

## **Appendix A**

### **Mule Story By Richard**

Sometimes people suffer because they are being a mule. They do not realize that God is working with them. One day when I was doing this God gave me this story to understand what He was doing.

One day there was an old man who had been working the farm for many, many years and he wanted to retire. So he was selling off everything including his mule.

In those days everything was done with the mule. It carried everything, pulled the cart and was used to plow the field. Then along came a young man who had just gotten married and was starting his own farm and needed a mule. The young man asked the old farmer how much for the mule and it was reasonable.

The young man asked if the mule was any good. The old farmer answered that the mule was of good age and would work all day and all night that the mule would do anything the young man would ask. The young man said that the mule was perfect and paid the money and walked away with the mule very happy (he thought his troubles were over).

Three days later the old man sees the young man walking to him dragging that mule behind him. When the young man got to the old man, he throws down the reins and yells at the old man, "You said that this mule was good and would work all day and all night and that he would do everything I told him to do. I cannot get him to do anything but just stands there."

The old man looks at the young man puzzled, then suddenly he shoves a finger in the air and runs to the barn. He comes back with his hands behind his back and walks up to the mule. As he gets close to the mule he brings his hand around from behind his back and cracks a long 2 X 4 board over the mule's head. Then he said, "Oh. I forgot to tell you, first you have to get his attention."

## Appendix B

### Learning to Trust the Mule Way By Richard

I have found that trusting God is the hardest thing in the world to do.

I hope you do not mind that I tell you the story about my alarm clock.

In the Navy if you are late that is one of the most serious thing one could do. You could get a dishonorable discharge after spending server days or weeks in the brig (Navy jail) for it.

So I was in Japan at the time and I had rented a room off base. God had been dealing with me to trust Him for everything, including getting up in the morning. I really did not trust myself to hear Him.

So every time I went to set the alarm clock I would get, "Don't you trust me to wake you up in time to get to the ship?" I would say, (I was scared) "Yes but what if I do not hear you? So I will set the clock for 7:00 am and would You wake me 15 minutes earlier, that way if I do not hear you the alarm clock will do it."

I would then go to sleep. Well that did not work. When I woke up, I found that the alarm clock did not go off and I saw that I woke up at 8:15am and I was supposed to be on the ship at 8am, and I till have a 30 minutes train ride before getting to the ship. I called the ship and told them that I was late and them I would run to the ship. All the while I would be praying for God to get out of trouble because it was not my fault that the alarm clock did not go off. I would also be praying and asking why God did not wake me up, that He failed me and that He has gotten me in big trouble.

So His answer to that was "You did not trust me." Later He showed me that I had turned alarm off but I did not remember shutting it off.

When I got to the ship, everyone was so busy and did not need me, that they did not ever realize that I was late; so all was well—such a miracle.

So the next night when I picked up the alarm clock the Lord said, "Are you going to trust me to wake you up?"

I said the same thing again, "Yes I trust you, but I turned off the alarm and I did not hear You, however, thanks to You I did not get into trouble--this time. So please wake me 15 minutes before the alarm clock is set for", I prayed.

I turned on the alarm and placed it on the other side of the room.

The next morning I woke up 30 minutes late again and when I touched the alarm clock it was turned on, but it ran down and stopped, for it went ding, ding, ding when I picked it up and stopped. I know that I wound it before I went to sleep. So I slept through the alarm ring and like the day before I found myself praying the same thing to get out of trouble and blaming God.

He said again "You did not trust me."

And like the day before, I did not get into trouble for being late. My department had a special event that was voluntary so I did not really need to be there. Thank God.

Well it was finally Friday night and I spent the weekend at the Yokohama Servicemen's Center. I did not have to get up early the next morning. I only had to go to Shinagawa (a train station 30 minutes away) to meet my wife-to be. So after a full night of fellowshipping I went to bed. I was so tired that I forgot to set the alarm. I woke the next morning so wide-awake and I felt so good. But then I looked at the clock, I thought that I was going to be late to pick up her up; I had only 30 to get there. Deep inside my heart, I heard, "Just do not dilly-dally around and you will be ok".

Well I did not realize the Lord's voice. So I started to panic. I was beginning to think that I was prone to always be late. I was a disaster. Anyway I hurried to the bus stop. To my surprise, the bus arrived as I did. Wow this was great.

Then I got to the train station just before her train was arriving. This was perfect. A perfect miracle.

So I praised God. While I was doing this He said, "So what were you worrying about. If you will let Me take care of it by trusting Me, this will always be happening." I was shocked that He was even interested in little things like this. I did not know that. I always had been taught and therefore had the impressions that He was too big, too busy, or just figured that we should take care of those type of things. However, this was the beginning of a great relationship.

Finally the next night I want to sleep and I said "Since the alarm clock is not working anyway and you keep getting me out of trouble with work when I am late, then why shouldn't I trust You. It cannot be any worse. I surrender and give up to You. "

So I prayed, "Lord I trust you and I depend on you to get me up in time to get to work. Thanks."

I turned over to go to sleep and one of the other Christian sailors asked if I was going to use the alarm clock. I told him no, that the Lord would wake me up. He replied that he wished he had that type of faith. I thought if he only knew.

The next morning I woke up the most refreshed I ever had and I was up in time to get me to work perfectly on time.

It has been that way since.

He said "If you will trust and depend on Me, I will never fail you and everything will be perfect. For I love you and I care more about what you are doing than you do. Always remember Matthew 6, First seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness and ALL things will come onto you."

My life is His. I try to do nothing without seeking Him and His kingdom first. And as with the time when I just went to sleep without setting the alarm clock or praying for Him, as long as I trust the Lord, He will be faithful to make sure that I do what is needed.

Many times I would be afraid that I would not hear Him. Or I would be attacked by the devil with a deception like "You are so dense that you can not hear the Lord and so you missed it (whatever it is), because you know that the Lord is faithful, He must have tried to talk to you and you missed it. You are not capable of hearing the Lord."

Well I would then pray to hear the Lord better or something. But the Lord told me, "When I need to talk to you, you will hear it. Don't I have a million ways to get a hold of My children: Lets see, there was Jonah and the big fish, Paul on the road, the talking donkey, and all of the prophets to name a few. Surely I can get your attention and make sure you know what and when to do it. My timing is always perfect. I will make sure that you are on time. All you have to do is trust Me and obey."

So since then, I have dedicated my life to trusting the Lord and obeying Him, and I have never been late. I have been perfectly on time. And now I hear Him directly and He shares things with me. He helps me with my work, my problems, my kids, etc.

Remember, God says that "He who puts his trust in Me (the Lord) will not be put to shame."  
Romans 10:11.

## Appendix C

### Real Death By Richard

This is something that has been heavy on my heart for a long time now.

#### Physical death of Christians

Lately, it seems that our brothers and sisters are dying one way or another. They are dying from sickness or martyrdom. We seem to get very disturbed, depressed, and upset when this happens.

Please do not get me wrong, I am not being morbid or apathetic or callous. I care very much, but being a Christian, death means something else to me, and I am very surprised that others do not have this meaning.

Jesus had a different view of death. Lately a lot of our elderly family members are dying, or our Christian leaders are dying. When this happens here is what the Lord says to me.

John 12:23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. [24] I tell you the truth, **unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies**, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. [25] The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. [26] Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me.

JN 12:27 "Now My heart is troubled, and what shall I say? `Father, save Me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. [28] Father, glorify Your Name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." [29] The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to Him.

JN 12:30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not Mine. [31] Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. [32] But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." [33] **He said this to show the kind of death He was going to die."**

Again He very strongly feels that death is necessary.

Mark 8:31 "He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again. [32] He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

MK 8:33 "But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, He rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" He said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

MK 8:34 "Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. [35] For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. [36] What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? [37] Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? [38] If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

MK 9:1 "And He said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Death is not an evil or bad thing to Jesus; it is the glory of God. To die is to go home. To die is to be out of this corrupt body and be transformed in to the Lord's spiritual body.

Like Paul says in Philippians 1:20

"Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, [19] for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. [20] I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. [21] **For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.** [22] If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! [23] I am torn between the two: **I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;** [24] but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. [25] Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, [26] so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

PHP 3:17 "Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. [18] For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. [19] Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. [20] **But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**"

The Lord's point of view of death shows here what is really important in Matthew 10:26.

"So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. [27] What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. [28] **Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.** [29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. [30] And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. [31] So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

and

REV 20:11 "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. [13] The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. [14] Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. **The lake of fire is the second death.** [15] **If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

The second death is the one to fear, not the physical death.

John 5:24 "**I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life** and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. [25] I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. [26] For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in himself. [27] And He has given Him authority to judge because He is the Son of Man.

JN 5:28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice [29] and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. [30] By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent Me."

Many think that death will hold a lot of suffering. But with Jesus as our Lord He ensures that we do not suffer, as in Acts 7:59

"While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." [60] Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep."

To the Lord physical death is sleep.

But the full truth is that He holds the keys to live and death.

"REV 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. [18] I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! **And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**"

WE need to TRUST the Lord.

JN 16:31 "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. [32] "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave Me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for My Father is with Me.

JN 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! **I have overcome the world.**"

So these things must come to pass before the Lord returns.

LK 21:12 "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. [13] This will result in your being witnesses to them. [14] But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. [15] For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. [16] You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. [17] All men will hate you because of me. [18] **But not a hair of your head will perish. [19] By standing firm you will gain life.....**

This is the real warning for Christians.

LK 21:34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. [35] For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. [36] Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

AND

Matthew 24:42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. [43] But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. [44] So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

MT 24:45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? [46] It



will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. [47] I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. [48] But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' [49] and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. [50] The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. [51] He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

MT 25:1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish and five were wise. [3] The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. [4] The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. [5] The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

MT 25:6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

MT 25:7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

MT 25:9 " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

MT 25:10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

MT 25:11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

MT 25:12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

MT 25:13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

So we must be wise Children of God who watches and are prepared. Here is what we need to pray for our brothers and sisters. This is to ensure that they do not fall into the second death.

But rather that the Lord would have us pray for the ones who are doing the killing. We need to pray for their salvation. They are the ones who have a greater chance of going through the second death and really die. If we prayed and saved all those doing the killing, then the killing will stop. I am not saying that we should not pray for those brothers and sisters that are being killed, but they are saved. Jesus came to save the sinner not one who is already saved.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. [18]

Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because He has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. [19] This is the verdict: **Light** has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of **Light** because their deeds were evil. [20] Everyone who does evil hates the **Light**, and will not come into the **Light** for fear that his deeds will be exposed. [21] But whoever lives by the truth comes into the **Light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

So we need to have prayer groups and time mostly for the sinners.

We need to turn on the Light and not spend time on driving out the darkness.

Finally, God's main command is to love God with all of your heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbor as your self. But what is love? He tells us in I Corinthians 13.

1CO 13:1 "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

1CO 13:4 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1CO 13:8 "Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. [9] For we know in part and we prophesy in part, [10] but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. [11] When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. [12] Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

1CO 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

So we are to love our neighbor, family members or such. And what is this love, to want the best for others, and not be selfish. When you are sad because some one has died, what are you really saying? Is not that you will miss them, you want them there to love and hold, to want them to love you and take care of you, you want..., you want..., you want.... What is "you wanting" mean? It means that you are very selfish, you are self centered, and you do not really care for those who died, for if you did, you would be rejoicing like the Angels in heaven because a soul has gone home to be with our father. Or are you envious that they are with God and not you?

Either way, you are not being loving to your neighbor. You are being selfish and self-centered. You should be happy that they were chosen to go home with God. Being depressed, sad, lonely, and extremely mournful are signs of self-centeredness and not loving as God loves. It is not living in the Holy Spirit, but with the evil spirits of this world. Remember love is not a feeling; it is a choice of action, of being, of living.

To remove this evil spirits (Galatians 5), ask for forgiveness for sinning, and repent from living in the evil spirit and not the Holy Spirit. Make the decision to only act loving as I Corinthians 13 says, and renew your mind or make up you mind to be that way.

## **Appendix D**

### **Dare to Believe By Richard**

Why are you hungry? Why are you dying of thirst? Why are you sick?

Did I not feed 5000 men from 12 loaves of bread and 5 fish, and not just once? Did I not provide manna from heaven for over 600,000 men? Did I not bring enough fish, where there was not, to break Peter's net and almost sink His boat? Did I not bring water out of a stone? Did I not turn water into wine? Then why are you hungry and thirsty?

Did I not raise Lazarus from the grave? Did I not heal many people? Did I not say, that by My stripes you were healed? I took 39 strips, the same quantity of all categories of disease and sickness. I paid the price of your healing; believe and receive.

I dare you to believe Me. I dare you to put Me to the test. I dare you do prove Me wrong, that I am not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I dare you to prove Me wrong that I did not create the heaven and the earth and all that is on it.

I dare you to believe My promises to take care of those who are My children, all of those who have faith in Me.

I love My people so much that I sent My only begotten Son to you, and sacrificed Him for you so that you can be My children. I love Him, do I love you less? He died for you so that you may have life and have life more abundantly. Does He love you less than I?

I dare you to believe, that I will provide and care for you. I dare you to believe that I will fulfill My promises as I have written them in the Bible. That is My word. Will I not protect it and enforce it. It is My word. I will always fulfill My word.

So I dare you to believe My word and see if I am not GOD.

I will make your desert a garden full of milk and honey. I will make your dry well a full spring of flowing water. I will make your cracking river a mighty flowing river forever.

If you dare to believe Me and have faith. If you are starving or dying of thirst, then what can you lose in believing and having faith in Me.

I dare you to believe Matthew 6 [33] "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

I dare you to believe Psalms 23:1 "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters..."

I dare you to believe Psalm 91.

PS 91:1 “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”

PS 91:2 “I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”

PS 91:3 “Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.”

PS 91:4 “He will cover you with His feathers,  
and under His wings you will find refuge;  
His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”

PS 91:5 “You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

PS 91:6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.”

PS 91:7 “A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.”

PS 91:8 “You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.”

PS 91:9 “If you make the Most High your dwelling--  
even the LORD, who is my refuge--

PS 91:10 then no harm will befall you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.”

PS 91:11 “For He will command His angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;

PS 91:12 they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

PS 91:13 “You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.”

PS 91:14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges My name."

PS 91:15 "He will call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him."

PS 91:16 "With long life will I satisfy him  
and show him my salvation."

I dare you to believe that I will do what I say I will do. Put Me to the test and see if I am not your  
GOD.

I cry when you hurt, and suffer especially when I can help you and deliver you, but you do not  
ask for My help; you do not seek Me; you do not knock for My help.

For I say"

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and  
the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds;  
and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

I dare you to believe. I dare you to use your faith to release My blessings. All you have to do is  
to believe My Word, trust Me to fulfill My promises when you ask, seek and knock for me. Then wait  
for My answers. This is faith: believing, trusting and doing.

Did I not say that in the end days that I would pour out My spirit on all?

So why are you dying? I already did that for you. So why then? Because you do not believe.  
Believe so that I can bless you My children. Believe so that I can care for you and that you might have  
life more abundantly.

All you need is faith the size of a mustard seed. I dare you to believe you have that much faith  
and come to Me.

Like with Lot trying to save Gomorrah, if there are but 10 who believe, I will restore your land  
and you will prosper.

## **Appendix E**

### **Story of the My Bible By Richard**

Right after I became a Christian, my brother as was his custom, gave me a bible, "The Way".

I started to read it from the beginning, and I was determined to read it from front to back. I did not realize that the bible is the living word, which is to be read as the Lord guides.

So anyway I was really happy and excited about this. But as the days grew on, I got tired of numbers, Deuteronomy and so it went. Each day, this brother asked me if I read the New Testament yet, which I had not because it was 1200 pages away. It would be a long time before I got there. So each day I got more and more depressed as I tried to go through this mud of the Old Testament.

After about 3 weeks of this, I lost my bible.

(Little background. I was in the Navy. We slept on cots. I did not have room in my locker to keep this large book, so I kept it on my pillow. I figured that no one would steal a bible. So it should be safe. It was becoming my custom that after work and I got cleaned up, I would get in bed and read the bible to sleep. What else was there to do on a 300-foot ship in the middle of the ocean, going around I circles.)

On this morning, I made my bed, and placed my bible on my pillow and went to work. It turned out that it was a short workday, and I decided to read some more so that I could finally read the New Testament. Well when I got back to my bed the bible was gone. But at the foot of my cot was a small, green, pocket bible. It was cute. I asked around to find out whose it was and every one said that it was not theirs nor do they know who it belonged to. So I kept it. And it fit nicely in my shirt pocket.

I then also looked around and asked every one if they saw my bible and again nothing from everyone. So later, I went to bed depressed having lost my bible. But I was reminded of my new bible. So I picked it up and it fell open to John 14. I glanced at it and started to read. My depression lifted. I was so filled with the Joy of the Lord that I wanted to burst out. Later that night as I read more, I just had to share this new revelation with my brother. So I went to his cot and as stared at him, waiting for him to stop reading his bible. When he looked up, he said, "You finally read the New Testament." I said, "How do you know?" He said, "The Joy of the Lord is all over your face."

Well from then on I was compelled to read that green bible. I was so filled from that day on that I never wanted to stop reading. That is when the Lord could talk to me through the green bible and deal with me and create in me a new man.

6 months later, we were discussing bibles at the Service Men's Center. And all of the brothers were saying that if you really wanted the Word of God that had meat to grow on, you needed to read the

King James Version. So after a long discussion, I decided to get one. The following day I went to the local Christian bookstore and got a King James Version.

As soon as I opened that bible, that depression came back. Longer I read that book the worse it got. I became alienated again like I was when I read "The Way" bible.

A couple weeks later, I forgot my King James Bible. I saw one of the green bibles lying around and picked it up and started to read it again. It was finding an old friend. The depression left me and the Joy of the Lord returned.

I asked God what happened and as one of the first direct answers I got from Him, He said, "What I have given you, let no man take away. I gave you that bible; it is from Me to you. You keep that bible and only that bible (version, not that specific book, they wear out). And I want you to give that book to all that I lead to you and to those that you are to help. I wrote that book for your generation, for it is in the language that you understand. You will not understand any other version."

This is how I became attached to the Berkeley Version Bible, or the Modern Version Bible.

I had many of those books. The Gideon Society published it. So they kept the Navy full of them and the King James Version. I would go to the base Chaplain and get cases of that bible, and I would give them away to all of the Christian Service Men's Center where I went. I left them in Hong Kong, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Japan.

But I gave my last one away and I went to Gideons, and I found out that they no longer published that bible anymore. They went to the NIS version. I looked and looked for that bible, and to no avail.

Finally, last year, the Lord suggested that I call Gideons and find out who bought that bible and see if they would see me some. Turns out that Henderson Publishing bought it.

While looking for that version, I did find a nice bible, the Prophecy study bible by John Hagee. I have been reading it. It is pretty good. I also got the NIS version, I have to read something, and it is also pretty good. But I still have a compulsion for the Berkeley Version.



## **Appendix F**

### **Prepare the way By Richard**

As usual, I need to ask your patience as we (the Lord and I) put this together. The Lord has been working on me about this for several months now. As I said, the Lord has been dealing with me about the upcoming year and what is going to happen and what to do. I am on several prophesy mailing lists and I search the WEB for what the Lord has been telling others or at least what they are saying about the Lord and what is to come.

More lately He has been showing me scriptures that all pertain to the end times and what He has said that He says is will happen. So on with it.

The Lord has been saying , "Be and/or get prepared for next year, war is going to happen, disaster is going to happen, get prepared for the worst. Riots, famine, disease, sickness, natural disasters (earth quakes, floods, draught, hurricanes, and the like) are going to happen."

I asked why is He going to cause all of this evil on us. The Lord said that how can He (pure, holy, good) do evil? I asked, "Isn't all of this bad stuff evil?" He answered, "What I do is never evil. Bad things happen but they are not all evil. What I do is punishment, chastisement, Holy vengeance, purification of My children. Since when is that evil?"

So what I have learned is that bad things happen and God one way or another is the one who does it. But if He does it, it is not evil. Evilness is selfish, greedy, selfishly jealous, all of the things of the flesh as indicated in (GAL 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21] and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.)

When we act on these, then is it evil, and since God cannot do this, His actions, even if we think they are bad and should be evil, cannot be because God cannot be evil.

The reason I am bringing this up is that I have been reading a lot lately about how God cannot do anything bad to us because all bad things are evil. Well God's wrath is not evil but when it happens many bad things happen to those who receive His wrath.

And one of the things to come after Jan. 1, 2000 is God is going to pour out His wrath on everyone, the just and unjust alike. God's wrath is going to create a lot of damage, and if we are not prepared, we will be caught up in that wrath and we will suffer too.

That is not God's intention. He has been giving us ample warning (for warned is for armed) by the modern day prophets and the old time prophets. But we must be listening to God and do as He indicates. (more on this later).

All one has to do is open the bible and with Faith (believing, trusting and doing) with the Holy Spirit's guidance and teaching according to John 14:25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. [26] But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

So the Father promises that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things and He will also remind us of all that He taught us. So trusting (acting on faith) the Lord that the Holy Spirit will do this, read the Bible and He will show the things to come.

Another way to think of the up coming disasters is that God is removing His merciful protecting hand from the World. It is His strong hand that protects everyone, and now He is removing it. This will allow the fruits of the Flesh and it is pushed, twisted, and controlled by the devil to be free to do as it wishes. God does not really have to do anything, because the enemy and the Flesh will do it all for Him. All He has to do is nothing, and they will do the rest. However this is not toward man, but toward nature, He will do. Revelations shows this in the breaking of the Seals. Do not these angels of disaster belong to God and are they not following His orders?

So what is the purpose of this? Well it is to show that God is in control and that even though His wrath is being poured out on everyone--He is not respecter of persons but only of His family. So we (Christians) must be seen as His family, His bride, His children. But how are we to be this. Is just being saved (becoming a Christian) enough or what? Well He has been saying that we must be Holy and Pure because He is and therefore His family must be or they are not His family.

Matthew 12:46 "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. [47] Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." [48] He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" [49] Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. [50] For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

Therefore His family, are those who do the Will of the Father. So here is a few examples of the Lord's will that we be **pure**:

MT 5:8 "Blessed are the **pure** in heart, for they will see God."

2CO 11:1 "I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. [2] I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a **pure** virgin to him. [3] But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. [4] For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. [5] But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-

apostles." [6] I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way."

PHP 1:9 "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, [10] so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be **pure** and blameless until the day of Christ, [11] filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God."

PHP 2:14 "Do everything without complaining or arguing, [15] so that you may become blameless and **pure**, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe [16] as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. [17] But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. [18] So you too should be glad and rejoice with me."

PHP 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is **pure**, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. [9] Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

1TI 1:3 "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer [4] nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith. [5] The goal of this command is love, which comes from a **pure** heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. [6] Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. [7] They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm."

1TI 5:22 "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself **pure**."

2TI 2:22 "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a **pure** heart. [23] Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. [24] And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. [25] Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, [26] and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

HEB 7:26 "Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, **pure**, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. [27] Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. [28] For

the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.”

JAS 1:26 “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. [27] Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted [**pure**] by the world.”

JAS 3:13 “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom [**purity**]. [14] But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. [15] Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. [16] For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

JAS 3:17 “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all **pure**; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18] Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

1JN 3:1 “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. [3] Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is **pure**.”

So as one of the preparations we need to do is to become one with the Lord. We do this by getting the Mind of Christ, and the nature of God in our heart and spirit. This only comes with filling our mind, heart and soul with the Word of God and by constantly praying (or practicing being in the presence of God). Living our life with Him. Allowing Him to become our best friend. Some one that we would not go shopping without, or studying without, or eating without. You take Him with you to the movies. Some one who you share you most intimate secrets and times with. You go to sleep with Him, drive with Him, and you even bathe with Him. He is the first one you call when you need help or want to share something fascinating with. We become one with God when we learn to live with Him.

Another thing I have found out is that praising throughout the day keeps the devil away. When I need to talk to God, I get a very clear phone line to Him when I prepare the phone line with praise and thanksgiving, also, when I pray for others, for unselfishness paths the way to God. After this, oneness is easy. Sometimes it takes awhile to get the clear phone line so patience is necessary. (Which all of this could be looked at another way, and that is loving God. 1Corinthians 13 [4] Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

Kindness = praying for others; patient = waiting on God; not self-seeking = praise; no record of wrongs = forgiveness of others; etc.

Finally, to be prepared we need to obey God and all that He asks.

MT 28:16 "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. [17] When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. [18] Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

LK 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

JN 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [18] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. [21] Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

So He wants to spare us and all of Our family, but we must be prepared for Him to do this. He will protect His children who are one with Him. We must all hear the Lord's will for our lives or we will receive His wrath because it will be poured out like the rain and anyone who is out in the rain will get wet no matter who you are. But if we are listening and are prepared, we will not be caught in the Lord's rain of wrath.

MT 24:42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. [43] But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. [44] So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

[45] Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? [46] It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. [47] I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. [48] But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' [49] and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. [50] The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not

aware of. [51] He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

MT 25:1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish and five were wise. [3] The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. [4] The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. [5] The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. [6] At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' [7] Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' [9] 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' [10] But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. [11] "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' [12] But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' [13] Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Also Luke 12:35

LK 12:42 The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? [43] It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. [44] I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. [45] But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. [46] The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

LK 12:47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. [48] But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

So we must always be watching. We must always be prepared for the Lord. And the place to watch is in our heart where He dwells.

Thus what are we saying? We are saying that we must be one with the Lord. For if we are one with Him, He will always dwell and live in our heart, and if we always look to Him in our heart we will know the will of the Father. If we know the will of the Father, we will know what is going on and He will lead us to safety and we will be prepared for what is to come. We will be ready to do what is needed.

Some will be called be Josephs and prepared for the Families future needs, others will be called out to the brook like Elijah waiting for the time to go to battle, others will be asked to stay where they are and be watchers preparing for the Elijahs to come with power and authority to pull down the enemies falseness (false gods, false religions, false lives, false truths). While others are called to run to a safe place and wait for the Lord, and others are called to stay, make a stand and try to help others in need. As Paul says:

1Corinthians 12 [14] Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. [15] If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. [16] And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? [18] But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. [19] If they were all one part, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

[21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" [22] On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, [24] while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, [25] so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. [26] If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Each of us is a little different and not all of us are or can do the same thing. And so God deals with each one of us differently and we can do different things. So what is good for Joe might not be what George is to do. This is why everyone must listen to God and do what he/she is supposed to do as God leads. And this is why being pure and holy is necessary so that we can be the closest to God and be able to hear specifically what we are to do. There are healing or safety in His wings, but we must be under His wings to get it. We cannot do this if we do not know what He is doing.

He wants to protect us and to do this we must stay under His wings. We cannot control where He is going and what He is doing; all we can do is to follow Him.

## **Appendix G**

### **Faith Moves Mountains By Richard**

Many years ago while I was in the Navy, it was December and we were on Christmas Vacation. During this time in my life I was broke, and had no money. Because of this, I did not plan on going anywhere.

However, I got a disturbing letter from girlfriend (she is now my wife). And as I thought about it, it seemed that the Holy Spirit was telling me that I really needed to go and see her, but she was in Japan and I was in San Diego, CA. How could I get there without any money?

The more I read the letter the more urgent it became that I go. So I prayed and I prayed. I prayed very sincerely. After a while of this, (I am not sure now long I prayed), but suddenly, I heard in a very clear voice, “Ok you should go.”

I was shocked to say the least. But I prayed again, and I heard the same thing again, “Ok you can go to Japan.”

So I quickly prayed, ”Lord this is wonderful, but I do not have any money and there are a few other problems too. First, I need to get permission, second, I have to get leave papers, and they said that everyone was gone who do that, third, I have no money, forth, if I am to go, I will need to change my domestic flight schedule to go and fifth, I do not know how to get to her house. So Lord I will need a miracle for all of these things to go there.”

Finally, I prayed that I was not sure about the return and that I could not get in trouble with my Navy School or else my Navy career will be ruined.

He said, “Is that all, no problem.”

Next I heard was, “Go to the office, they have a list of all military fights from the US to Japan, find it and go there.”

So I acted on Faith on the promise of His personal word. I went forward with faith and determined that nothing would stop me, because He promised me.

So I did, but also in the office was my Chief who was in charge of leave doing some last minute paperwork (my first miracle). I asked him if I could go on leave and he said that he would approve it but the office personal was already gone on vacation until the New Year, but I could try to find the office person to write the papers up he would sign them, but to hurry because he was leaving soon. As I went running to find the office person, she came walking it (for what reason I do not know, because she was on vacation—another miracle). She agreed to make the papers and the Chief signed it.



Then I asked to see the military flight book and they gave it to me. They did not mind me using the phone for long distance because they had the special free line to all military bases. So I called around and I found out that at Norton Air Force base on Friday night at 7pm has a direct flight to Japan. (The Holy Spirit confirmed in my heart that this was the one--another miracle)

So the next miracle was that I had to get a flight to Riverside, CA on 1 day notice on Christmas week. I tried weeks before to get a flight to San Jose and they had none. So I called and we looked and they found that a cancellation happened just an hour before I called. So I was on the flight, which actually cost less, so I even got a refund.

Then I flew to Riverside and took the bus Norton Air Force base. I got there about 1pm. I went to the flight desk and asked for a seat on the plane. They laughed and laughed. They said that the next in line was 150, but that there were only 15 seats available. I told him that is ok and that I would be going to Japan. They all laughed again.

Then he said that had to have the small pox shot. Well I forgot to bring my shot card. He said that I was in luck and that a bunch of Marines needed their shots too and that I could go with them.

Well I joined these marines and we went to the doctor's office. After I got there, I requested to get a shot, but they said that unless I had orders requiring one they could not do it and of course I did not have any orders, I was on vacation.

Well I did not worry. God said that I would go to Japan so I figured that some thing would happen. So I praised God and waited. Little later the Marine in charge asked me how it went and I told him what happened. He said. "Come with me." When we got to the nurse he gave her the riot act and she was so scared that she was glad to give me my shot just to get rid of us. ( I have lost count of how many miracles have happened). I was so thankful for that Marine Sergeant.

So now I had my shot and then I had to wait in the airport from 4pm to 7pm to get on the plane.

Little after 5pm they started calling names. After 10 or so minutes they called my name. They said that because some Navy Captain had to get back to Japan and he chartered a special plane that had a lot of extra seats available, and because I had waited in the airport and not left like the others, I was on it.

It was a better plane then the original one, with food and everything. I was starving, not having any money (uhh, miracle number what?).

I finally got to Japan. But I did not know how to got there. An information person gave me a map and tried to explain to me how to take the trains to her house.

But I got off the train too early. I was not sure where to go. In my heart I was hearing that gas stations know how to get there, they have maps. So I went to a gas station to find directions. But it was

so complicated for the station attendant to explain with his limited English and my non-existent Japanese, that the guy drove me there.

Many things happened while I was there for the week, and we resolved the problem she was having, believe me that it was a problem that could only be resolved in person. So then I spent a wonderful week in Japan. But now the problem was getting back to USA. I put my name on the standby list to return but they laughed again. No planes were available for a week, and that would make me late back to my Navy School. They suggested that I buy a plain ticket back, but I could not, for I did not have any money. (If you are curious, her family put me up in their spare quest room.)

So I waited at the airport but not airplanes. The navy had this rule, that if you are out of leave and because of a flight you will be late, then they would make you buy a ticket, but I had no money. So they would let me make payments out of my pay check every month. This was new. (Another miracle)

Finally I called my boss and told him my problem, but he told me that I was ok because I called and they would extend my leave to cover the days I was flying back which took 2 days, but they were going to have a test on the stuff they were teaching for the next 2 days that I gone, and if I failed I would be put on probation and in trouble. So I prayed for help and waited on the Lord.

I got back that night in time for the test, I arrived 30 minutes after the test started. They required that I take the test and suffer the consequences.

I prayed for help reminding Him that He promised to keep me out of trouble. So I took the test. He helped me with the test. I got a D+. But that was not passing, I needed a C. So after the test, I went to the instructor to find out my consequence and he said that anyone who could get that grade without attending class or being able to study does not need probation or is in trouble. He said good job and that he would see me the next day at the regular time. So He got me out of trouble again; Story of my life.

RO 10:16 "But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17] **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.** [18] But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did:"

So make note that this faith only comes from hearing the direct Word from the Lord. If you see something, like some hurt and just because you believe the bible says that God heals, does not mean that you are to out and to try to heal every living person. Believing the Bible establishes your faith, in that you have made the decision to believe, trust in the Lord and His word the bible, but that does not give you the wisdom on how to use it. So unless you hear in your heart after you have prayed about it, that God wants to heal that person, then all the praying in the world will not heal them. The passage above in Romans means that you have to have two types of word: The word of teaching that you learn how the Kingdom of God works, and 2 the direct Word from the Lord, like in my story above.

Remember that there is a lot to happen in your life before you are able to hear the Word of the Lord in your heart, but once you have removed that static interference that is keeping you from hearing the Word of the Lord in your heart, then you will have the faith that moves mountains.

## **Appendix H**

### **A Rain Story By Richard**

Years ago while I was in the Navy, my ship we went to Korea for R and R. While there, my Christian brother and I went shopping in town. As we shopped we started to talk to a couple of Korean girls. They were hungry for the Lord so we talked about the Kingdom of God in their store until it closed.

We invited them to dinner at the military base. We talked for a few more hours which led to them praying and receiving the Lord. As it was getting late, we decided that it was time for them to go home, but as it would be, it started to rain. I mean it really rained; it was raining so bad that you could barely see a few feet in front of you. It was raining cats and dogs.

I felt a strong compassion for them in my heart and started to pray.

I said, "Lord this is not fair for these wonderful new sisters. If not for us taking them to dinner they would have gone straight home and not get wet or soaked in this case. I do not want them to get wet and sick because of us. There was no warning about the rain so they did not bring umbrellas. So please stop the rain long enough for them to get home."

I got the small still voice in my heart that said, "Ok. Go ahead and stop the rain."

I was shocked and said, "Me stop the rain! I am not God I cannot do that, would You please stop it?"

Again I got the reply, "I gave you the authority and power over all things, you stop the rain."

Now I was scared and I said, "But what if I fail, what if I yell and nothing happens, I will be humiliated and a shame."

He said, "You know what to do. I gave you everything."

Well it was getting late and I could hear them discussing what to do. They were worried that they might catch a cold if they walked home because it was pretty far.

So I determined that I was willing to be humiliated for the Lord if it did not work. I walked to the edge of the building, I looked up into the rain and as I pointed to the rain, I said, "In the name of Jesus, rain, stop." Nothing happened. But the spirit inside said to do it again with authority.

So again, I looked up into the rain and as I pointed to the rain I said, "In the name of Jesus, rain, stop." I then saw that rain suddenly slow down to a sprinkle. I looked up into the rain and as I pointed to the rain I said, "I said, 'In the name of Jesus, rain stop.'" This time that did it. It totally stopped.

I looked over to my new sisters and my friend and said, “It has stopped raining, you better hurry home before it starts again.”

They asked, “What happened?”

I replied, “The Lord has stopped the rain until you get home. So you do not need to run but just head home and it will be dry until you get there.”

We all said our good byes and they went home praising the Lord for loving them so much to stop the rain and keep them dry. My friend and I decided we better get to our hotel before it started raining again.

The down pure started again as I entered the hotel behind my friend.

## Appendix I

# Are you the Victim of Mind Control?

**Mind control is trying to make others think what you think, or the way you think. Pris**

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Although cults differ in their belief systems they all use the same mind control tactics. The purpose of this article is to give you the chance to test yourself to see if you are the victim of well known manipulative mind control techniques. No one single religious group has been singled out in the following questions. Rather, the information below has been gathered with many groups in mind, all of which are known to use mind control on its members. It should also be noted that these questions are not merely limited to religious groups only. There are also many non-religious secular, business, and political groups in existence today which also use mind control on its members. So what have you got to lose, are you willing to take the test?

Are You The Victim of a Mind Control Cult? Test Yourself.  
(Please answer the following questions honestly)

Do you feel that no matter how hard you try, the ‘good deeds’ you perform for your group are never quite enough? As a result of this do you often feel plagued with feelings of guilt?

What are you motivated by? Is it genuine love for God and the group etc., or is it fear of not meeting the desired standards.

Is questioning the group, or the group leaders, discouraged or frowned upon?

Does the group you belong to believe that it is an elite and exclusive organization which alone has ‘the truth’ and answers to life’s questions?

Does the group pour scorn upon, attack, and mock other Christian churches and their interpretation of the Bible?

Is reading any literature critical of the group discouraged? Many cults will warn members not to read anything critical of the group, especially if written by an ex-member (who are called names by the cult such as “apostate”, “hardened”, or “of the devil” etc.). This is a well known information control technique to stop the member from discovering the clear and documented errors of the cult. Members abilities to think for themselves is effectively disarmed in this way. Instead, they will think more and more as the rest of the group thinks.

Take a look at the way the group looks and acts. Does everyone dress more or less the same, act the same, and talk the same? One observer, speaking of his particular involvement with a cult, said that

the group encouraged its members *“to do everything in exactly the same way - to pray the same, to look the same, to talk the same. This in psychology is a classic example of group conformity. Its purpose is to ensure that no-one tries to act differently or become dissident, thus nobody questions the status quo.”* (Andrew Hart, Jan. 1999).

Does the group discourage association with non-members (except, maybe, for the possibility of converting them to the group)?

Does the group give you ‘black and white answers’? What the group agrees with is right and what the group disagrees with is wrong.

Does everyone in the group believe exactly the same things (i.e. what the group leaders tell them to believe)? Is there no room for individual belief, or opinion even in minor areas?

Does the group wear ‘two faces’? On the one hand, does it attempt to present itself, to potential converts and the public at large, as a group of people who are like one large family, who have love among themselves, where everyone is equal? But on the other hand, the reality is, that many members inwardly feel unfulfilled and emotionally exhausted?

Have you attempted to disable your own God-given critical thinking abilities by ‘shelving’ various doubts about the group or group’s teachings etc.

Are others in the group, who do not conform to the requirements of the movement’s teaching, treated with suspicion, and treated like second class members?

Does the group tend to withhold certain information from the potential convert? Are the more unusual doctrines of the group not discussed until an individual is more deeply involved in the movement?

Do you feel fearful of leaving the group? Many cults use subtle fear tactics to stop members from leaving. For example, the group may imply that those who leave will be attacked by the Devil, have a nasty accident, or at least not prosper because they have left ‘the truth’.

If you answered “yes” to most of the questions on the previous pages, the group which you are involved with is certainly using manipulative mind control techniques. Now that you know this, what will you do?

Firstly, you need to realize that whatever group you are part of, it does not have the monopoly on God. For many people in mind control cults, leaving the movement is usually considered the equivalent of leaving God Himself and forfeiting one’s salvation. However, the truth is, that there are Christians in all denominations who have found salvation in Christ alone, and not a Church. Many people who are trapped in a spiritually abusive religious system often feel as though they would have nowhere else to go even if they did manage to make the break from the group.

The answer is found in what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew Ch. 11 and verse 28: *“Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.”*

Secondly, you need to leave the group. This may be difficult, but by staying you will only continue to be spiritually and mentally abused. You will also be contributing to a system which, in your heart, you know to be wrong. Also, don't let pride keep you from leaving the group.

Thirdly, don't feel as though you will be alone in your decision to leave. There are many individual's who have been in the same situation as yourself. These people come from many different religious groups, but have all been victims of the same dominating mind control techniques. Today, many are living new lives of liberty, security, and hope.

## Appendix J

### Modern Story of Mary and Martha By Lorraine St. John

As usual the Lord uses conversations I have with people to teach them...and me

A friend had taken someone into her home...and they had long overstayed their welcome....and she asked them to leave...and felt guilty about doing that.....

<<< Lorraine I never know how much I am supposed to give, how much I am supposed to let people use me. Maybe I was supposed to let them stay on as long as they wanted. I don't know Lorraine. What do you think? ... >>>

Friend...let me tell you a story....

I was always taking people into my home...strays...and I thought that's what God wanted from me...and it is...except that He wants us to do things out of our relationship to Him...and as He directs us not out of our needs...

You see you and I are a lot alike...we both need approval...we are still trying to get the approval we never got...from dads...boyfriends...husbands etc...so to fill that need we become martyrs...always doing things for others...because that's how we get our strokes...we don't admit it out loud...but inside the rational is that people will think what great people we are for doing such nice things all the time...when in reality we aren't doing them for others ..or for God...we are doing them because we need to feel approved of and needed...after all what will people think of us if we don't do it...right? ....right. actions...wrong motives

And the Lord has clearly shown me this...when I worked for the church for 9 years I was Miss Superwoman/man I did it all...organized and ran it all...single handedly...about wore myself out running things...arranging things.. ministering to people...speaking engagements...meetings...you name it...and people always said what a whiz I was...but God didn't think so..

One day He said to me "it's the works of your own hands"...I was shocked..."but Lord...I did it for YOU"...He replied "nope...you did it for YOU"...and we had this long talk about it...I remember weeping and weeping as I began to see that He was right...and I said "Lord was none of it any good?"...He said "oh it was good works...but not MY works"...and He showed me the people that had been helped by "my" ministering to them...He would say "so and so is still in church because you encouraged her"...etc & etc....and again He said "it was good works...but not what I wanted for you"...and I broke...none of what I did was what HE wanted...I thought we Christians were supposed to be always helping others...but He showed me.... first my motive was wrong...and second it wasn't what HE wanted me to do..

And He said "you have been busy being a Martha...and I wanted you to be a Mary"...and from that day



on He began to teach me to say "no"...and to listen for His voice to know what He wanted me to do...and He began a long process of healing the hurts that caused me to seek attention this way...I am not all the way there yet...but I am a very long way down the road from where I was then

Read the following...it has a very good lesson in it...the key sentence is "When he had done ALL he could...HE LEFT"

And then you have to decide if having them stay so long was done for them...for the Lord. Or out of your own need :)

## **Appendix K**

### **BETTER TO OBEY**

**By Priscilla Van Sutphin**

In this text, I am seeking to expose some misunderstandings that have been perpetrated about prophecy from Old Testament "rules" to New Testament "rules". The Lord entreated me this last week to teach on 1 Kings 13 especially for the youth. There has been a grave error in the teaching of some who call themselves prophets. They have perpetrated a gospel of exclusivity, by which they can maintain their hold on the place and position they hold in the church as if God wanted them to have fame and position.

In many circles of church organization and influence there has crept this hierarchal philosophy or doctrine of how Old Testament prophets are done away with, and now we have the New Testament prophets, therefore God doesn't work the way He did in the Old Testament anymore. This has brought great distress to many new prophets of this age, and has kept them from the fullness of realizing their purpose and place in Christ. The Spirit of prophecy is the testimony of JESUS. We are to smell like Him, talk like Him, walk like Him, sound like Him be crucified of flesh like Him, be generous like Him, loving like Him, outspoken like Him. And this teaching that God does not move the same way as before is contrary to biblical scriptures.

Yes, when He--Who is Prophecy--comes again forever as it says in 1 Corinthians 13, there will be no need for prophecy. Old things will pass away. That was written to be fulfilled AFTER Jesus ascended (the second coming of the Messiah)...so HE has not come yet again... therefore it still is for us today. Also, God is the SAME as it says He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and the people or church who teach this doctrine of demons, have not released, as they should, the beautiful young prophets and prophetesses that are sitting in our congregations whom GOD wants to use greatly to speak or prophesy to the overall church and to the world.

The apostles produced apostles like Stephen the first martyr. The prophets should also reproduce themselves, instead of idolizing the limelight so they can make themselves rich in fame, power, and position established in the church. The goal of Christ is to CREATE, to be active, and to make a prophetic end times people! How do we know this because scripture tells us in so many ways like the bible says in?

Joel 2:28-30 KJV

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.”

Our thinking has become so set in seeing things as we are taught that we barely can think for ourselves. So many rely on what is taught in the pulpit, without knowing the Word for themselves, the Living Word, or the Logos. I have a revelation. Agabus, was NOT the only new testament prophet! Peter was a prophet and apostle. How else would he have known that Ananias and Sapphira kept money back, if he had not heard it prophetically? God TOLD HIM! And the words he spoke, were implemented immediately in true prophetic fashion, like what happens in the 13th chapter of 1 Kings 13 which we are about to delve into. The only difference between old and New Testament prophets is the age of the dispensation of **GRACE**! We have the indwelling Holy Spirit therefore more of us can hear now, than in the Old Testament for we have direct access through Jesus! Also John the Baptist is a New Testament prophet, and Jesus called him the Elijah to come. With the next coming of Christ there will also be "Elijahs".

God's ways are limitless, and that is unchanging. He can act and do whatever HE wants, and use whomever HE wants. I am not trying to teach rebellion against authority. God established His authority, not based on man's predisposition to organize everything, but on His SOVREIGN will and relationship with each other. We are to be submitted to one another! Also Prophets have itinerant ministry. They don't become church "members".

GOD is NOT a regarded of persons. He is not prejudiced. He will use whomever HE wants to use, and if He can use an 8-year-old king in the Old Testament like Josiah, or a donkey to speak to Balaam, then He will continue this same pattern when it suits HIM! He knows the nature of our old man is stubborn, and self-willed. So He will do what HE wants to do, not what we think He should do, or how WE think He should act. He is not a God of formulas and pigeon-holing. He does not pigeonhole us into a place and say this is all YOU can do. He will do whatever is best for us in any situation. He so loves His people that whatever it takes, that He will do. And He alone is the ONE to be exalted!

John and Peter came up against some unbelievers in the book of Acts who told them not to speak, and they proclaimed that if they did not speak, the ROCKS would cry out. They were not controlled by man, whether it was in the church or out of it. They yielded themselves fully to GOD alone. FEAR had no place in them. They did not fear losing their ministries or position in the church. They did not fear losing their homes. They laid it all down at HIS feet.

Everything they were and desired, was given into the hands of Christ Jesus. They DIED to what they wanted, and lived alone for the kingdom and Christ Jesus. People respected them, for they saw the innate authority given them by GOD. They had nothing to prove. They'd laid everything down. God was their defense and high tower, their ever-present help in time of need. They had this confidence because they KNEW Him. When I say KNEW Him, I mean that they had a relationship with Him. The word "**knew**" in the Old Testament was a term of intimacy between a man and a woman.

In first Kings there is a story that brings some clarity to what I am saying. And I hope as this is conveyed that the eyes of your understanding are opened. I am not exalting anarchy or disorder only promoting GOD's order of things. In some circles, even God if He was sitting there, He would not get a word in edge-wise, because of MAN's ordained order. Our flesh is so prone to doing what it has already

done or thinks it should do. What has already been done is about to die in the TRUE church. Christ JESUS must be the pre-eminent One, not our agendas, and our 4-7-song plan.

1 Kings 13:1-3 NKJ

“And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. 2 Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.' " 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

The first mistake this prophet makes is not being sure that God had his name written in the bible! In many places, if a no name prophet came sent from God, and began to do such a thing as is described here, he would be immediately escorted out by security guards and taken to jail or a sanitarium before his message even got spoken out! There is an unwritten rule in many churches "do not speak out in the congregation." And if this had been a woman, oh Lord! She would be stoned or shot-whatever! Jeroboam was an evil king. Now I think kings in general get more respect than pastors.

So here is this "LONE RANGER" prophet coming in and disturbing the unsanctified offering of Jeroboam by laying hold of the altar and speaking to the altar this prophecy, which eventually was fulfilled some 356 years later! The nerve of him to come in and disrupt a service, and disrespect a "king" to speak the word of the Lord! The king did not even KNOW him for 6 months yet, to know whether his character was in keeping with traditional requirements for prophets! And if he had been a Hosea married to a prostitute, for SURE the church today would have nothing to do with him! And if he had had a reputation like Isaiah for unclothing himself and running around town naked for 3 years, or like Ezekiel for being so lazy as to lay on his side for a year and then almost another several months, and eating his food cooked with dung coals, OI Vey! Would he have been in even MORE trouble? These guys surely had a penchant for the finer ways of life n'est pas? They were surely an uncouth group.

And herein is the reason we don't like this stuff from the Old Testament. We like things neat and clean, organized and controllable. We don't like anyone upsetting the status quo, not even the Most Holy Spirit of God who is supposed to rule and reign in our churches. Let's see what happens next.

1 Kings 13:4-7

4 “And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. 5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign, which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. 6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and

became as it was before. 7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.”

Isn't this a great story? Now we see the king wanting to grab this guy, and when they try, whom, the Lord comes to his defense! Jeraboams hand withers and I'm sure that was pretty uncomfortable being an ex-nurse, and does this idolator repent? NOOOO! He begs for the prophet to plead with God for his hand back to it's normal condition without an apology you notice. But being the godly prophet this man is, he begs mercy for the ungrateful and God restores his hand. This too is the sterling character of a true prophet of God. They do not desire vengeance on their enemies, but are full of the mercies of God. Can't say the same for my actions in the history of my life in Christ. I have been, at times, more like the apostles who wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy the inhabitants of a town. This dysfunctional king then wants to reward the prophet, not to repent so much, but to thank him for his kindness with which the Lord, as His true Friend, responded to his pleas for mercy. Isn't this good? Next...

1 Kings 13:8-10 KJV

8 “And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: 9 For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest. 10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.”

Thus far this prophet is looking real good. He seems bent on the performance of God's word alone, and that is a big temptation, to not receive the riches from the wealthy king, and especially for prophets these days would that be a BIG temptation! I remember Rheinhard Bonnke relating such an experience where a woman wanted to offer 1 million dollars to his ministry, but the Lord told him NO. He obeyed and has never regretted it, nor been without what he needed. Now it gets MORE interesting.....

1 Kings 13:11-17 KJV

11 “Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. 12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. 13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, 14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am. 15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. 16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: 17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.”

Now the scriptures call this man an "old prophet" so we must assume he was that. And he goes to offer the prophet food and rest, and the prophet seems again to be unmovable. But then, something happens which has been happening a lot in the church today...

1 Kings 13:18 KJV

“He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.”

He says "I am a prophet as thou art", which should have caused some discernment in the younger prophet as; if he was indeed a prophet, as HE was, he would have gotten perhaps the word of the Lord for Jeroboam, if he had been all that he was cracking up to be. Perhaps he would have confronted Jeroboam in his sin of defiling the House of God and all Israel. Then, HE LIES saying an angel sent him, which I'm sure is true, but what kind; more like an angel of darkness. Perhaps this old prophet had fallen into complacency and hopelessness or had gotten tired of not seeing change in what was going on and felt defeated, or maybe he was a false prophet to begin with, or just had wanted the anointing that he heard the young prophet demonstrated. This IS the character of the "Harlot" church to want the power, but not the cost. So guard your hearts young prophets! Do not be deceived by kind words that control!

1 Kings 13:19-23 KJV

19 “So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. 20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back: 21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, 22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers. 23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back.”

Herein is the lesson of the Lord. DO not believe everyone who says they are a prophet! Stop and ask the Lord (dependence on God) Is this person who he says he is ? Should I listen to what he says ? Have You changed your mind Lord? WE MUST learn reliance on GOD above man. Anyone can give you a word. There are no licenses for "prophets". There are 3 sources of information possible to hear from 4 possibilities:

- a) We are hearing from God.
- b) We are hearing the enemy.
- c) We are hearing our own flesh.
- d) We are hearing the enemy working for God, as a test of your heart.

The word of the Lord came to this older prophet. Maybe he hadn't heard it in a while, but it came. So, did God allow this old man to lie to the prophet as a test of whether he would obey God over man? I don't know! We know all scripture is for our edification so God is trying to tell us something

here. One is that we CAN be deceived. Two is that what we know we hear from God is more important than listening to MAN. Three is do not bow to the fear or intimidation of man. Some trust in chariots, and some trust in horses, but we will trust in the name of the Lord! He also did not it would seem ask God for confirmation of what the old man said. This can get us way off track into a detour. We can survive a detour and God will not be angry if we really thought it was a word from Him. We will recover. But if we will become sooooo dependent on HIM over what we think, or what others think, or what others say, that IS the place to be in HIM.

Micaiah saw this in:

1 Kings 22:15-22 (Jehoshaphat is king)

15 So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king. 16 And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD? 17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, these have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace. 18 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? 19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. 20 And the LORD said, who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. 22 And the LORD said unto him, wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And He said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

I remember Jack Deere, once said in a foundations class... "The greatest deception of all is to think that you can't be deceived." We are taught by scripture to "Lean NOT on our own understanding, but in all of your ways, acknowledge HIM, and He will make your path straight."

There are times when we can be let to go astray, that the Lord can bring repentance in our hearts, to show us when we are too religious and haughty; that we too, can be reduced to nothing, if we rely on our own strength and righteousness, instead of God's. For my own self, I cannot get away with anything with the Lord anymore without Him bringing swift correction, for the most part.

If I start to get prideful and judge anyone, I can count on a spiritual spanking from my Father in heaven, which is always more merciful than the beating that people might like to give to me. He'll let me go so far and then boom comes the hand of His wonderful justice it is His love greatly provoked which brings His correction. His correction is for me as a woman at least usually gentle and kind, NEVER angry and intimidating, sometimes even humorous. What would we be if He let us go on in our delusion or deception? We would gradually become more hardened in our hearts and apart from Him. So here this prophet Micaiah actually sees a vision of the throne room of God and God deliberating on how to bring justice to Ahab. And a spirit comes forth and says he will be a lying spirit in the ears of Ahabs

prophets. (Who were false prophets by the way, which means they sometimes were right. that really blows our theology!) See the devil knows information on us but they [false prophets] are not getting their information from God) and this spirit goes down to confuse them and to mess up their information. King David also had a problem with a lying spirit.

1 Chron 21:1-15 NKJV

1 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it." 3 And Joab answered, "May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?" [His own leader tries to talk sense to him] 4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.

5 Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword.

6 But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel.

8 So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

9 And the LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying, 10 "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you."

11 So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Choose for yourself, 12 either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the sword of the LORD--the plague in the land, with the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

13 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

14 So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.

And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand."

I know, you're thinking, that isn't fair that God would punish the people when it was David who committed the sin lots of lessons in this scripture!

1) It is Satan himself wanting to take out a few for his kingdom and destroy David at the same time.



- 2) David does not discern perhaps he'd grown a bit prideful with all his favor.
- 3) We are also accountable for our leaders.

Also God sees David and the people as one. And what happens to one happens to the other. The King suffers for his peoples sins and the people suffer for the Kings sins. It is a way for the person of responsibility to realize what his sins create. It creates evil, and evil among his people. The leader is willing to suffer for his own sins, but he is not willing to allow others to suffer for His sins. (Added by Richard)

God may have chosen leaders in those days, but today it is not always so, just like when Jesus came, many had bought their ways into the priesthood. God is supposed to be head of our churches and we are to be accountable to one another. A pastorship is NOT a dictatorship, run by one man. We are accountable when we see someone stumbling to lift him up, and moreover we are to pray in the first place for our leaders. Perhaps the children of Israel were failing on that account too and therefore received the discipline. WE ARE THE CHURCH. The pastor alone is not the church. We are accountable to one another and the weakest, it says in Corinthians, is also necessary. It is to be a living-breathing organism like our own body. One part cannot run the whole thing. It takes working together. When we give all our authority to the pastor and don't live up to our own responsibility and relationship to him, then we are practicing idolatry, and neglect towards the house or Kingdom of God. And when one sins the others suffer. That IS why so many in the churches are sick today. The church is so idolatrous, many are suffering in their bodies for the sake of the church like Paul said in Colossians 1:24.

Let's go back to 1 Kings 13.

1 Kings 13:23-32

24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcass was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcass.

25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcass cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcass: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.

27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him.

28 And he went and found his carcass cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcass: the lion had not eaten the carcass, nor torn the ass.

29 And the prophet took up the carcass of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

30 And he laid his carcass in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!

31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones:

32 For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass. (I've changed the spelling of carcase to carcass for young readers)

Well this is fascinating. Who wouldn't take a second look at a lion just standing next to its prey and the body it just killed? This was for a sign and a wonder. A wonder makes you wonder John Wimber used to say! This would make me wonder.

I'm sure it spread all over Israel. God uses all kinds of ways to say things. An ass, or donkey often is symbolic for stubbornness and self-will. Lions can be good...as a symbol of our Lion of Judah, or as a symbol of satan as the devouring lion. When I look at this I see a miracle in the sense of the animals behavior being controlled by God and yet God give man a choice. And we don't always want to listen to Him even though He has been so kind as to make us able to make choices, instead of being robots of His devotion. I see a miracle in the sense that God honored this prophet even in his death of judgment, by not having him desecrated because he was dutiful to go for Him when He said go and he performed most of his duties. But not all so he lost his life for it but God was merciful in a way. And the old prophet knows this and sees this, and he takes the body back and tells his sons, "Bury my bones with his when I die as his word will surely come true". Why was he convinced? When he knew the prophet disobeyed and ate?

The sign of the altar splitting,  
God performed His word following the old prophet's word of judgment.  
The ass and the lion sign.

He too saw God's mercy and handprint on this. And he thinks somehow to gain favor by having his bones buried with the younger's. It would seem, that if the prophet came with no donkey, on foot, and God told him not to accept gifts, perhaps the ass stands for what we hold onto the most, and that is our COMFORT. There is an obvious lesson here in that we must obey God rather than man or the devourer will have place in our lives. We must give him no place! GRACE is the ONLY way we can live, by overcoming with grace to be and do all that He wants us to be and do. His Power will change our lives and heal us so we can obey. This we get by entering the "throne room", coming into His presence.

The stubbornness of our "but I want to do this" and our "But" anything will get us devoured in the end so we must become FLEXIBLE to His will alone, not ours and not the desire of other men and women. God did not give us a spirit of bondage to fear or of man but a spirit of ADOPTION by which we can cry out "Abba Father". We are not to be bound to the will of other people. In order to have UNITY we must have our FIRST love in place for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we MUST LISTEN to GOD and do what HE wants first and foremost. It will not be popular, as the enemy of conformity is prevalent in traditions of men. But I believe this generation of teens that will be birthed into the kingdom, will not bow to conformity and fear of man, but to God. We must not see this as rebellion when it is only rebellion to our control.

We want to make them in our image when we are not conformed to HIS image and likeness. That is a very sad state of affairs in the church today. So let's spend time with our Beloved, so that we may see this generation through our Father's eyes who are being raised up, and ALLOWED to move, breathe and do what GOD wants them to do.

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Additional notes from Priscilla Van Sutphin

Matthew Henry's Notes: excerpts "a prophet of Judah is, instead thereof, sent to reclaim him from his evil way, and is sent in time, while he is but dedicating his altar, before his heart is hardened by the deceitfulness of his sin; for God delights not in the death of sinners, but would rather they would burn and live. How bold was the messenger that dared attack the king in his pride and interrupt the solemnity he was proud of! Those that go on God's errand must not fear the face of man; they know who will bear them out. How kind was he that sent him to warn Jeroboam of the wrath of God revealed from heaven against his ungodliness and unrighteousness! It's God's grace to warn us."

.. "Yet, in threatening the altar, God threatened the founder and worshippers, to whom it was as dear as their own souls, and who might conclude, "If God's wrath fasten upon the lifeless guiltless altar, how shall we escape?" "That this should be done by a branch of the house of David. That family which he and his kingdom had despised and treacherously deserted should recover so much power as to demolish that altar which he thought to establish; so that right and truth should at length prevail, both in civil and sacred matters, notwithstanding the present triumphs of those that were given to change the fear both of God and the king. It was about 356 years ere this prediction was fulfilled,"

.." A sign is given for the confirming of the truth of this prediction, that the altar should be shaken to pieces by an invisible power and the ashes of the sacrifice scattered (v. 3), which came to pass immediately, v. 5.

This was,

1. A proof that the prophet was sent of God, who confirmed the word with this sign following, Mark 16:20.
2. A present indication of God's displeasure against these idolatrous sacrifices. How could the gift be acceptable when the altar that should sanctify it was an abomination?
3. It was a reproach to the people, whose hearts were harder than these stones and rent not under the word of the Lord.
4. It was a specimen of what should be done to it in the accomplishment of this prophecy by Josiah; it was now rent, in token of its being then ruined."

" Rebuke a sinner and he will hate thee, and do thee a mischief if he can; yet God's prophets must rather expose themselves than betray their trust: he that employs them will protect them, and restrain the wrath of man, as he did Jeroboam's here by withering his hand, so that he could neither hurt the prophet nor

draw it in to help himself. When his hand was stretched out to burn incense to his calves it was not withered; but, when it is stretched out against a prophet, he shall have no use of it till he humble himself. Of all the wickedness of the wicked there is none more provoking to God than their malicious attempts against his prophets, of whom he has said, Touch them not, do them no harm."

"That word of God which should have touched his conscience humbled him not, but this which touched his bone and his flesh brings down his proud spirit."

" Those only are entitled to the blessing Christ pronounced on the persecuted that learn of him to pray for their persecutors, Matt 5:10,44."

" The old prophet's wickedness. I cannot but call him a false prophet and a bad man, it being much easier to believe that from one of such a bad character should be extorted a confirmation of what the man of God said (as we find, v. 32) than that a true prophet, and a good man, should tell such a deliberate lie as he did, and father it upon God. A good tree could never bring forth such corrupt fruit. Perhaps he was trained up among the sons of the prophets, in one of Samuel's colleges not far off, whence he retained the name of a prophet, but, growing worldly and profane, the spirit of prophecy had departed from him. If he had been a good prophet he would have reprov'd Jeroboam's idolatry, and not have suffered his sons to attend his altars, as, it should seem, they did."

" Here is, I. The death of the deceived disobedient prophet. The old prophet that had deluded him, as if he would make him some amends for the wrong he had done him or help to prevent the mischief threatened him, furnished him with an ass to ride home on; but by the way a lion set upon him, and killed him, v. 23, 24."

