I learned that the Charismatic Full Gospel, Independent Church movement was just another new denomination. It may not have been birthed as such, but that is what she had become. I was now a part of that movement and was pursuing the heroes of that movement. Little did I realize that I was slowly – ever so slowly – turning my heart away from “only JESUS” and on to what could become spiritual idolatry for me.

During that Period of my walk, I was saturated with the Charismatic teaching that promised me all of the blessings of God. That included everything from physical healing and financial prosperity to deliverance from all of my problems. I was taught that any problems that I might now have were just the work of the devil. There was much teaching about the “signs and wonders” that followed us full gospel believers. There was always a celebration theme surrounding the praise music. We had victory, we had the promises and now it was party time – all in the name of JESUS. It was always the same, regardless of wherever we visited a Charismatic-Full Gospel Church. From Colorado to Florida, Tennessee or in Kentucky, it was always the same.

I was totally caught up in the movement, because I believed then, and I believe now, in all of the promises of God. I believed then and believe now, in Divine healing, deliverance and in financial prosperity. No one believes in “signs and wonders” more than I. I can tell you before our God that I have personally experienced supernatural healing from the Master. I have experienced supernatural deliverance from the agents of Lucifer. I have experienced supernatural blessings of being freed from debt and also of receiving funds to meet a pressing obligation when I did not have those funds. So please do not think that I am being critical of charismatics and their beliefs. I am not! I thank God for the seed He has sown into Judy and me through the Charismatic Church, just as I thank Him for the seed that was sown into me at the Baptist church of my childhood. And I thank God for the seed that was sown into me through the Christian Church. Oh, I thank God for His mercy! I am continually reminded that Father will frequently take what is flawed, such as the institutional church, and use it to accomplish a purpose of His. He will even turn demonic activity that is directed toward one of His chosen ones back on the enemy, which results in spiritual growth and maturity in the one attacked. Not only that, but I have learned that Father’s judgment and discipline, when applied to His sons and daughters, is actually a demonstration of His mercy and love for us.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

If we were left to our own devices, even with the best of intentions, we would soon self destruct. At present, most of us are so deceived and have so much religious pride in us that we do not have a clue as to how wicked our hearts really are in relation to the holiness of God.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

As Father was now about to allow me to harvest a crop from seed sown prior to my spiritual awakening, I was totally unprepared. By this time, I was on a spiritual roll and planning to do great things for God. I had bought into the complete charismatic doctrine and theology, and was expecting nothing but showers of blessing. If trouble did raise its ugly head, I would simply rebuke the devil, claim victory in the name of JESUS and carry on. How spiritually immature and foolish was I! Thank God for His mercy.

One of the first issues that Father had to deal with in me was the issue of unforgiveness. Back in the 70’s I had developed a large 142-unit apartment-town house development, and one of our tenants was the son of the Chairman of the Democratic Party in Kentucky. My apartment manager considered this tenant to be a trouble maker and because his lease had expired, I approved the issuance of an “eviction notice” giving him 30 days to vacate. With my political background I should have known better, but I stepped into the trap. Without any warning a lawyer who headed up the Kentucky Division of Consumer Protection filed suit against my company and me personally, charging me with “retaliatory eviction” and asked the court to fine me tens of thousands of dollars. I knew this lawyer, as he was a neighbor of mine. Several years later after having spent thousands upon thousands of dollars in

legal fees, I had defeated this man in each court that we entered. I had defeated this man and defeated him soundly. However, just defeating him was not enough. I now set out to punish him. I used my influence in an effort to have him removed from his public office. When he was proposed for membership in the Rotary Club, I again used my influence to have him blackballed and denied membership. Now some ten years later Father had awakened me spiritually but He could not allow me to go where He wanted me to go, until all the un-forgiveness that was in me had been expelled. One of the first things that our God did in me, was to bring this man into the forefront of my mind. What happened then is a long story in itself. I thought that I had forgiven the man who I believed had wronged me, but I quickly found out that my forgiveness was no more than words – shallow – empty – void of the Spirit words. I then thought I would write the man a letter and ask him to forgive me for my hatred of him. Then the Spirit of God spoke through my friend Dave Clark and said: “No, Tom, you are not to write this man. You are to go to him personally.” I knew what I had to do, and it would be one of the hardest things that I had ever done. Early one Monday morning, I arose, got dressed, and without rehearsing what I would say, (I had been instructed by the Spirit to give no thought to what I would say), I drove to the State Capitol where this man’s office was located. I had made no appointment, nor had I let him know that I wanted to see him. I entered the building and walked down a very long hall. I saw this man standing at the end of the hall as if he had been expecting, me. He had a shocked look on his face as I asked him if I could buy him a cup of coffee. As we sat in the coffee shop, I began to tell him what I had done to him. I broke emotionally and wept as I asked him to please forgive me for what I had done. After our meeting, as I was leaving the State Capitol building, I felt a heavy weight lift off me. It was as if I had just gotten up off a sick bed. I walked out into the sunlight and I felt a love for this man that only Father could have given me. To this day, I have only love in my heart for this man. Oh, I do thank God for His mercy! Saints of God, please remember, if there is un-forgiveness in you, and you die with it in your heart, there is no hope for you to be forgiven. There are no exceptions!

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

The seed of un-forgiveness had been sown in me a good 12-15 years before I was spiritually awakened. It had produced a crop of darkness that would have paved the road to hell for me. The absence of love in my heart for this man who had wronged me had reduced me to – nothing (See 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3). My deliverance from un-forgiveness did not come through mere words, but rather through brokenness and true humility. It was a very painful experience as I went through it, but I cannot express in words the joy and peace that continues to fill me as a result of yielding to Father’s hand of discipline. Now that un-forgiveness had been dealt with, Father would begin to deal with other seed that I had sown down through the years.

In 2 Corinthians 6:14 through verse 18, and Chapter 7, verse 1 we are told not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. We are further told to separate ourselves and not to touch those things that are unclean. And, to cleanse ourselves from the filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. In my business activity, I had become yoked together with numerous unbelievers. They were no more spiritually reborn and spiritually awake than I was when we became yoked together in business. We all called ourselves Christians, but according to Father’s definition as outlined in His word, we were anything but Born Again Christians. I had become spiritually re-born and was unequally yoked. To make matters worse, I was void of understanding and unaware of my condition. My lack of knowledge was now placing me in a position where I was at the very least going to miss Father’s blessing. In Hosea Chapter 4, verse 6 we are told by God Himself that, “His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” The knowledge that Father desires us to have can only come through revelation of His word. There is no other way to gain this knowledge. We are foolish to think otherwise.

**“It is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4)**

Due to my lack of knowledge, I had not only sown the seed of being unequally yoked, but I had also sown the seed of “debt” and guaranteeing the debt of others. While I cannot get into a teaching on debt here, I can tell you that

“debt” is a violation of one of God’s precepts, Debt will always, always rob you of Father’s fullest blessing. And when we become surety for another’s debt we suffer loss.

“He who is surety for a stranger will suffer, but he who hates surety is secure.” (Proverbs 11:15)

In Proverbs 22:26 we are told flatly not to become one of those who is surety for debts. Don’t take my word for it, read it for yourself. In Proverbs 22:7 we are told that the borrower is a servant to the lender. In Deuteronomy 15:6 we are told that one of God’s blessings is that we would “lend” but not “borrow”. In Deuteronomy 28:44 we are told that one of the curses of God upon the disobedient is that they will “borrow” and not “lend”. In Habakkuk 2:7 we read:

“Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty.”

My seed had been sown, and even though it was sown in ignorance and prior to being spiritually reborn, I was nevertheless going to be held accountable for my actions. Father could not allow me to move on into the deeper things of His Holiness until my house had been put in order. God’s judgment had arrived at my house. Thank God for His mercy.

“For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness.” (Isaiah 26:9&10)

Father’s judgment suddenly fell on me in the area of my business interests. The judgment of God fell on my personal finances as well, and no area of my financial life was spared. It was as if a nuclear bomb went off right over my head. I do not have the time or space here to go into the details, but let me say that in the natural realm, from the world’s perspective, I had done everything just right. To the best of my knowledge I had conducted my affairs honestly, honorably and had to the best of my ability, done whatever I had obligated myself to do. Because of my certainty that I had done nothing wrong and my charismatic doctrine that blamed the devil for all of our troubles, I was confident that the enemy was my problem as trouble broke out. Of course, all my charismatic brothers and sisters agreed and we all rebuked the devil every time the subject came up for prayer. It would be several years later that Father would show me clearly why He was judging me.

The first serious sign of trouble came when a former business associate sued a Limited Partnership of which I was one of five partners. The basis of the lawsuit was centered around a personal guaranty for the debt of another person. It was a multimillion-dollar suit and would take 10 years just to go to trial. Then there was another lawsuit over the terms of a mortgage on a property that I owned, and that lender moved to foreclose even though all of my payments were current. There was another lawsuit filed relating to one of the hotels that I had purchased and yet another lawsuit filed by the Franchise company that I had contracted with on the same hotel. In addition to all of the lawsuits, my business and personal income began to decline. Instead of having more money than I could keep track of, I was now concerned about just having enough to meet my obligations. I had no less than four law firms working on my behalf at the same time, and the legal fees were beginning to cover me up like a heavy wool blanket. I was in serious trouble and for the first time since my spiritual awakening, I fully realized that I needed Father’s help or my goose was cooked. I was in a war and I knew it. The war that I was now in, would last ten years and would be used of Father to redirect my entire life. I thank God for His mercy.

Now I found myself not only managing my business affairs but also having to deal with my legal problems both at the same time. While all of this was going on my craving for Father’s word never lessened. In fact, it intensified and I dedicated more and more time to the Word of God and private time with Him. Much revelation came, and as I began to apply that revelation to my situation, I began to get positive results. I was shown clearly that debt was not in harmony with God’s precepts. In 1997 I was given a message on the subject of debt and I began to refuse to take on any new debt, and I took drastic action to reduce existing debt by selling off my assets. In the natural, it made no sense at all. I was reducing my net worth and at the same time reducing my personal income. The assets

that I sold were good investments, most of which I could not replace with the same equity position that I had at the time they were sold. My only reason for doing what I did was because Father had shown me clearly, that to be led of the Spirit, one must obey the Spirit. Otherwise, you are just paying lip service to God's word and that leads to religious hypocrisy.

I can report to you now, that as I applied God's word to my situation, within a short time our Father blessed Judy and I, not with more wealth and more stuff, but He blessed us by settling all of our lawsuits. Yes, it was painful – costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. But, he also returned to us many of our assets, including our home, debt free. In addition, we found that we never lacked the funds needed for any legitimate need. God's word works and it works the same for all of us, with no exceptions.

By far the greatest battle I fought during those years was the battle in Ohio involving the multimillion-dollar lawsuit. During the three-week trial, I took a small suite in a downtown Cincinnati hotel. Each morning I arose well before dawn and sat before Father searching His word. One morning late in the trial, as I was praying asking God why all of this was happening to me, especially when I believed that I had done nothing wrong, the Spirit of God gave me the answer. I was immediately lead to Psalm 51:4 where I read:

“Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight – that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

I had my answer! I had sinned against God and God only. I had clearly violated His word by taking on debt, becoming unequally yoked, becoming surety for others, holding un-forgiveness in my heart, and was driven by the deceitfulness of riches and the desire for other things. Now Father had spoken, and He was blameless as He judged me. I was guilty as charged. I had sown to my flesh and was reaping corruption. A part of that corruption was that I was now bringing shame and reproach on the Body of Christ. The newspapers now wrote about my financial problems and lawsuits, when only a few years earlier they wrote about my dedication to our Lord. I was once again shown that Father's word was absolutely true and as certain as God Himself. As this revelation filled my being, I began to rejoice. Even though I was suffering, I was at the same time rejoicing because God had proven Himself through His word. My problem had not been brought about by Lucifer. No! My problem had been brought about by Tom. I had no one to blame but myself and I realized that my troubles were the result of my Father's discipline. And that discipline was an act of His mercy to prepare me to serve Him and Him alone.

The trial ended and the Plaintiff won. All of my partners either declared bankruptcy or settled out of court before the trial. I was left alone and facing a multimillion-dollar cash judgment. I appealed all the way through Ohio's highest court and lost. Then God stepped in and kept the plaintiff from coming to Kentucky and filing his claim which would have immediately forced me into bankruptcy. At the same time I was directed to go to this man, who I had viewed as my enemy, and ask for his forgiveness and mercy. Once again, I learned the meaning of brokenness and humility. Over several months we negotiated a settlement that I was able to pay and the war was over. I had absolutely no ill feelings toward this man then, nor do I now. Finally it was over. All the lawsuits were settled and had become history. The last of the legal fees were paid. Father had chosen not to remove me totally from the business world even though my heart was now separated from that world.

Today I still have some interests in the business world. Those interests provide me with an income to live on and to serve the Kingdom and Government of our God. I have no other interest or heart's desire except to be a disciple of JESUS CHRIST and to serve and follow Him. My personal experience with His word over the past eighteen years has caused me to begin to tremble before His word. My friends this is not a game and the stakes are extremely high. It is about life and death, heaven and hell, blessing and cursing. Most of us are not being properly warned by those who are in leadership positions in the church. I wasn't, and I have been in the church all of my life. For the most part, we are not being prepared to actually meet, face to face, the living God. We no longer take seriously God's warning in Hebrews 10:31 which says, **‘It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.’**

Today, we have been taught to believe that God's grace will cover our disobedience, our lack of a reverential fear of God, our religious pride, our lack of love, etc., etc. Many of us are chasing signs and wonders and running to and fro as we attempt to get our next thrill or spiritual fix. Others of us are busy, busy, busy, in all of our good works, trying to work our way into heaven. Christian television has become a money mill and an electronic blessing machine. Our nation is morally going to hell on a bobsled and the eyes of the Christians are as dry as the desert. Repentance is no where to be found. We are drowning in sex and pleasure, while the blood of the innocents flows through our sewers. We are covered with shame and so spiritually numb and deaf and blind that we can no longer hear the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God's judgment is certain and that judgment is upon us now. I challenge you, in the name of JESUS CHRIST to get off your religious merry-go-round, get out of your spiritual rut before it is too late. Stop blaming Lucifer for your sin, your rebellion, your disobedience and accept the fact that you have sinned against God and God alone. Accept His judgment and His discipline. Father loves you and desires that you be holy. He desires that you have an intimate relationship with Him. Trust Him – He is faithful. Many Christians are about to deny Him when His judgment falls and destroys their little world, even full gospel Christians. They are not going to understand why they are not receiving blessings or why they are not raptured out of trouble. The pain and suffering that lies ahead is the direct result of sin and nothing but sin. Sadly, much suffering could be averted if the church would only repent. May God have mercy.

I conclude this part of my testimony by reminding you that our God will not allow us to mock Him by rejecting any portion of His word. He never has and He never will! I am living proof of the certainty of God's word. My testimony is the direct result of an "experience" with God's word. My covenant with Father began on a mountain side in Eastern Tennessee, just after daybreak when I placed one foot on Genesis 1:1 and the other foot on Revelation 22:21 and pledged to embrace every word down to the last jot and title, as absolute truth. It is now eighteen years later and I have found our Father to be a God of His word.

I close with a full awareness of the fact, that the only reason that I have a testimony is JESUS CHRIST. He "is" the Living word. He is my testimony and as long as He gives me breath, a voice to speak with, or a pen to write with, I am going to speak boldly on behalf of our King. My loyalty is to Him alone, above all else. He has freed me from a love of the world and from the spirits of religion. I have found that it is true: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (2 Corinthians 3:17)

THANK GOD FOR HIS MERCY!

GOD BLESS,

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Tom

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)