

Jesus Lifts Volume 1

Credited to Jesus Christ

Published by Fez Garcia Media, 2025.

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JESUS LIFTS VOLUME 1

First edition. June 13, 2025.

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Written by Credited to Jesus Christ.

This book is dedicated to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of
God, who died to pay the sin debt for our souls,
who reconciles us to the Father and makes us whole.
His is the name above all names.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

(Revelation 12: 9-11)

**JESUS
LIFTS
Volume 1
Raw, uncensored
testimonies of
Jesus Christ**

**Credited to
the one and only
Jesus Christ**

Edited by Fez Garcia, Lori Ernst, and Lisa Wycoff

Self-published in June 2025 by Fez Garcia Media / Fez-

Garcia.com

Distributed worldwide via the internet

Forward

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11).

What you’re about to read is something very unique, something that I like to think is the first of its kind. For starters, it isn’t your ordinary compilation book; it’s filled with testimonies of Jesus Christ. Normally, what you’d find are books written by individuals who’ve converted to Christianity detailing their life story as to how they came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, but it would only be one person’s firsthand personal account and in order to read others, you’d have to buy other books. This free volume contains fourteen testimonies of Jesus Christ all in one place. Note: there are many more yet to be edited that will appear in subsequent volumes.

Something else you don’t usually see are testimonies that have been transcribed over from their audio format, which is what these are. These are actually podcast interviews of various guests from across the U.S. as well as around the world, people who were asked if they would like to share their personal story as to how they came to the faith and they were all very willing to pick up the phone and spend upwards of two to three hours, at times, in order to recount the entire story as to how they came to know Jesus. I can tell you that these people were not paid to share their testimony and that, in most cases, it didn’t profit them anything to share it, but the common factor was that they all had a tugging in their spir-

it to share it for the benefit of others, that others too might come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Yet another unique aspect of this compilation is that there's no real author of this book (nor will there be for any of the others in this series either) other than Jesus Christ Himself. This is why you don't see many bylines anywhere, except for me who's writing this forward and who the editors are. How do I know Jesus is the author? Because these testimonies bring glory to Him and show the world that it is He who saves, gives us eternal life and fundamentally changes people's lives. He is ultimately the one who leads, guides and directs us and is the one who puts pen to paper and actually writes our life story, if we let Him and, as is the case with many of these stories, even when we resist Him. As the scriptures make clear, it is "Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

The Jesus Lifts series is also unique in the sense that it is being offered absolutely free of charge, as I touched upon earlier, and will be available worldwide in ebook format. The reason for this is that I don't want any accusations that I, or anyone who shared their testimony with me, unjustly profited off of the Gospel. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is free and people hearing the Gospel message and accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior should also be free and in no ways hindered by a price tag for an ebook. This also means that, since we're not charging for it, we don't make any money off of it, nor do we collect any charitable donations in exchange for these books. No money whatsoever is involved in the making or distributing of these books. As a matter of fact, for the amount of time and effort put into interviewing guests and

then compiling and distributing these testimonies, we are at a net loss and are always going to be losing money. I hope I make myself clear on this point. I say all this so everyone understands that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with money.

I would like to emphasize that these life stories are not fabricated, nor are the stories changed or altered in any way. At most, they've been abbreviated slightly, but only to cut out any extraneous talk, however, I'm confident in saying that these are some of the most raw, uncensored, and untampered with "come to Jesus" stories you'll find available anywhere (more on this point later). I also want to emphasize that these stories aren't self-aggrandizing, as is sometimes the case with biographies or autobiographies. These are authentic, real life stories, or 'testimonies,' as we in the Christian community call them, authored by Jesus Christ, that are actually the opposite of self-important. That's because they showcase how screwed up and lost many of us once were and how Jesus saved us. Jesus is the one who is important.

You might think that these stories predominantly come from people who were raised within the Christian faith, but the truth is, many of the people featured in this book, as well as those in the subsequent volumes to come, do not necessarily have a Christian upbringing. Some were once atheists, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as witches, tarot card readers, psychics, people from all walks of life and the common theme among all their stories is that they repented, surrendered their lives to Jesus and, as a result, were completely transformed. "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his

image, with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

A word of caution: Many of these stories are not your typical kid friendly, happy slappy testimonies. A lot of these deal with deliverance from drugs and alcohol, sexual abuse, touch on demonic oppression and delve into aspects of spiritual warfare. In other words, they are not for the weak. If I had to give them a rating, like in the movies, they'd be rated R for adult content. That's why I use terms like, 'raw and uncensored' to describe them because I want to give fair warning and be transparent about the fact that these testimonies deal with adult themes that are completely uncoached and untouched. The person telling the story is the person who lived through it and I, as the interviewer, do my best not to soften or influence, for good or bad, the way the story is being told. I simply serve as an active and willing listener.

This book is designed to be skimmed through. I would start by reading the table of contents for a testimony coming from someone you think you might be able to relate to and go from there. If even one testimony speaks to you and helps you to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, then all the hours that were put into this book were worth it.

Speaking of which, I would like to give a special thank you to the volunteer (read: unpaid) editors who took the time to read through these transcripts to ensure that they were faithful and accurate to the audio they originated from. I'd like to thank Lori Ernst and Lisa Wycoff, who were a great help in putting this particular volume together. If, after reading any of these testimonies, you feel led to help edit tes-

timonies for the next Jesus Lifts book in the series, please contact me on X @YokedFez

I pray that you're blessed by these precious testimonies of Jesus Christ. Please share and distribute them as you see fit. These are non-copyrighted and are completely "open source," if you will.

If you haven't yet surrendered your life to Christ and made Him Lord of your life, just say, "Jesus, forgive me for my sins. I accept you as my Lord and Savior. Come into my life and have your way with me," because the Bible says, "If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Your humble physical and spiritual workout partner,
Fez Garcia

Dope Dealer To Hope Dealer (Bill Henderson)

Fez: [00:00:16] You said you were a dope dealer. What's the story? How did you come to know the Lord after being a dope dealer? [00:00:44]/[28.9]

Bill: [00:00:53] Okay. Yeah, well, for years I had a sister and a brother-in-law and my mom praying. When I was about 20 years old, she died in my arms. Before she died from cancer, I made her a promise. Like a lot of your audience that's listening on the radio, there are times when we have promised, "God, get me out of this one and I'll do anything." God gets us out of it and then we don't keep our word. So the next time there's an issue, it probably goes a little further than it needed to. But anyhow, my sister got about 300 Baptist people praying in Southern California for the salvation of Bill, Ken and Jim. And the next thing you know, we were talking about God all the time and we didn't even know why. We asked ourselves what was up with this? And I remember saying to my brothers, you know, if we're ever going to see mom again, we have to straighten up and fly right. We have to get back to church somehow. You know, we need to do what's right. And, you know, my friend that is sitting here next to me, he was once so down that he actually tried to commit suicide, actually put a gun in his mouth and shot himself and a bullet went up the side of his cheek and he lived. I'm glad he did because he turned out to be a pretty good old boy. His name is Jimbo and he's from Kansas. So back in the day, I was bouncing bars there in Southern Cali-

fornia and street fighting. We reinvented cage fighting. And long story short, one night, there was this stuff called dummy dust, angel dust, PCP, it had all these different names, but it was a chemical. It was very powerful and no one knew how powerful it was. And people were dropping dead like flies all over the place, not really knowing what it was. Someone challenged me to smoke that stuff. Usually I would be able to smoke half a bag of anything, and I was the guy that drove everybody home because I have one of those systems that doesn't get affected. But that night was different. My heart stopped. Nobody even knew it. My brothers and other people there just said, "Look, we knocked him out." I had a nickname, Iron Monk. They were so happy that they knocked me out. They dragged me into the bedroom, threw me on my bed, and they were laughing and everybody was partying. And I'm trying to tell them, "hey, I can't breathe. Don't leave. I need help. There's something wrong. I can't breathe." I could hear myself in my head screaming, but my voice wasn't working. The next thing I know, I came out of my body and was looking at a dead man on the floor and it was me. Then I heard my mom's voice in my ear saying something she always used to say. And it's like God replayed these words. She said, "Billy, don't run FROM Jesus, run TO Him." For a few seconds, I asked myself what was happening. I was hallucinating out of my body. My dead mom was talking to me. Then I realized, wait a minute. No, no, this is real. I'm not hallucinating. I'm really out of my body. And God is talking to me and I thought I heard my mother. And I did a deal with the Lord. And I'm hoping that your radio listening audience will do a deal with God today because he

does that. God is a negotiator. He says in His word, “Come let us reason together”—negotiate—talk about it, you know. And I said “If you don’t let me die, if you put me back in my body, and of course, I was frantically begging and screaming. I said, you know, I’ll serve you the rest of my life. I know I promised you before and I broke my promises but I mean it this time. Just put me back in my body and I’ll do this.” Seconds later, I stood to my feet sober and coherent. And I was so excited to run in to tell the others. But I sensed the presence of God was so powerful in my bedroom, I decided to lie on the bed. And there I stayed in a fetal position and cried like a baby. I was thanking Jesus for not letting me die. And the next day, the door opened up where I was sleeping, and people were blowing marijuana smoke in my face. And before I could even wake up, I was high again. Then a couple more days went by and then my brother told me that he had a life-changing experience. (As I had mentioned earlier my sister had enlisted 300 Baptists to be praying for us). My brother explained that while he was taking a bath he felt like God took a wash rag and cleansed him from the inside out. So as I thought about what happened to me a couple of days before, I grabbed Ken by the neck and said, “Boy, we know what we need to do. We grew up Baptists. We know we gotta get saved. We need to ask Jesus to take control of our lives. So we prayed a prayer right there, went to the phone and called my sister. I was surprised when she hung up the phone in my ear. But then 15 minutes later, she was at the front door looking at us, eye to eye to eye. And she yelled out, “Yes, you did it. You’re saved!” We asked her how she knew that and she told us that she could see it in our eyes. I walked over to the

mirror and I put my two fingers on my eyelids trying to figure out what the heck she's talking about. But the Bible says that the window of a man's eyes is the entrance to the soul. And she could see the change. She could see the light in our eyes. [00:07:31][397.7]

Fez: [00:07:31] That's right. [00:07:32][0.2]

Bill: [00:07:32] And so that's how it happened. Since I grew up Baptist, I was baptized nine times because every time we moved to the next church, they baptized me again. And, you know, I had head knowledge, but I never had heart knowledge. I would go into the tank a sinner and I'd come out of the tank a sinner because I never had a true conversion. In John chapter 3, Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again to see or enter the kingdom." I wrote a book, God's Radical Remnant. I'm a wordsmith and I do studies on words and their meanings. That phrase "born again" means to be changed from the natural to the supernatural. It means to be touched by the Spirit. It means to stop pursuing stupid and carnal things, worldly things, and to begin your journey of seeking and searching out spiritual things. And only God can change your heart. We cannot make this happen. No one can do this to ourselves. That's no more than white knuckle Christianity. Either you're deliberate or you're not. Either you're changed or you're not. Either you ought to read your Bible or you haven't heard me. And the Bible says that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things pass away. Behold, all things are new and all things are of God. And it's speaking of a change. And, you know, God has even used the President of the United States of America to have one word, and that one word was change. And God will speak

to anybody and everybody so that you get "the rest of the story" as Paul Harvey used to say. But I am referring to the rest of God's story that he wants to share with mankind. And America does need a change. I personally don't think it's what some of these political leaders want to do. But I absolutely think it's everything that God wants to do. [00:09:35]/[122.2]

Fez: [00:09:50] Yeah. I think that there's a revival going on in America. I see it all over the place on the Internet where people are sharing their testimonies, starting websites and starting YouTube channels and and just sharing what the Lord is saying to them. Just like the Bible says that God will pour out His spirit on all men. And I think that's what's happening. [00:10:14]/[24.3]

Bill: [00:10:16] He is. We are living in days of knowledge. If you look in the original scripture, it's compounded knowledge. And knowledge as we know it began doubling every year whereas it used to take 50 years. By now it is probably doubling every few months or even in one month's time. [00:10:41]/[25.0]

Fez: [00:10:42] Oh, yeah. [00:10:42]/[0.2]

Bill: [00:10:43] That's where it is. Life is picking up speed. It has such momentum. I found out that my name William or Bill in Latin means "determined protector." And I used to do that. I used to fight and be a bodyguard. But, in the Greek, it's the word "seal." It's the same word used in Matthew 6:33. But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. A lot of people, they misread and they misinterpret the word seek, and they start doing everything that they think

it means. But it's not. As you study and get to know him, it makes you want to worship him. Just like when a man meets a woman, he studies her and he gets to know her. He finds out what she likes and doesn't like. Then the relationship grows into friendship and ultimately marriage. The Bible says "My people perish for lack of knowledge. Because you've rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest and I reject you as children". So we ask ourselves what it is we're lacking and what we need. Well, it's knowledge. You look up that word and there's three Hebrew words- (yada hukma and daha). So my people are perishing for intimacy with God—and that's what impregnates you with the fear of the Lord that empowers you to do and to keep His commandments. [00:13:10][147.3]

Fez: [00:13:12] Hey, Bill, Let's refer back to something you said earlier when you were talking about when you came to know the Lord, and people you knew said they could see it in your eyes. There's a moment where all you want to do is begin to follow after God and you just have to tell your story. I'm still in that. I still feel that way and it has been two years now. But in practical terms how does someone live in this world and do the whole making a living thing. And I feel like my desires for that are not as much as they were. You know, I was an ambitious guy. I had been trying to get ahead in the world and succeed and make my parents proud and all that stuff. But after this conversion that I had and I suspect a lot of people listening to this show also had a change in mindset after their conversion. How do you exist in the world and do these things? [00:14:22][69.9]

Bill: [00:14:23] Well, you know, my second book that I am writing, though I haven't chosen a title yet, is in the vein of *Secrets of the Kingdom*. *Intimacy with God*. *Moments with the Messiah*. *The Lost Art of devotion*. And there's no pat answer, no one way of doing it for every person. I think of Matthew 6:33. We are all busy and we all live in the real world. The first few years I was saved, my occupation was laying carpet all the time. But God says, "If you put me first, if you seek me first, if you study and worship me, you're going to be in right standing with me, righteous and all that, all things will be added unto you. And so my only answer to that is that every man and woman is on their journey with God. We're all in different places. By the way, there's four different Greek words describing what level and in what place we are. Level one refers to baby. Level two refers to a toddler. level three is referring to teenager and level four refers to someone who's mature enough to do two things—hear from God and be obedient to what they heard. So depending on what level you are is how God is going to deal with you. I wouldn't hand my keys over to a baby or a toddler, and I'm reluctantly going to give my keys to a teenager. Right? But someone who is mature you can trust with your vehicle. Jesus' disciples were preaching and casting out devils and prophesying. And he told them, "My little children, it is expedient that I leave and that I go away. But I will send the comforter. But when he said "children", he was using the word that means the teenager level. And they were moving and grooving and prophesying and doing all kinds of works in His name. [00:16:53]/[150.5]

Fez: [00:16:55] But they were young. [00:16:56]/[0.8]

Bill: [00:16:56] Yes they were. So it's a difficult question you asked, but there is an answer to it. It depends on what level we are. And like I said, if we give God one step, He'll carry us a few, you know? Yeah. Anybody listening to this broadcast can contact us here, and get the book. And a lot of my journey is in this book, and I don't think anybody would be disappointed in reading it. [00:17:26]/[29.6]

Fez: [00:17:31] You're talking about "God's Radical Remnant" [00:17:32]/[1.1]

Bill: [00:17:34] You can also go to Amazon or Kindle and just type in Dr. Bill Henderson or type in God's Radical Remnant and you can get it that way. [00:17:46]/[12.2]

Fez: [00:17:47] Okay. Perfect. Bill, I wanted to ask you, how did you get started in the original Power Team? [00:17:55]/[8.0]

Bill: [00:17:55] I have always been a muscle head and was a carpet layer. And I also did brick, block and stone for years. I've been very fit my whole life. I think when I was a kid, I asked God for the strength of Samson. I think he really gave it to me because I'm strong. I have mesmerized people over the years. Recently I was on a TBN show being interviewed and they talked about me being with the power team and that I hold records. One time I broke seven pairs of handcuffs all at once. It took 15 minutes and I broke my wrist, but I did it and set a record. And then there's something called the Triple Break. I doubled the record on that. And there's something called the Human Gripper, where you put 35 men on each arm and they try to pull your grip apart. That's a total of 70, they could bench press 500 but could not form a grip apart. But I'm convinced that it's not

all me. I'm convinced that it's as if God is saying "If I don't help my kid right now, they're going to pull his arms off" and He sends angels to go down there and hold them together. [00:19:09][74.0]

Fez: [00:19:11] Yeah, it's supernatural, isn't it? [00:19:13][2.2]

Bill: [00:19:21] Our natural becomes supernatural when we are walking with Him. [00:19:25][3.7]

Fez: [00:19:26] That's amazing. I think two members from the power team visited our church one time and they were doing some cool things. They were bending nails and stuff. There's one guy I remember in particular. He was able to bend big railroad nails in half like they were made out of butter. [00:19:49][23.3]

Bill: [00:19:50] Yeah. I think John Jacobs used to curl up 350, like, 50 times. Most bodybuilders I know can barely pick up 350, let alone curl it once. [00:20:06][16.4]

Fez: [00:20:07] That's right. [00:20:07][0.3]

Bill: [00:20:08] So everybody has their gifts and their techniques. And Brad could deadlift 1200 pounds a few times. Barry used to carry refrigerators on his back. John Carpenter used to blow up more hot water bottles than anybody. They all had their own techniques. [00:20:28][20.1]

Fez: [00:20:29] That's pretty cool. [00:20:29][0.3]

Bill: [00:20:29] I announced to millions of people on last night's broadcast. I said, "yeah, I hold three world's records. But here's the deal. The greatest thing I ever did is when I raised my hands and I said, "Help me and save me, Jesus." [00:20:44][14.5]

Fez: [00:20:46] Yeah, that's true. [00:20:46][0.6]

Bill: [00:20:47] That record bears repeating. That record got my name put in the Book of Life. [00:20:52]/[5.4]

Fez: [00:20:53] That's right, Bill. Well, let's talk about global relief. So I understand that you were instrumental in helping out during the Hurricane Katrina disaster, but also other places. Could you tell us about that? [00:21:08]/[15.5]

Bill: [00:21:09] Well, I went up to New York where Hurricane Sandy hit and I spent about a month there. And my dear friend Christine D'Angelo was chauffeuring us all over the place and was a great help. Also I spent about three months in Moore, Oklahoma. It was almost the record breaking storm of all time. About 27 people died whereas in a nearby area a hundred years earlier, there were 700 people who died. But now with the technology that gives warnings and alert sirens, many are able to get to storm shelters. But one tragedy occurred when the storm flattened the elementary school and seven children died. And I went over there and ministered. They turned the fence around the school into a memorial, and they had clothes and toys and pictures of the kids that died and I saw many grieving parents. And I was able to walk up and console people, telling them I understood how they felt. And I had some of them look at me and wonder what I could possibly know about losing a child. And I handed them a tract about my daughter who had leukemia who I lost in 1992. I had done a gospel tract on her called Angel Face. So I understood because I too had lost a child. I shared my story and they apologized. And I told them we all live a life where bad things happen to good people. God is still in control of what happens. King David prayed for his ill son but when his son died, he stopped fast-

ing. He freshened his face, combed his hair, and he went back to work. His men wondered what he was doing. He told them, "Here's the deal, boys. I can't bring my son back to me, but I can prepare myself so that some day I could be with my son." So here is a word to your listening audience. Some people have lost relationships. Some people may have lost family. It may be kids. Whatever your loss, you must now prepare yourselves to draw closer to God in your place of pain. Okay? He will cause you to prevail. He'll give you power. And you can take my word on that. You can take God's word on that. Many are the afflictions of the righteous. But the Lord will deliver you out of them all. Being with the Power Team waa great. One time we were overseas and we were planning to air on the television station there and a guy had come to murder us but we didn't know it at the time. I remembered having a word of knowledge about somebody going back to the God of their childhood. And long story short, years later, a man walked up to me and he wanted to join the team and he didn't speak any English. I asked him if he was able to break handcuffs or ball bats or break bricks. I asked him why he wanted to join our team. This boy was a twelve degree martial artist and he could do things that would absolutely mesmerize anybody—Put a dime on your head and kick it off—really cool stuff that I never did. I told him, "Yeah, I think you'd do great on the bar team here. Why not join?" Tears began running down his face and through his translator he told us. "You were in Brazil 10 years ago, in Rio de Janiero. I was paid large sums of money to murder the man speaking and then murder as many as I could on the platform. Then he "heard a voice from heaven and felt a hand

from heaven was on my chest and stopped me from coming on stage.” The voice said “these are my servants. Do them no harm. Listen to them.” And that night he gave his heart to Jesus. And I found out a decade later. [00:26:14]/[304.6]

Fez: [00:26:15] Wow. [00:26:15]/[0.0]

Bill: [00:26:15] And then he traveled with me for about three years, giving demonstrations and giving the testimony how he came to kill Bill. [00:26:22]/[6.4]

Fez: [00:26:23] That's amazing. Wow. Thank God that nothing happened there in Brazil and God protected you. You have been all over the world. Where is some place that you've been or that you did something incredible or where there was some amazing testimony? What's the farthest place you've gone? [00:26:44]/[20.6]

Bill: [00:26:46] I've been on a plane for, maybe 24 hours, flying one way. [00:26:54]/[7.5]

Fez: [00:26:55] Yeah? [00:26:55]/[0.0]

Bill: [00:26:56] Of course you have to stop and get gas and stuff. But I've been to India and Japan and down by Vietnam to Burma. I've been to Australia, the down under. No worries, mate. We went down there to what was it, Crocodile Dundee? Since I have blond hair, I put on a Dundee hat and coat. My friends teased, “Let's pretend you're Dundee because you look like him.” I went along with it. They were saying “Dundee, Dundee, can we have your autograph?” I said, No worries, mate. Line up right here, form a line. Next thing you know, there's a huge line because onlookers thought I was Dundee. I told them I wasn't really Dundee and I wrote down my name. Then I told them, “Your name must be written in the Lamb's Book of Life before it's too late. Why don't

you just take a moment and pray with me and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior? What do you say, mate?" And I was able to lead person after person to Christ. "By the way, even though I'm not the real Dundee, what I am telling you now is the truth." [00:28:30][93.7]

Fez: [00:28:31] Wow. [00:28:31][0.0]

Bill: [00:28:32] Some places that I've been to are India, Japan, Myanmar. I've been to the jungles of Indonesia. I've been to Haiti eight times. Two years ago in Indonesia after preaching the gospel in a jungle some people tried to stone us. [00:28:49][16.4]

Fez: [00:28:49] Are you kidding me? Stoned? No. That's from biblical times. [00:28:52][3.0]

Bill: [00:28:54] I could tell you lots of stories. But God showed up in every one of them. People threw rocks at us and somehow the rocks physically missed our body, but destroyed the rental van. Right. And we had to get in a little bit of a scuffle to get out of the jungle and pull motorcycles that were trying to block us out of the way. We drove as fast as we could out of the jungle. We led hundreds of people to the Lord before this very angry group showed up screaming at us that we were going to die. And then we made it back to the hotel while they were chasing us. Going back to the hotel I cried out to God, "I claim Psalm 83:3 where it says, Evil people make a plan and a conspiracy to kill you and to take you out and destroy you and say that you're not a people. And God says, But you are my chosen ones. You are my cherished ones, you are my protected ones." And the Hebrew word in this verse means that God will make us invisible to death, danger, and the enemy so that we can stay alive.

Wow. And while they were chasing us, they stopped on their motorcycles and started looking to the left and to the right. And we were straight in front of them and they couldn't see us. And I'm telling my team, look, it works. It works. God works. The same thing happened in Haiti where there were voodoo people trying to kill us. They said, "Who are these people from America that they disappear every time we go to shoot them?" There were four jeeps filled with voodoo priests with guns trying to murder us. And we kept disappearing. Well, I would need a longer broadcast for me to tell you how there were many times over the years I've had people come to me and tell me how they didn't like me. I was in San Bernadino where a group of drug lords came to Jesus and this one guy said, I had you in my sight several times and I would squeeze the trigger and the gun wouldn't work. So I was able to share with him how God gives us angels. Psalm 103: 19 & 20 says that there are ministering spirits of fire that excel in strength, ministering angels of power. They hearken to the voice. They hearken to the commandments. In Hebrew the word voice means decree. It means prophetic decree. You say what you think God wants. Angels hear it and God releases them to carry out His purposes to make it happen. [00:32:11]/[196.8]

Fez: [00:32:13] Wow. Well, what I'm learning from listening to you is that speaking scripture —standing on the promises using your FEET— actually speaking the words from the scripture— is real. That's what releases power. [00:32:27]/[14.1]

Bill: [00:32:28] Before I run out of time here I would like to share something else very quickly. I know this has

been more of a time of God's word coming forth. I mean I could tell you my story all day long. And the bottom line is, once I was a sinner and Jesus set me free. And I was a dope dealer and now a HOPE dealer. I graduated from DSU. And a lot of people look at me and they ask what DSU is and I tell them Devil Stomping University. It's in the highways and byways and it's partly with your family. And when you share what Jesus has done for you, you're going to get opposition with intensity. But along that journey, you're going to learn a lot of stuff. And God lets the opposition come because he tells us to pray for our enemies and to forgive so that we can live. In 2 Corinthians 2:11 it says "We're not ignorant. We're not taken over by Satan's devices. The devil cannot get an advantage of this. And the word "device" in the Greek means a "clamp" on the believer, on their mind, on their heart, on their perception. So the devil can't put a wrong perception in my thinking, causing me to believe lies from the intelligent mind game of hell, of Satan. How cool is that? But in verse ten, he says why. And this is a word to your radio audience. Okay. There are certain regions in America where people really have a hard time doing this. And some of you live in one of those regions. I'm from Southern California. And, you know, where there's a lot of pride and stuff you're going to find. People don't want to do this. They want to do things their way. Paul said several times, in verse 10, he says, I've forgiven them. As a matter of fact, I forgive everybody of everything. That's why Satan can't control me. He can't put on a device. And so my challenge to your listening audience is to get a clue. You can do it with Jesus' help. So Colossians says that it's Christ within us that does the

work. And once you turn it over to the Lord and say, Forgive this person through me, channel your love through me, channel your power through me. It's then, only then that we have the ability to forgive others. The other key to that is prayer. It's found in Ephesians: Praying always with all manner of prayer and supplication in the Spirit. That's part of our armor. And when we start praying, it will be an offering. And God will exchange our weakness for his strength. He wants us to sacrifice and concentrate and make a decision that our life is not our own. And he has the permission to do what he wants to do. Prayer is an altar of dedicating our life, surrendering our life. It's simply talking to God so that we can change and be imitate him. Once we dedicate ourselves, once we've exchanged our inabilities with his abilities and exchange our natural for his supernatural, He listens to our wishes, our desires and our longings. And then he sees to our needs. I know people are listening to your radio station right now that have needs, and what they need to do is take time to make time with their Creator. Psalms 37 says to delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. The word delight means have a crush on God, therefore spend time with Him. And then the word desire means what we just said, which is desires and longings. I want to ask my friend Jimbo to jump in here with me because he's known me all these years and he has supplied me with gospel tracts. I sense that there are listeners who have dealt with suicidal thoughts and that's why God's got you listening. And if you're not suicidal, maybe there is someone you know. Jimbo has an insight on this. Please, Jimbo, introduce yourself and share. [00:38:04]/[335.9]

Jimbo: [00:38:07] Well guys, it seemed like the spirit of suicide was on me from very early age. First of all, I will tell you something you might find humorous as I'm a disabled Marine that if I was a horse you might shoot. I got out of service and was drinking and fighting and making a fool of myself, and one night I just got tired. I just went out and sat in the car and tried to end it. But my attempt failed. I got hurt but I lived. In answer to a question you were discussing earlier about how we live this life and do something meaningful for the Lord. I was in charge of a lucrative company. And I went to work one day and I said, I don't want to do this. I just want to love people. So I just walked away from that job and studied theology. And something amazing happened. Someone drilled down on my land and hit oil and certainly that was a blessing financially. But I put Him first and made Him the first desire of my heart and spreading the Word and He provided for me in abundance. [00:40:15]/[127.7]

Bill: [00:40:16] I'm a happy man, Jimbo. You're supposed to preach! Maybe there are three or four people listening right now who may be struggling with suicide. We pray that spirit of suicide be removed from them. Yes, Thank you, Lord. Forgiveness, my friends. Bind the spirit of suicide and affliction with personal abuse. Jesus was crucified for you. Thank you, Lord, for these people right now. We are survivors. We need you Jesus. In the matchless name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth we pray and we claim this. Eternity is too long to be wrong. That's good. Thank you, Lord for being over all and everything and giving us abundant life. Father, you will never leave us. You give us life and strengthen us. We thank you, Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

And all we have to do is just say, Lord, forgive me my sins and I believe that Jesus is who He says He is. Come and ask Jesus, “give me a better life. I want you the rest of my days. Give me the power through the Holy Spirit. [00:41:57]/[101.2]

Fez: [00:41:59] In Jesus’ name. Thank you, Jim. Thank you to both of you, Bill and Jim, for being on this show. You guys are a lot of fun. You guys are full of stories. I love listening and learning from you guys. And I know that the listeners out there got a lot from just listening to the program right now and listening to what you’ve been through. [00:42:20]/[21.1]

Bill: [00:42:22] Yeah, well, is there a way they can contact you, Fez? [00:42:26]/[3.9]

Fez: [00:42:27] Yeah, they can contact me through my website, but I know that they can contact you as well. Is it globalrelief.com or globalrelief.org? [00:42:35]/[8.0]

Bill: [00:42:36] It’s both, but it’s under construction. On Facebook, I’m called Man to Man. And look for a guy preaching in Mexico with his hands in the air and the guy translating. Look for another photo with a bunch of military people. And that’s in the jungles of Indonesia. Or they can email me at Pastor4Disaster@gmail.com [00:43:17]/[40.5]

Fez: [00:43:18] Okay, great. [00:43:18]/[0.4]

Bill: [00:43:18] And if they prefer, they can email me with their name and phone number and I will personally call them back. [00:43:23]/[5.1]

Fez: [00:43:25] Sounds good. Thank you, Bill. And thank you, Jim. Thank you both for being on the show. God bless you. And you know, we must keep in touch. [00:43:33]/[8.9]

Bill: [00:43:36] It feels like we are a family . And you know, Romans 10:13 says “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. That word means to be delivered spiritually, mentally, socially, financially and academically. So today, don't delay. Call on the name of Jesus. You can say a short prayer like ”Jesus, help”. Or “Jesus, save me”. My prayer was “Jesus, whatever it is you do, do it to me.” You will be changed for all eternity. [00:44:13]/[36.5]

Fez: [00:44:14] *And you can say*, “Dear Jesus, show me if you're real.” And I've heard all kinds of different prayers, you know, regarding building that friendship, that relationship, as you were talking about spending time, I think that was the theme of the show today. God bless you guys. Take care. Thanks for being on the show. [00:44:32]/[18.1] Share this on Twitter. Share them on your blogs. Share them as emails to your friends. These are powerful, powerful testimonies of how Jesus Christ changed people's lives. As you know, the Word of God says we overcome the enemy through the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, and the word of our testimony. So it's important that we use these testimonies to spread the word, spread the gospel in Jesus name. Thank you, guys, for listening. And until next time, God bless you. [00:45:01]/[0.0]

Almost Arrested By The Military Police (Jose Santano)

Fez: [00:00:00] All right. We have a guest on the program right now. His name is Jose Santano and he's the New York

field director for Prison Fellowship Ministries. He's also involved in Angel Tree and he's been ministering to the people in prison, inmates who have no contact with their families. And he's coming on the show to share why he's involved in Prison Fellowship and how he got involved in the church in general. He's going to talk about his testimony of why he is doing what it is he's doing right now. Let's welcome him to the program. Welcome, Jose. How are you doing? [00:00:36][35.7]

Jose: [00:00:37] I'm fine. Bless you. Thank you for having me on. [00:00:40][2.5]

Fez: [00:00:40] God bless you. It's a pleasure to talk to you because you've been ministering for quite a long time. How many years has it been? [00:00:47][6.5]

Jose: [00:00:48] Well, by the grace of God, the Lord found me close to 31 years ago. [00:00:54][5.3]

Fez: [00:00:55] 31. Wow. That's a very long time. That's longer than I've been doing this show. Definitely. But you know, God works in mysterious ways and he puts certain people together. When I saw you at church the other Sunday I knew that you had to come on the show and talk about your ministry, the Prison Fellowship Ministries. Often what I do on this program is have Christians come on and share their testimonies. I believe that testimonies are a powerful way for listeners to come into direct relationship with what God does in people's lives, specifically the details on how God changes people. So I think we should start with some basic questions. Were you raised a Christian? [00:01:40][45.1]

Jose: [00:01:42] Well, I have a Hispanic background and as in most cases of Hispanics that I knew, I was born into a Catholic home and had a Catholic upbringing. We were religious, but I did not know Jesus Christ personally until later on in my life. [00:02:01]/[19.2]

Fez: [00:02:03] Okay. Although people sometimes have a religious background they're not necessarily walking closely with the Lord. So were you somebody who as you got older decided to seek out a different type of church, one that taught you how to walk closer with the Lord? [00:02:25]/[22.7]

Jose: [00:02:27] Well, as a young Hispanic, I initially grew up in the Bronx and eventually we moved to Elmont in Queens. I grew up in a home where my family and I attended Catholic Mass every so often, definitely for holy days, Easter and Christmas, stuff like that. I did not start developing a close relationship, nor even a desire to know more about the person, Jesus Christ, in the scriptures. But, then I think I was maybe around fourteen years old at the time when we lived near a parish where a priest named Father Bedoya invited me to become an altar boy. That's when I actually began moving in a direction in my life where I started wanting to learn a little more about how to be acceptable to God. Over the years, I met many wonderful Catholic individuals who desired to live good lives, but who were sometimes searching for something deeper. And as a result of that Catholic upbringing, which eventually led me to becoming an altar boy, I began learning a little bit more about being a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ. It is more than just simply coming to church on Sundays, whether a person is Catholic or

of another denomination. But, it wasn't until later in my life when I joined the military that I would say I actually came to Christ in the way it is traditionally done. As I look back over my life leading up to that point, I realize that it was over many years that God was working in my life to eventually bring me to a point where I confessed my sins and I acknowledged that he forgave me through His death on the cross of Calvary. [00:04:43]/[136.0]

Fez: [00:04:45] So, this happened while serving in the military. Do you think it was because of having to face death? I don't know if you served overseas or not, but did you start to grapple with this idea of the fact that we are only mortals? [00:05:00]/[15.3]

Jose: [00:05:02] Well, if you want the lowdown on it, I went into the military right out of high school. I wasn't ready for college so I joined the military at age 18. I identified myself as being of the Catholic faith, but no regular church attendee whatsoever. I did what a lot of 18 year olds did. And that was when I started being away from mom and dad, I did my own thing. I'm condensing a lot into a short period of time but I will tell you that when I eventually served overseas, I served in Germany. I was a radio repairman in a support battalion for an infantry division. I got myself in trouble as a military soldier because I started getting involved in what was known as the black market back then. I got involved in some illegal activities while at the same time I was attending church. I either went to the Catholic Church or the prison service on the military base. I had been a churchgoer who attended every so often, but something happened when I faced being arrested in the military that drew me to

get close to God. And by that, I got close to the Catholic Church because that was what I knew about God. If I needed God, I went to church. There was a father, a priest who would instruct me. And little did I know that my parish priest at that time in the military - Father Torres - would invite me to go to a weekend retreat. It was during a time in my life when I thought I was going to be arrested by the military police because I was dealing in the black market at the time while I was a soldier in Germany. [00:06:51]/[108.6]

Fez: [00:06:52] Oh, I see. Okay. So God was working through the pastors — the priests — when you were overseas in order to draw you closer to him. And he was using many people — I believe God uses everyone. A lot of people tend to want to make distinctions between Catholic and Protestant. And there's so much division in the church today. But I think every believer is a part of the body of Christ, wouldn't you say? And God works through everyone. [00:07:19]/[27.1]

Jose: [00:07:21] Absolutely, because in the end, as our Lord Jesus Christ said, one of the greatest commandments since Jesus started off with quoted the Old Testament saying "Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one; you must love the Lord with all your heart, your mind, your soul, your body, and you will then love your neighbor as yourself." When I accepted the invitation to that retreat, I ended up becoming a part of what is known as the Catholic Charismatic Movement. I set out on that retreat mainly because I didn't want to get arrested. Like many people who don't know God, we're crying out to God sometimes for a favor or sometimes for an answer to prayer. But, for the first time in my life, I expe-

rienced the Bible like I had never experienced it before. At that Catholic charismatic retreat, there was no focus on anything other than reading and discussing the Bible and fellowship. I spent three days away talking about Jesus more than I ever had, read the Bible for the first time in my life, and at the end of those three days, I literally walked away with a love for God that I had never experienced before in my life. God became real to me and it wasn't presented to me in the form of religion. It was presented to me in the form of a relationship. And long story short, when I returned, number one, I didn't get arrested which was an answer to prayer. The Catholic priest would actually encourage me to move over to the Protestant group because I came back with a hunger for the Bible. I wanted to study the Bible. I wanted to learn more about Jesus Christ on the pages of Scripture. And He directed me to the Protestant church because back then there were only two churches on the military base, the Catholic one or the Protestant. There were two flavors, chocolate and vanilla. And through the Protestant church, I got involved in Bible studies. I would eventually get baptized and that would be a continuation of what God had been doing in my life. [00:09:46][145.6]

Fez: [00:09:48] And God has a plan that works exactly at the moment that you need it where you talk to particular people at particular times. And it's incredible how everything works together perfectly. And it's interesting how this priest directed you to the Protestant church. But that doesn't matter, you know. At the time that's what you needed, where you were supposed to go, and that's what the Lord led you

to do. So after that, I guess you were probably on fire for the Lord. [00:10:17]/[29.6]

Jose: [00:10:20] Oh my goodness. At first, it felt like kerosene was poured on my life and I was so on fire for the Lord. It was that honeymoon phase, if you want to call it that. I saw Jesus Christ in every single thing I did. I thank God that I eventually became a member of a small discipleship group in the military who began to teach me and train me in the ways of the Lord. I learned how to pray, and yes, I was excited for God. And the beautiful thing was that God was impacting my life as a soldier. Before this, I had lived a life of dishonesty. The Lord opened many favorable doors for me to learn and grow in him. And yes, I was definitely on fire for God. My life had been totally transformed, becoming more like the Lord. [00:11:19]/[59.1]

Fez: [00:11:20] And I think it's important to emphasize what you just said about how the Lord is the one who did it, and it's the Holy Spirit working in your life who caused your character to become more like Him. And it's not on your own, you know, like trying to micromanage yourself and your behaviors, right? I mean, it's something that comes from a spiritual point of view. [00:11:41]/[21.9]

Jose: [00:11:43] Oh, absolutely. I mean, even as we look we look at what Jesus said, the first commandment above all is to establish a relationship with God. We need a vertical relationship in and of itself. We ourselves, with all our good intentions, all our programming, we neglect to deal with the number one issue, which is the problem with shame and sin. It cannot be controlled in the sense that man's sin is a spiritually fallen condition except for the salvation that we have

in Jesus Christ by what He did on the cross of Calvary. None of us can say we are good in ourselves because the Bible says all of our good works are as filthy rags. When we compare ourselves with each other, you might be on a different level than I might be, a “productive member of society.” And I’m doing this and that and it looks like I’m doing good. But when I look up, I realize that there’s nothing in me that can ever appease a holy God. I’ve got to deal with the shame that I’ve committed and that’s only been able to be dealt with by the cross of Jesus Christ. And once we have that relationship with Jesus Christ, once God has transformed us from the inside out, then our lives directly impact others because it now becomes the work of the Holy Spirit working in and through our lives. [00:12:59]/[76.2]

Fez: [00:13:00] Exactly. Yes. [00:13:01]/[0.6]

Jose: [00:13:02] This is not just a bunch of good works. We live in a society where we know the Ten Commandments and need to follow rules and regulations and laws. But that which can truly transform the man or the woman can only be done by the Holy Spirit. [00:13:21]/[19.0]

Fez: [00:13:21] That’s right. And it’s asking the Holy Spirit to physically come inside you, interact with you that’s so important. I just want to emphasize that to nonbelievers who may be listening to the program. It’s not that Christians are trying to lord it over you, that we’re better than you because we’re not. It’s just that we seek to appease and to please God and the Holy Spirit. It’s really the Holy Spirit that’s working in our lives that makes us behave in certain ways. You know, Jose, I want to ask you how you got involved in serving in the ministry. As I look at your life now, you’re cur-

rently a New York field director for the Prison Fellowship Ministries, and you've been involved in prison ministries for a number of years. [00:14:07]/[45.1]

Jose: [00:14:07] Well, I've been a Christian for over 30 years. I've been involved in prison ministry, actually, for about 12 or 13 years. [00:14:15]/[7.9]

Fez: [00:14:16] Okay, so about 13 years. You know, people say that if your life is transformed and people can see it, then obviously the Lord has impacted your life. And of course, your behavior has changed by the working of God's Spirit through the years. So I wanted to ask you, how did you first get involved in prison fellowship ministries ?[00:14:38]/[22.0]

Jose: [00:14:40] Well, getting involved in the prison ministry began over the course of many years. One of my first experiences came from the fact that during the time that I was in the military struggling with possible incarceration, I found out that Jesus Christ came to meet me irregardless of what I did, even though I had committed a crime. But yet, Jesus presented himself to me in such a loving way that I realized that God was not looking for me to clean up my life before I came to Him, but he wanted me to come just as I was so he could clean my life after I came to him. And then years later, I met my wife Gladys and we got married. And we were members of a church called Love Gospel Assembly in the Bronx, long story short. And the Lord would eventually allow us to go into the mission field. We did four years in Guadalajara, Mexico, and the only door that seemed to open to us as we were directed by the Lord was to visit young offenders who are incarcerated in youth detention fa-

cilities. We would go in not knowing. We didn't go in there as a prison ministry. We just went in there to talk to people about Jesus Christ because the warden of that particular facility was a Christian. He went to church, invited us in, and we found a captive, receptive audience. We started ministering and preaching to the kids, and that was the first foray into actual prison ministry. We went into those facilities where the kids were sniffing glue, all guilty of committing crime. They listened to the testimony. They received prayer. They were open to what we said and more importantly open to God. We all find that when we are confronted with our crimes and our sin, and we're willing to acknowledge it, the Lord is ever so close to us. So I started getting involved in prison ministry in Mexico. Then fast forward to about eight long years ago. I was involved with Living Word Church, which is a church in White Plains. And my wife and I first started attending their church and the pastor directed me to meet a couple, Joe and Mary Santoro who were doing prison ministry. We prayed, and the Lord opened up doors. I would eventually go through the process to become a volunteer at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility in New York. And I started doing prison ministry under their auspices, like I said, close to eight years ago. That started off as one night a week going in and sharing the Gospel, opening the Word of God to the inmates behind the prison walls. It eventually became many times each month. [00:17:49]/[189.0]

Fez: [00:17:51] Wow, and you know, prisons in America have a real problem, the issue of major overcrowding, as I'm sure you would agree. It is likely the drug war has affected the growth in the number of inmates in America because

as you know, even the possession of marijuana is something that could land you in jail all by itself. [00:18:17]/[26.4]

Jose: [00:18:19] Well, America is the incarceration nation of the entire planet. I mean, I think the United States has approximately 5% of the population of the planet, and yet we have 25% of the incarcerated individuals on the planet behind prison walls. Incarceration is a social problem and also a national problem. It attempts to address what we know of sin, those individuals who are committing crimes. You know, the law says to have them arrested. But, the laws in and of themselves are not redemptive. They do not provide rehabilitation. They're meant to be punitive. So what we have are individuals outside committing crimes and some obviously commit heinous crimes and they need to be punished. And we understand the concept of justice. But at the same time, we live in a society that, when there's a problem with an individual, we incarcerate them. And when they are incarcerated, we find that they become even worse behind the prison walls. And what has developed in our country, that incarceration has become another name for employment, because we get them off the streets, we throw them into facilities. And that has developed into a whole new culture of people that need to be serviced by another economy. Corrections officers—the entire economy around the prison. So the Department of Corrections has a problem on their hands which is the problem of not only incarcerating individuals, but then you have the concept of recidivism. These young people are growing into men and women, who are causing problems on the outside with their families, and that is impacting their societies. They're behind the prison

walls. They're not being dealt with on the inside, transforming their heart from the inside out. So they come out of prison and then they end up going back on a rollercoaster ride and return to the prison. So there is a dynamic problem in the United States with regards to recidivism. In fact, the county of the Bronx spent over \$48 million just to house the inmates in that particular county, just making more room for more inmates. [00:20:38]/[139.0]

Fez: [00:20:39] That's a lot of money. But you say recidivism. I just want to make sure everyone understands what that means. Could you kind of give us the definition of that again? [00:20:46]/[7.4]

Jose: [00:20:47] Sure. Basically it is when an individual who has been incarcerated leaves the prison facility and within a short period of time usually less than 3 years, they end up re-offending and they return back into the corrections facility. [00:21:02]/[14.6]

Fez: [00:21:03] I see. [00:21:03]/[0.2]

Jose: [00:21:03] So it's a rollercoaster ride or revolving door. [00:21:07]/[3.8]

Fez: [00:21:07] Do you have a statistic offhand that you can share about how many inmates go back to prison after being let out? [00:21:17]/[9.1]

Jose: [00:21:18] I can give you a couple of figures. We have over 700,000 inmates that are being released back into the community in the United States. Within three years, you're looking at anywhere from 60 to 72% having issues that will put them on a path to return back into the facility, which continue to cost the taxpayers money. Because not only are we housing them while they are there, we're spend-

ing thousands of dollars to house them. Now we're dealing with programs to try and help them transition out of facilities which are having low success rates, in fact. And again, I have to get the exact figures, but we're looking at a recidivism rate of over 50%. They're released and then they're coming back in. Because a lot of the issues and problems that these individuals are dealing with—not only are they dealing with the emotional and psychological issues of being incarcerated, but also when they leave and they're confronting economic hardships, they're confronting the stigma that continues to follow them because, as they say, once a felon, always a felon. When they come out, it's hard for them to find jobs because many organizations will not hire an ex-felon. Take for example, the New York City Housing Authority. If you've been committed, if you are convicted of a crime, especially a felony, they bar you from coming back into the public housing system. So where are these individuals going to sleep or how will they live? They will do what comes natural to them. And then they have to go back into the system. And this is where the church has a wonderful, dynamic opportunity to transform lives not only on the inside, but then to begin to work with the men who come out to prevent them from going back in. [00:23:17]/[118.4]

Fez: [00:23:18] You know, it's interesting because no one really talks about this too much in the media or you don't really hear this type of discussion going on regarding the issue of inmates who are in prison and who go back to prison after coming out. It's something that I feel needs to be discussed more openly. But number one, I think that you have to acknowledge, first and foremost, that the psychia-

trists and mental health professionals who try to address the issues that these inmates face are all too often not successful. What is your opinion on that? [00:24:09]/[51.5]

Jose: [00:24:11] One of the things about the field of psychiatry and again, I am not an expert, but I have had some personal contact. The psychiatrist utilizes psychotropic medication to address biological issues in the patient. And again, this is my opinion, but a psychiatrist is a legalized peddler of medication that they hope will try to deal with some of the outward manifestations of behavior that society has deemed not acceptable. They're not dealing with the core issues of the individual because the majority of individuals who are manifesting antisocial behavior are dealing with problems of sin, issues that can only be dealt with in a different format apart from medication. Now, there may be a place for a psychiatrist to help and assist, but since the rates of recidivism are over 65% I'm going to say their efforts are failing. [00:25:20]/[68.5]

Fez: [00:25:21] Their efforts are failing, aren't they? But, that doesn't get acknowledged that often. And of course, the work that you do ministering to them, you know, in the name of Jesus, and that, of course, doesn't get talked about. [00:25:33]/[12.0]

Jose: [00:25:35] No. There is obviously the issue of a "separation of church and state." But I will tell you this, brother, that in the last few years, the government has begun to realize not only are they not being all that effective, but in the past, under various administrations, I believe the beginning of the Bush administration, the government is opening itself up to providing grants to faith based organizations,

for example Teen Challenge, which has an 89% success rate with individuals who go into their programs and come out. In other words, they enter the program, which is faith based, biblically based. They stay for the duration of the program. Those individuals and programs like Teen Challenge or Prison Fellowship or other programs out there that are faith based, are having, like I said, an over 89% success rate for the Department of Corrections. Even the government is beginning to acknowledge that there seems to be something going on in the faith based community that seems to work. One of the things that has to happen is that the church must participate in the ministry. So when you look at the life of Jesus Christ, he was able to sit with a prostitute. And within that conversation, he was able to bring two cultures together, the Samaritan culture and the Jewish culture, which at that time were two cultures that would be equated to the Hatfields and McCoys. But Jesus Christ is able to sit in between those two cultures and share truth with them. There's two cultures that are willing to come together. So part of the work of the church, which is a wonderful door of opportunity that I see opening up across the country, is that faith based organizations are in the prisons. In fact, many prisons are welcoming to faith based organizations. But one of the things I'm looking for, a lot of the things I've seen is that traditional prison ministry, which in the past was a church group or an organized group come in, they'll talk to people about Jesus. They'll share a little Bible study. They'll tell individuals that Jesus loves them, that they need to repent of this, and then they leave. So they're beginning to do some of the work, but they don't go deeper, which is to present

the gospel in such a way that not only as happened in the Book of Acts, where they realize that they have a need because their very life testifies to the fact that something is not working. And we present them with the gospel message, present them with the understanding that Jesus wants to make a change in their lives. And these men and women accept that truth. Not only have their lives transformed, with churches that are beginning to work more effectively, they're able to present the gospel message to the inmates behind bars, develop programs that meet some of the criteria of the Department of Corrections. We then develop vertical reentry programs that work with these offenders while they're behind bars. And then as they're transitioning out of these facilities, faith based organizations are beginning to wait for them on the outside so that they help them make the transition back into society. Okay. Sort of like the raising of Lazarus. He's raised the dead, and now we just need to help him remove the bandages. [00:28:52]/[196.6]

Fez: [00:28:53] That's right. I have a couple of questions. Number one, are there any studies that have been done on the success rate of these programs that you're just talking about? Because you mentioned Teen Challenge, which is a different program which has a very high success rate. But what are the problems? Do you have any studies that you can mention right now on the show that talk about the success of the prison ministries? That's number one. And number two, when you say faith based organizations, are you saying that there are, for example, Islamic organizations that are also doing similar work? And if so, what kind of work are they doing? Because I feel like there's a difference, because when you

talk about prison ministry, you're telling inmates that sin in their life has this type of effect. And then I'm sure you talk to them about deliverance, don't you? [00:29:45][52.7]

Jose: [00:29:47] Yes, and I'm referring to Prison Fellowship, the organization started by Chuck Colson during the 1970s. He was there during the Watergate scandal. Prison Fellowship is a faith based organization, biblically based. Our focus is on Jesus Christ crucified and raised from the dead. I can't speak about the perspective of other religions because I don't work closely with those groups. But with Prison Fellowship there are three components. One is called the Angel Tree component. It is a program in which we work with inmates that are behind bars, Christian or non-Christian. If they are fathers or mothers we give them an opportunity to send a gift to their children. Obviously, their families are at home while they're away and incarcerated. We reach out to these families by having churches and other organizations purchase gifts on their behalf, which means we're now beginning to try and target the families on the outside. There is also a program of Discipleship, in which we work with the chaplains in the corrections facilities and develop discipleship programs. We don't do a one shot deal. We'll go in and we'll develop the leadership. We will develop solid biblical discipleship programs that take the men from beginning to end. They graduate and they start developing a solid biblical relationship with Jesus Christ behind the prison walls. And these are done through chaplains. And these facilities are not only in the state of New York, but also across the country. A third component is a re-entry program. We're looking to target individuals, men or women who have anywhere

from 18 to 24 months before they leave the facility. Phase One is orientation in which we develop not only Bible-based studies, but we're looking to target attitudinal dynamics. We work with the inmate to have them renew their minds. As a Christian, we know this as the renewing their mind according to the Word of God. We just bring in biblically based curriculums that help men like yourself in very small group settings. We typically work anywhere from 8 to 30 men in one particular group. And then Phase Two is what we call the "mentoring" phase when inmates have between six and eight months to leave the facility. We work with what we call a bridge church which is a church on the outside that has been trained by Prison Fellowship staff. We provide them with an understanding of what prison ministry is, what the prison culture is, what the dynamics are that confront an inmate and offender. And then we provide them with mentoring training so that they become a community, a home for these offenders who are coming back. So during phase two, we're working on establishing a relationship between the church, a mentor and the inmate behind the walls. We try to develop that relationship. And then Phase Three is the "reentry" process where they actually leave the facility, met at the door by a volunteer/mentor from a particular church that has adopted that inmate. And he's no longer an inmate obviously, but it's a brother or sister in the Lord, but then we will work closely with him for an additional year. We make a one year commitment to that individual to provide him with counseling, with advice, and a home church. And then we try and look at the resources that are available in the community and the church that address some of the other issues

such as housing, economics, career building, career development, all that. So all those components in place provide these inmates with a higher level of success when they come out. And for that, we have an over 85% rate of not re-offending. They stay out. [00:34:06]/[259.3]

Fez: [00:34:07] And those are all the inmates who participated in Prison Fellowship Ministries over the years. [00:34:11]/[4.3]

Jose: [00:34:12] Yes. And these are inmates who commit to a program and stick with it. [00:34:16]/[3.6]

Fez: [00:34:16] Wow. That's a very high success rate. So praise the Lord for that. I just want to pray and we're going to pray afterwards so that other people come to realize the transformative power of Jesus in these inmates' lives and how these types of programs can really change our society for the better. So I wanted to ask you, Jose, what other individual or personal testimonies have you seen that you can share with us here on the program of people who you've witnessed change in terms of their lives and their behaviors and what they believe and so forth. [00:34:59]/[42.6]

Jose: [00:35:00] Well, let me give you a few. I will start off with an individual whose name is George, a brother who loves the Lord who was an offender who had spent many years at Sing-Sing. But he used his time there in prison to earn several degrees. When he came out, he would eventually travel to Albany, New York, where he became an assistant chaplain working in a community organization. And then as a result of his success in completing his training, he obtained several degrees through what is called the Hudson Link program. Long story short, he is married and pursuing theo-

logical training in Yale University on a full scholarship in a program that is being offered to prisoners who have left the prison facility but have shown tremendous potential. Another individual, Reggie, had been in Sing Sing for over 15 years. He is now a volunteer chaplain working with us at a prison doing ministry work. Another interesting story is one of the individuals who is a teacher with me, his name is Stephen. He works with the youthful offenders in Valhalla. He also was an inmate at the Valhalla Correctional Facility, redeemed by the Lord. He came out and his life has been transformed, and he found employment. He has a job, he has a business. But now he's returning back to Valhalla to give back to the inmates who he used to live with. [00:36:56][115.8]

Fez: [00:36:57] Okay, so those are just three. But, you know, is this kind of typical, would you say? [00:37:01][3.7]

Jose: [00:37:03] It is typical of an individual who is willing to put his faith and trust in Jesus Christ. [00:37:09][5.6]

Fez: [00:37:11] You know, a lot of people would say, why can't you do it yourself? Why do you need to lean on Jesus? I've heard that from nonbelievers. They don't understand why we claim we need to rely on the Lord. What would you say to someone who has that type of sentiment? [00:37:24][13.4]

Jose: [00:37:26] Well, I'll say this, that there are many problems out there. It is important for us to live "good lives." We are not supposed to steal. We are supposed to help each other out. And many people have that experience where they are not inmates in the sense of being physically behind bars. But there are many people who are walking around with is-

sues such as depression, loneliness, the concept of shame, that dynamic which separates us from God. Why can't man himself get his life together? We can establish a society in which people attempt to live decent lives. But when you open up a newspaper and look objectively at all the social problems that are affecting our country, it basically starts in the hearts of individuals. And our belief, especially as Christians, is that Jesus Christ showed that all the works of man can never ever take away the problem that we have which is caused by sin. Can we put a man on the moon? We've done that. Can we invent molecular therapies for diseases that many years ago wiped out populations? Absolutely. But have we been able to deal with the very sinful nature of humans? Absolutely not. On one side, we can develop the technology for splitting the atom, and at the same time, we take what is created because we're made in the image of God. We have all this ability that God has given us. But because of sin, people's lives are under Satan's rule. So the only way that the problems of society can truly be dealt with is when individuals say yes to God's open arms giving the invitation to be united with Him and He transforms them from the inside out. [00:39:27][121.2]

Fez: [00:39:29] That's very well said. I like that. That makes total sense. I mean, Jesus Christ had to come because of the sin problem and his sacrifice is the only thing that can save us. There is nothing that we can do ourselves that has any effect. So, I think it's critical that people understand that there's nothing that we can do in our own power. You know, it only makes matters worse in many cases. Now let me ask you this, Jose. Have you heard of any times where these types

of programs don't work? If you can pick out a couple examples of what happens when it doesn't work? What's the cause of that? [00:40:08]/[39.2]

Jose: [00:40:10] Which program are you talking about? [00:40:14]/[4.3]

Fez: [00:40:15] I'm talking about just prison ministry in general. You mentioned the 85% success rate. Most of the inmates who participate in the program have this type of success. But could you give us an example of people who are inmates who went through the program who it doesn't really work for? And what have you learned from those types of situations? [00:40:35]/[20.1]

Jose: [00:40:37] Prison Fellowship ministry in and of itself is not a church. We're a para-church organization in which we come alongside organizations and churches. One of the things that we have found when individuals have difficulties is that, while they're in the prison, behind the prison walls, we see success. We see them making the attempt, pressing onward continuing in the study of the Lord. But during the last six months, when they begin to transition, one of the things that we're looking for is churches. The churches need to open up their doors to welcome these men and women back after they are released from the prisons. Often, they have already made a genuine commitment to Jesus Christ and they are committed to a plan that will work for them beyond the prison walls. But they need to also find communities of believers who are willing to accept them and not see them as ex-offenders. We must see them as believers in the Lord because these individuals that come out have problems that are going to be slightly different than your av-

erage churchgoer. One of the things that Jesus Christ said in Matthew 25, when he talks about the separation of the sheep and goats, it talks about Jesus Christ judging all in a way where he separates people. He allows them to enter into heaven because their actions bore witness to their commitment to Christ. When he was naked, they clothed him. When he was hungry, he was fed by them. And when he was in prison, he was visited by them. And then, on the flipside, it says that those whom he rejected are the ones who saw Jesus Christ naked and didn't clothe him, saw him hungry and didn't feed him, and never saw Jesus imprisoned. Jesus commends the people who were willing to help out their brother so he doesn't lose heart and he has the opportunity to succeed. Sometimes, when an inmate is at the door, if we can find a bridge, a church which makes a commitment by faith to adopt that individual. For instance, there is a possibility that a person may not be able to find a job. There are some individuals who, at the first sign of difficulty on the outside, might just simply decide to go back to what was natural to them before they became a Christian. But we are calling the church of Jesus Christ to open up its doors and its ministry to the fact that these are our brothers and sisters. And one of the reasons why they're behind bars is because they committed offenses. And yet, on the outside, many of us know that, if not for the grace of God, if not for his mercy, the situation might be reversed. [00:43:41][184.1]

Fez: [00:43:42] That's right. And we have to forgive, you know, just as it says in the Bible, if we don't forgive those who transgress against us, then God can't forgive us. [00:43:52][9.7]

Jose: [00:43:53] Right. In fact, that's the tenet of the Lord's Prayer. Father, forgive me of my sins as I forgive others. [00:43:59][5.9]

Fez: [00:44:00] That's right. So how can people get involved in Prison Fellowship Ministries or Angel Tree? What are some things that they can do to help this ministry to succeed and to reach more people who are in prison right now? [00:44:18][18.4]

Jose: [00:44:20] Well, they can start by visiting the website. What they have to do is go to [www.prisonfellowship](http://www.prisonfellowship.org)¹.org and just begin to learn what the ministry is about. We have opportunities for individuals interested in developing an understanding of the ministry. We also have online training available. We process them on the website. We provide training for them, and then we begin certifying them. So they have the portal right there at the Prison Fellowship website. Angel Tree gives opportunity to a church or organization that is interested in helping to sponsor children and they may provide gifts for these children, anywhere from \$15 to \$25 gifts. Again, go to the website, click on the Angel Tree button and it shows where they can register their church as an Angel Tree church. And by that, it means that they're willing to sponsor one, five, ten or a hundred — the number of kids that they're willing to- and then provide fellowship or work with Angel Tree to provide names of children from inmates in or around their local area that the church themselves can give to or visit the families, and they can begin to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ. [00:45:59][99.9]

1. <http://www.fellowship>

Fez [00:46:01] Praise God. That's awesome.
[00:46:13]/[6.6]

Jose: [00:46:14] What we recommend is for them to go on the website and begin to get information. If they're interested in getting involved, just click on the Get Involved icon and it gives them information. Maybe they will want to commit to some part of the ministry. If they want to go into the prisons, we provide training for them. If they want to work from the community aspect, if maybe they're part of their Chamber of Commerce, or they're involved in local government, they might be able to make resources available to prison fellowship and other churches. If they want to work on the Angel Tree aspect, they can click on that icon. And then we have another icon where maybe they just want to become a prayer partner. They would click the link to become a prayer partner with us and then Prison Fellowship would actually send to them the number of prayer requests that we are getting from inmates across the country. And so we have individuals who serve and help each of these inmates by simply receiving their prayer requests and praying for them on a daily or weekly basis. So there's something for everyone who wants to get involved. [00:47:13]/[59.1]

Fez: [00:47:15] Okay. That's great that there are so many options available. And I feel like this ministry has the ability to really transform the way these rehabilitation programs have gone in the past, where, as you say, there's so many inmates who fall through the cracks, and they leave the jails and then they go back to what they were doing before—the recidivism that you were talking about earlier. So I think that people are going to start seeing the success

rates of this ministry and others like it. And they're going to start to really "put their money where their mouth is." [00:47:51][36.5]

Jose: [00:47:53] And if I could share something else that will be happening—I was invited to attend the upcoming Reentry Coalition, which includes representatives from the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester, the Briarcliff Congregational Church, the Star of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Temple Beth Israel, the Institute of Religion and Poverty from Fordham University and also the Department of Parole from Westchester County. We're beginning to see that God is bringing together people who are interested in having their issues dealt with effectively. In fact, coming up soon, the superintendent from the Department of Corrections, Mr. Michael Capra, will be one of the speakers at an upcoming event at First Presbyterian Church. And it's a program that's developing with a group of around ten ex-offenders who have been referred to this program by parole, a state based organization. These are individuals who believe in the transformative power of Jesus Christ who are also willing to deal with a lot of the dynamics that these men need, such as developing life skills. Many of the believers who are in churches now have a love for the Lord, are successful business people, homeowners, parents. There is a small ratio of short-term inmates having committed a crime, a misdemeanor, and then in a short time they get out. But then we also have some of these long term individuals who have been shaped by the prison culture. And then when they come out, they need not only the love of God, but they need a welcoming community to help them transition back to a

new way of life. Because, I mean, walking into a prison is almost like walking into a foreign country. And they must overcome many doubts.[00:49:52]/[119.5]

Fez: [00:49:53] I'm sure. Yeah. There's a whole culture inside the prisons as well that makes it different from regular life. I can't even imagine. I haven't really talked to too many inmates myself, but I know you have. So I really believe this is incredible news. And I think this is something that the Lord is going to bless greatly. And I would ask that you who are listening will pray along with us, for those people, for whatever the Lord wants to do with this ministry, for those people who are in prisons across the country who need the love of the Lord to change their lives and transform their minds. [00:50:37]/[43.9]

Jose: [00:50:38] Absolutely. Father, in the name of Jesus. You told us in your Word to remember those in prison as though we were there along with them. Lord, Father, we pray that your blessings would go out upon these gateways, that you would touch the lives of individuals who are or who may have been incarcerated, or dealing with the incarceration of a family member. We are asking that the power of your Holy Spirit would be used to empower this generation in such a way, Father God, that people in whatever walk of life would be able to begin to lift up their heads, lift up their lives, and begin to cry out. Not only that you would reveal yourself oh God, but that you would transform our lives, so that we would be able to look at our neighbor and love them as ourselves. Communities across the country here in our area are dealing with issues of crime, domestic abuse, substance abuse. All have sinned and fall short of the

glory of God. But Father, you have sent your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that if any person would put their faith in Him, we become new creatures. We used to be offenders and through Jesus Christ we can become children of God. Lord, I pray your blessing upon the radio ministry, that you would continue to bless this outreach. For those who are hearing these words, God, let them know that you're looking for availability. You possess the ability and will do the anointing. You will direct. We pray oh God, that you would continue to help all the organizations that are dedicated to helping bring the gospel behind the prison walls and minister to these men and women who are inside. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. [00:52:36]/[118.3]

Fez: [00:52:37] Amen. Amen. Jose Santano, New York field director for Prison Fellowship Ministries, thank you for coming on the show. [00:52:43]/[5.9]

Jose: [00:52:45] Not a problem. God bless you, brother. [00:52:46]/[1.1]

Fez: [00:52:46] God bless you. Take care. [00:52:47]/[1.5]

Speaker 2: [00:52:48] Bye bye. [00:52:49]/[0.2]

Fez: [00:52:49] Bye bye. Well, folks, that was it. Check out the website www.prisonfellowship.org. You need to get saved by asking the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart. Repent of your sins and ask the Holy Spirit to come inside you and direct your paths in Jesus name. Thank you for listening. Until next time, God bless. [00:52:49]/[0.0]

[3088.0]

**Eckankar Soul Travel Is Not From God (Sommy
Erekosima)**

Fez: [00:00:54] We've got a guest on the show. His name is Sommy Erekosima and he's calling in from Nigeria. He's going to share his testimony. He's got a book out. It's called Get Set for the Rapture. He also has a website called GaboInternational.org, that's GaboInternational.org. And it's my pleasure to welcome Sommy on the show. Hey, Sommy. Thanks for coming on the show and, you know, sharing your testimony. I first heard your testimony in Indianapolis for the End Time Prophecy Conference put together by Susan Davis. I thought it was powerful. And I definitely want to go into more detail because I think we have a little bit more time in this format as a podcast. I mean, there's no time limit. We can just go into as much detail as possible. So, let's do that. So, first of all, how did you come to know the Lord Jesus Christ? [00:02:01]/[67.2]

Sommy: [00:02:04] Yeah, I was actually in the Antichrist religion, so to speak. You know, I was persecuting Christians, but that was after I left the church. I was moved to believe that there's something much deeper than the Christian faith. I guess I wasn't a believer. I wasn't a believer at all because if I were, I would've been at church in the first place, but in that condition, I was really opposed to the gospel. And then, but a time came, I had a dream, you know. And then in the dream, I saw angels showing me 5 minutes to midnight. And I saw a gate locked between me and a spiritual master of that religion, which is Eckankar, and he came and then these angels told me if I don't run as fast as I can, after 5 minutes, I'll be in trouble. So, in the dream, I run as fast as I can and when I woke up, I know it was not a dream, but one thing led to the other. I fixed a fast for myself. I decided

to fast to find out what God wants me to do. And then at the end of the fast, I went to the church and I spotted a friend when I got the church and I took the communion. I hear this when I took the communion. I guess what happened to me was something close to what happened to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. When Jesus broke the bread and he made their eyes open and they recognized it was him. For 12 years I practiced Eckankar, but that day I knew something dramatic happened to me, I couldn't believe it. I started feeling the desire to want to know more about Christ. And that lasted for about three days and then on the Saturday, precisely the 18th of April, I surrendered to Jesus. I literally saw Jesus asking me how far along will you be passing with me? So, when I asked him if he was going to forgive me for all that I've done, he said yes. [00:04:22]/[138.6]

Fez: [00:05:37] I wanted to ask you about the false religion that you were involved in. What do you mean by false religion? What was it? [00:05:47]/[10.3]

Sommy: [00:05:50] Yeah, the religion that denies the lordship of Jesus Christ. In the Bible, you know, 1st John 2:18 says that any time when people deny Jesus Christ, every such religion is an Antichrist according to John. And I happen to be a member of Eckankar, which talks about soul travel, talks about karma, reincarnation. It says that Jesus Christ was one of the prophets and not The Lord. And I believed seriously that Jesus Christ was not The Lord.[00:06:35]/[45.5]

Fez: [00:06:36] What was the name of it? That sounds almost like a Jehovah's Witness. That's not where you were, right? [00:06:40]/[4.0]

Sommy: [00:06:41] No, no, it's not Jehovah's Witness. It's Eckankar. Eckankar is in the U.S. It's in Minneapolis. [00:06:46]/[4.4]

Fez: [00:06:47] Oh, Eckankar. I've never heard it [00:06:50]/[3.3]

Sommy: [00:06:58] It's called the religion of light and sound. That's what it is called. [00:06:59]

Fez: [00:07:03] Do they have a strong presence in Nigeria? How did you get involved in it? Did you go to Minneapolis and how did you hear about that? [00:07:13]/[9.9]

Sommy: [00:07:15] I read a book called, In My Soul I Am Free, given to me by a cousin. And then when I read it, it talked about soul travel, that you can stay in one place and meditate, and then your soul, you will have a soul travel experience. And I actually did and I got a soul travel experience. So, I was really captivated. I didn't go to Minneapolis because I was here in Nigeria. [00:07:39]/[24.1]

Fez: [00:07:40] So, did you do soul travel yourself? Did you experience that? [00:07:44]/[3.7]

Sommy: [00:07:44] I did. Yes, I did. If I didn't, I wouldn't have been convinced. [00:07:48]/[3.5]

Fez: [00:07:50] So, soul travel, or astral projection. That's what you did? [00:07:54]/[4.8]

Sommy: [00:07:56] No, according to Eckankar, soul travel is different from astral projection. Actually, soul travel is, the soul, actually, is not leaving the body, but it is able to perceive, able to reach another part of the world without necessarily moving whereas astral travel is outside the body and they make a pretty big distinction between the two. Astral travel is dangerous. [00:08:37]/[40.8]

Fez: [00:08:38] Right, but as a Christian, we shouldn't be doing either one, correct? [00:08:42]/[3.9]

Sommy: [00:08:43] No, no, no, no. That's the trap of the enemy. We're not expected to do any of them. That is the trap of the enemy. It's another way of seeking the truth outside. Jesus Christ. That's the way I look at it. [00:09:02]/[19.4]

Fez: [00:09:03] All right, so you were involved in this Eckankar, false religion, and you were doing soul travel where you kind of perceive things in the spirit, but you don't move into different areas, like you do with astral projection. At what point, I mean, if you can go over it again, like, what were the steps that happened to you? How did you know Enckankar was wrong? Did you have a wakeup call? What happened to you that alerted you that it was wrong? [00:09:36]/[32.5]

Sommy: [00:09:38] Yes, as a matter of fact, what I noticed was that each time the name of Jesus Christ, because Eckankar teaches about a Bible, as a matter of fact, Eckankar quotes 2nd Corinthians Chapter 12 that experience of Paul. I know of a man who was in the second heaven, but I was out of the body, or in the body, I didn't know. So, Eckankar teaches that Apostle Paul was a soul traveler. And they quote 2nd Corinthians chapter 12 to support that argument. [00:10:13]/[35.2]

Fez: [00:10:15] Wow. That the Apostle Paul was a soul traveler. [00:10:21]/[6.3]

Sommy: [00:10:24] I realized when I was doing the soul travel. I realized that something inside of me was arguing that Jesus Christ is probably the Lord. And what really de-

ceived me was that I had a dream in 1986. I asked Jesus before I joined the Eckankar, I asked Jesus, would you want me to join this Eckankar? Would you prove yourself as the son of God? If you want to prove yourself as son of God, show me in a dream. Then that night I had a dream where I was a master of Eckankar. But what really led me when I got the conviction, the conviction really happened after I got the communion. When I took the communion, it's like my eyes opened. You know, I was blindfolded. It reminds me of Matthew chapter 13 when Jesus talked about the word of God, the one that sowed it in the heart, you know. You know what I sowed in the stony ground. So, every word of God was really bouncing back. It wasn't going into my understanding. But that day, like, my heart was open to see Jesus Christ. And I realized that all that I believed in the last 12 years was a fallacy of the devil. [00:11:48]/[84.7]

Fez: [00:11:49] Wow, so you did it for 12 years. The Communion is what woke you up. It convicted you. That speaks to the power of communion, the body and blood of Christ. [00:12:01]/[11.3]

Sommy: [00:12:02] I read a book. I read a book called The Secret, The Power of Holy Communion. And this book is circulating in India because I've been teaching that, too. I wrote a book on that, the power of the Communion, the ability of the Communion to also convict. In that book I was able to explain that when Jesus asked us to take the communion, it's not just a festivity, it's not just a ceremony. There is a deep effect in our spirit man when we take Communion and, in my case, that was one of the several examples that I gave in that book. [00:12:42]/[40.2]

Fez: [00:12:43] Yeah, that's a good point. And I have friends of mine who do take communion on a daily basis because they believe that, not only is it powerful for the spirit, but also for your physical health. [00:12:57]/[13.8]

Sommy: [00:12:58] Absolutely, I take it every Thursday after fasting, I take it every Thursday. [00:13:02]/[4.3]

Fez: [00:13:03] So, what happened to you after that? I mean, you said you were involved in the case for 12 years. You took the communion. What was next? I mean, how did you progressively want to know more about God? And how did that kind of, like, start you off? [00:16:48]/[125.3]

Sommy: [00:16:50] Yeah. I will say that one of the things that Eckankar had taught me is to, you know, is to really press on, you know, with spiritual experience. And in the last 12 years, in that 12 years, I had quite a lot of spiritual experiences that was too difficult for me to set aside. All I had to do is just say that this experience that I had in Eckankar, must be something ethereal, there must be something much more than that that Christ should be able to give. And someone like me, I needed a deeper conviction of my Christian experience. But the first thing that happened when I surrendered myself to Christ, I found myself completely healed of some ailment that I had for about a couple of years. I used to sweat. I used to shiver. Everything's just got healed. That was one miracle. On that very first day, on the day I had give my life to Christ. Then the second experience I had, I had something like a peace, you know, that's that kind of peace that passed understanding. And then when I was reading the Word of God, I found myself that I was at home with the word of God, but above all, on the 27th of

July, Jesus physically appeared to me. He came, I had three days fasting and I said, I want to be baptized of the Holy Ghost and I want to have that very experience that the apostles had. I want to have the experience that Benny Hinn had. So, I was looking forward to be baptized. But what happened was much more than I expected. Jesus came and touched me with his ten fingers and I was incredibly baptized. I spoke in tongues for hours. And, you know, it was an amazing experience. I saw what the Pentecost meant. I knew what it meant. [00:18:52]/[121.8]

Fez: [00:18:52] Let's stop for a second because you just said a mouthful. You experienced Jesus Christ, you said. You asked for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that came down on Pentecost and baptized the 12 Apostles in the power of the Holy Spirit. Can you describe that a little bit more for us, so we can visualize what happened? Was it like an energy that came over you? Was it like a feeling? Was it something you saw? Did you see something at the same time or what did it feel like? [00:19:28]/[35.2]

Sommy: [00:19:29] I was electric. It was an electrifying experience. I was overwhelmed. I felt like, you know, being in heaven and I couldn't have control of myself. I couldn't stop myself speaking. And I couldn't understand the language I was speaking and I couldn't stop speaking. And it had such an effect on me that I felt like, you know, I'm out of this world. And then and then it went on for a very, very long time. I've seen that happen now in my meetings with two other people, but it was just a small aspect of what I actually experienced. [00:20:15]/[46.1]

Fez: [00:20:17] Wow. That's amazing. I mean, is that the moment that you started speaking in tongues as well? [00:20:23][6.3]

Sommy: [00:20:25] I spoke in diverse tongues. And then. And then after that experience, people would come near me and then they would also, you know, when I when I, when I minister and work with them, they would also fall into, you know, you know, get baptized. So, in the last 16 years, I've gone around and people get baptized in the hundreds in my meetings. So, I did not just get baptized, but the Lord gave me the oil, the anointing that many people get baptized in my meetings in South Africa, in Johannesburg, in India, in Kenya, in Niger, various places in Nigeria, and now almost every of my meeting, people would get baptized. [00:21:13][47.6]

Fez: [00:21:14] That's amazing. Now, you travel the world as an evangelist, sharing your testimony and leading healing seminars. You lead healing seminars or what do you do? How would you describe what you do to people who don't understand? [00:21:29][14.7]

Sommy: [00:21:31] Yeah, it's Holy Ghost baptism program, or seminar, and healing seminar. I used to teach people on witnessing and then in the process, I'll take a topic on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And at the end of that baptism of the Holy Spirit, I will ask them to get set for the Infilling of the Holy Spirit. And then amazingly, people will get filled with the Holy Ghost. And then and then also the gift of healing and the gift of prophecy and the gift of discernment. When I call the gift, each of the gifts, people will get that gift, those who are qualified for that gift, the Lord will

baptize them with that gift and they will manifest that gift.
[00:22:22]/[51.1]

Fez: [00:22:23] Oh, I have to share a story now. I remember. Remember we met each other in Indianapolis at the End Time Prophecy conference put together by Susan Davis. And that's exactly what you did. I remember we prayed in tongues. Everybody in the room was about 50 people or so, prayed in tongues and after we prayed in tongues for about 20, 30 minutes, I remember, all of a sudden, people started to prophesy and they started to just speak by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. And, at that moment, I remember that you were receiving, I guess, a message from the Holy Spirit that certain people were receiving gifts. And could you kind of describe that again what happened that day? [00:23:11]/[47.3]

Sommy: [00:23:12] Yeah, I got the feeling that, you know, the power of God was so strong, and then the Lord was ministering to me that it was going to give gifts to a lot of people. So, I started calling all the gifts and if I called the Lord, is there anyone you want to give the gift of prophecy? And at that point, those who The Lord wants to give the gift of prophecy will manifest. When I said, Lord is anyone who you want to give the gift of healing, then there will manifest that. That has been the tradition everywhere I go. And I realize that the gift is given to every one of us. But, most of the time, we need, you know, someone who is carrying the oil to bring this gift in the lives of people. I remember, you know, I can explain it in the time in the New Testament when Peter was going to places, even in Samaria, and then they got the gift, laid hand on the people and then they got the gift, all

that. So, it is the same even now that people who are, even as I'm speaking, those who are going to be in the who are listed to be those who really have faith in Christ and are desiring of this gift. Even those of them now that are listed to us in their homes, they can get this gift. [00:24:41]/[89.2]

Fez: [00:24:42] Let's do it now. Can we do it now for the people listening? [00:24:45]/[3.2]

Sommy: [00:24:46] Why not? Yes, yeah, right now. Lord, I thank you because I know that's what you're going to do for whoever you're going to do it. You have never failed. Not even once. You're God that never lies. You never fail. You've been doing it. And now, as many of them in the world that is listening to this program, I pray that those of you who are desirous, lift up your hands right now as I'm going to pray that The Lord will baptize you in your room, in your bedroom, in your parlor. Whenever, even in your car. Stop right there now and lift up your hands in your office. Just lift up your hands. Just lift your hands in surrender and say this word, Lord Jesus, I desire that gift. Out of our bellies let there flow rivers of living waters. And if you ask for the gift of healing right now, I'm going to start with the gift of healing. Now, what is going to happen is that if you are going to have the gift of healing, your hands will shake right now in the name of Jesus Christ. All those who want to be baptized with the gift of healing, make sure that signal, your hands will begin to shake. That's a gift of healing. The Lord will use your hand. We touched your hand. It will touch your hand that that hand, whoever is sick, that that hand will heal in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, release your gift of healing. A lot of people are sick now and they want to get the gift of

healing, so Lord, anyone that is sick even right now, let the gift of healing that is in me right now, that you've given to me, let it move. There's no barrier, nothing can stop it. Any part of the world, wherever they are, in your body, in your belly, every part of your body from the corner of your eye, I speak that Jesus Christ healing power, let the power hit you right now in the name of Jesus Christ. Yes, in the name of Jesus Christ. Be healed. Be healed in the name of Jesus. These signs shall follow them. Now, Lord, I ask the second gift, the gift of prophecy. Like, right now, as many of you, you will begin to prophesy, my God, my Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, release your gift of prophecy to everyone, everyone in America, in Europe, in Africa, in every part of the world. But, Lord, lavishly put your gift right now, the gift of speaking in tongues and interpretation. Lord release the gift of speaking in tongues and the word of knowledge, yes. What of knowledge, yes, right now. Word of knowledge, a gift that is coming to you. Discernment, I don't know whether you already have it, but the gift of discernment, yes, a word of wisdom, released in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, in this world, there's so much need for the word of knowledge and word of wisdom and discernment this hour, so Lord offer us this spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord grant them the gift of faith. Lord, even at this time, where there's crises all over the world, the churches need the gift of faith, that walking faith, that supernatural thing, and the gift of miracles. Lord, release it in the name of Jesus Christ. Now, those who are going to have the gift of faith, something is going to happen. You are going to see, right now, there's going to be a sign that you are going to see your body shaking, that's the gift

of faith. Your body will shake, when your body is shaking, it's the gift of faith, a walking faith, supernatural faith, that faith that you will never be afraid. Yes, America, you need the gift of faith, with no fear, this torment, this fear is a torment of the devil. The devil wants to bring fear to America. It's a false signal. That's the signal. Don't be afraid. The gift of faith will release unto you right now in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord. [00:29:00]/[254.4]

Fez: [00:29:03] Thank you, Lord. [00:29:03]/[0.3]

Sommy: [00:29:04] Such miracles begin to happen, ministers. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Father. Let there be testimony of you right now, let there be testimony all over the world. Thank you, Lord. Let there be testimony. Let people feel your presence, your power in the name of Jesus. Amen. [00:29:20]/[16.5]

Former Motorcycle Gang Member Goes To Hell While In A Coma (Billy Hobbs)

Fez: [00:00:14] We've got another testimony on the program, Billy Hobbs. He's got a YouTube channel under the name Billy Hobbs. And in 2012, he had a supernatural experience where he had a Paul going to Damascus moment. You know, where Jesus Christ revealed himself to Paul and Paul fell off the horse. You remember that one? Well, Billy Hobbs, he had a very similar situation happen. He didn't fall off a horse, but he had his own supernatural experience with Jesus Christ. And that caused him to start his YouTube channel. And his whole story and his testimony are pretty amazing. He went to hell. He experienced that. He is going to talk about what that was like. He also talks about how the Lord took away all his desire for prescription drugs, his desire for alcohol and also the depression that he had on his life. So, Billy Hobbs is going to share all that stuff with us right now. Hey, Billy, what's up? [00:01:18][64.7]

Billy: [00:01:19] Not bad. How you doing? It's good to be here. [00:01:21][1.6]

Fez: [00:01:22] Hey, Billy. So you actually, you had a lot of things happen to you in your life where, you know, the Lord had his hand on you. And it's almost as if, you know, he's watching us and he was watching you the whole time. So, what happened to you in the very beginning? You know. What were the circumstances leading up to the point where you joined that biker gang, that motorcycle gang? [00:01:50][28.4]

Billy: [00:01:52] Well, I was always looking for a family. I, uh, I was telling you earlier that I always had this void in

my heart. I was always trying to fill it with all the wrong things. Sex, drugs, rock and roll, you name it. And I was a biker. I had family members that were bikers. But, I was kind of a lone wolf. And I was in Dallas one time, and I ran into a guy. He was about as hardcore as you can get, shaved, had tattoos on his head, piercings all over, pretty wild. But he was really, really nice, and he accepted me for who I was. And he kind of brought me into this family thing. And, you know, I couldn't get enough of it at the time. You know, it was at a time where it filled this void a little bit. You know, there was plenty of drugs. There was plenty of rock and roll and, you know, excitement and danger. And, you know, that was what I lived for, for a while. But then it got to the point to where I would do things for the club or things I would do, um, you know, at night, you know, with the drugs and things that, that, you know, I would do in secret or that only a few other people would know that would just tear me up inside. And so the next day, I would wake up and I would have this horrible remorse for something I'd done the night before. And I would have to take more drugs, some more alcohol to kill the pain of what I'd done. You know, that was criminal. [00:03:45]/[113.1]

Fez: [00:03:45] Criminal stuff? [00:03:46]/[0.4]

Billy: [00:03:47] Yeah, criminal stuff. You know, running drugs and things and just, you know, affecting people's lives, you know, in a negative way. [00:03:59]/[12.3]

Fez: [00:04:00] And you said you had remorse because you felt like you were a good guy and you felt guilty about things like that. Or was it because of your upbringing that made you feel remorseful? [00:04:12]/[11.7]

Billy: [00:04:13] A lot of it was my upbringing. I would just feel feel bad about it. I would get depressed about the things that I would do. I knew deep down in my heart that what I was doing was wrong. I just, I felt powerless to turn from it. You know, addiction and all that is just, it's such a powerful draw in your life that, no matter how bad, you know, you may feel, you're still going to do those drugs. And that's why you see so many people on the news and things that, you know, you hear about these horrible things that they did for drugs and, you know, the person is bad. It's the oppression that's in the almighty addiction. You know, now nobody wakes up one morning and says, I want to be a drug addict today or I want to be a serial killer today or a pedophile. You know, to me, it's all demonic oppression, you know. [00:05:13]/[59.7]

Fez: [00:05:14] And I was going to ask you, what's your opinion on the rehab programs that are so popular these days? Have you ever tried those, number one. [00:05:26]/[12.2]

Billy: [00:05:27] I went to rehab, I think, four times, and I would always come out clean and my body would be physically out, that the drugs would be out of my system, but I'd still be physically dependent eventually because there was nothing that the rehab centers could ever do to kill the desire, you know, because the reason I was on the drugs was because I was trying to fill a void. And I'll go into rehab and I would lose the physical dependance on the drugs. But, I never had anything to fill the void. So, whenever I would get back out in the world, it wouldn't take long before the world would get back to me and I would start trying to fill that

void. I didn't know what to fill it with. Now, it's just always the wrong thing. [00:06:18]/[51.2]

Fez: [00:06:19] And we know that it's a spirit of addiction. Jesus Christ is the only answer to that problem. So, we're going to get to that part. You know, in Billy's case, he had that supernatural experience and it was taken away from him. But let's talk a little bit about one of the things that that led up to the point where you actually committed . . . you took a bunch of Xanax and you wanted to kill yourself. [00:06:43]/[24.1]

Billy: [00:06:45] I had, I guess when I was 36 years old, my son came to me and he told me, he said, Dad, we've got to get out of here. I was married at the time to my wife at the time. She's clean and sober now. But she was an addict. And she loved the lifestyle that we were living in, the biker club and all that. And she didn't want to leave that life. So my son, who was 12 years old, he came to me and he said, Dad, we got to leave. And I said, What do you mean we got to get out of here? He said, You know, you're going to die. Something's going to happen. And it had got so bad. There were, you know, there was always bikes at my house and we would always party at my garage. And it got to the point to where you would see unmarked cars come by and they would have these, you know, telescopic lenses on their cameras. And they were taking photos of us and they were jacked and mic'd and putting in sound recordings because we were being watched, we were doing some bad things. And my son just came to me, 12 years old, and said that we got to leave. And I told him, I said it shocked me that my son, you know, being 12, would come to me and say something

like that. And so, I just looked at him and I said, give me a month. And I said, well, you know, I'll fix this. And I tried to get my wife to go to rehab with me. I told him, I said, I'll find a rehab. I call my mom. She found a rehab for me and I went to rehab and I came out, I was clean and I gave my wife an opportunity to clean up. She refused. and so I took my son and my daughter and we moved to the Houston area with my dad and my stepmom. And I was there probably three or four months struggling, you know, looking for work and trying to deal with a sober life. I'd never been sober and I never had to deal with children or anything like that sober at all. Like, you know, I'd have to use chemicals to get me through the day. And so, I was struggling really hard. And one day there was a knock on my door. And it was one of my son's best friend's moms who had came to visit. They had kind of been playing Cupid and wanted me to meet my son's friend's mother. And so she came and, you know, we started dating and, you know, we fell in love and we got married. And I thought, you know, my life is finally working out. You know, this, I thought this void in my heart had been filled. And I finally got a good job. I had always been really good at metalwork. I was good at welding and metal fabrication. And I got on at a job that was a military contract and I was welding armor plating on vehicles for the military. And life was good. And when I turned 40 years old, my wife, she told me, she said, well, you're 40 now. You know, you need to get a physical. My wife, she was a cop, you know, she had been a police officer for 20 some odd years, you know, and she always had these lists of things you had to do. So, whenever I turned 40, she said, you got to have a physical. So, I went

and I had this physical done and the doctor noticed something's wrong with some x rays in my neck. And, you know, in that past life that I'd had, whenever I was on drugs, I'd had some spills on a motorcycle and I was so high, I didn't actually realize that I'd done the damage that I did to my body. I just jumped back up, took my bike and take off. Well, I had to have surgery. And during the surgery, the doctor left some hard wire loose and it bumped my brain stem and I had a stroke. And whenever I woke up from the surgery, I was totally paralyzed on my left side. Couldn't swallow. I couldn't even swallow my own saliva without choking. And so I had a feeding tube and was pretty much sent home with morphine patches, Demerol, hydrocodone, all these drugs and stuff. I was pretty much sent home to die. They didn't really give me much, much hope. And so I'm there with my wife for a few months, and she decides to take me away from the Houston area and we would move to the border of Mexico. I live in Texas where her family lived, and they would have a part time caretaker for me. [00:11:34]/[289.2]

Fez: [00:11:35] And you couldn't walk, you said your left side was paralyzed and you couldn't . . . Were you in a wheelchair? [00:11:42]/[6.9]

Billy: [00:11:44] I was in a wheelchair most of the time. My wife would have to dress me, shower me. You know, I was pretty much like an infant. Had a hard time speaking. My speech was very slurred. I went through a lot of rehab. [00:11:57]/[12.9]

Fez: [00:11:57] Wow. You must have wanted to sue that doctor. [00:11:59]/[2.1]

Billy: [00:12:01] I did. I actually tried. But, you know, nowadays it's. You know, it's legal, all that stuff. And I realize now it wouldn't have done me any good to have that money anyway. So, I'm actually glad it didn't work out. But, so, I mean, I'm on the border of Mexico with my wife and, you know, I'm not the easiest person to get along with. But, I was so depressed and I was so angry and had been going through this rehab and I've gotten to the point where I can walk and I can get around, but I still had this feeding tube and I was just angry and started smoking pot. Even though my wife was a police officer, I was smoking pot, you know, and it helped me a little bit. But, you know, with the pot and all these pills and my depression, my mood swings were just out of control. And I could see my life falling apart around me, you know, this thing that I thought filled this void in my life. And I could just sense that my wife was distancing herself from me. And, just one day I thought to myself, you know what? That everybody would be better off if I was gone. And so I took this bottle of Xanax and I thought, you know, I'm just going to go to sleep and that'll be it. And that's when I had my experience with the Outer Darkness of Hell. And it was, you know, even though I had that experience, it still didn't open my eyes, you know. [00:13:43]/[102.1]

Fez: [00:13:43] Can you describe that experience?
[00:13:44]/[1.2]

Billy: [00:13:46] Yeah, it's actually pretty crazy. I took the pills, and that's the last thing I remember. I don't remember going to sleep or anything like that, but it's like, just in an instant, I'm in this movie theater. It's an old movie theater, and I have no recollection that I just took pills or anything

like that. I had no recollection that I had a stroke because I had all my motor skills, you know. And I'm in this movie theater and I'm by myself. And I go to sit down in this chair and the seats in the theater are the type that you actually recline like a lazy boy. And whenever I sit down, I put my head up against the headrest and I take the chair back and as soon as my head touched the headrest, it was like millions of microscopic fiber optic cables come out of this headrest and just morphed into my head, the craziest thing. And when that happened, I went down this wormhole of this tunnel, whatever it was, it was crazy. And I was, in an instant, I was in this other place. And the first thing I remember was the darkness. When I say darkness, I don't mean that you can't see. It's a darkness that you can't explain. It was almost like the dark was alive. Like, it could move and it was shining. But there was this deafening, pulsating hum that I don't know if you've ever been to a rock concert or not, but one of the guys, the drummer, will hit his drums. It's like you can feel it. Bounce in your chest. [00:15:37][111.3]

Fez: [00:15:37] Yeah. [00:15:37][0.0]

Billy: [00:15:38] That's the way this hum was. And I remember thinking to myself, because I didn't really believe in God, I didn't know God worked miracles and all that stuff, but I did believe in aliens. And I remember thinking to myself. You got to be cool. Don't freak out. Don't lose your cool because you've been abducted. That's what I thought. I thought I'd been abducted by aliens. And so I remember telling myself, don't freak out. And then I started saying, like, I don't go into a lot of detail with this on my channel because it's just too crazy. But, I started seeing different flashes of my

life. But in places that I've never been before. It's like people making the same mistakes that I've made. I was saying it. It's me doing it. And I remember thinking, this is the most helpless or hopeless situation that I've ever been in my life. You know, that in this place that I'm in there is no hope whatsoever. And then I go to this other room, or I just, it's like you just blink and you're in another room. It's so hard to explain, like if Steven Spielberg had \$100 million budget with all the computer graphics in the world, he couldn't give it justice. What I was seeing in my hillbilly, you know, mentality, it's hard for me to put words to it, but I go to this one room and I meet The Dark Man and I call him The Dark Man. Now, I know it was a demon or a devil, but when I seen him, I knew we were going to fight. And I'd been in some fights before and I knew this fight that I was going to be in with this guy was going to be a real fight. You see a lot of guys fight over punches and stuff, but real fights that you are in, in the streets, two guys are fighting it out to the death, you're trying to poke somebody's eye out. It doesn't matter. It's biting, it's whatever, trying to win because, you know, if they get the advantage of you, you're going to die. So, I seen this guy and I knew in my heart, we're fixing to fight. And, at that moment, that's when I realized, I believe it was God that opened my eyes to it at that time. But, I realized that I'm in hell and that these aren't aliens. And I realized at that time that that I committed suicide. And I knew that I was in a coma. I became aware that I was in a coma. And I knew that my body was somewhere on the table, you know, and I was somewhere else. And that's when I had to fight The Dark Man and I would fight. It was like we were going through rounds that

I would fight him and I would get him down. And once I would get him down, he would stand back up and we'd go at it again. But then, every time I would use a move on this guy, it's like he would memorize it and I couldn't use that same move again. And I remember I was getting down to the bottom of the barrel. I was at the end of my repertoire, all the moves I had seen on all the movies and everything. I was at the end of my rope and I was down on my last move. And I remember thinking to myself, if he gets up after this time, I'm done, you know, because I knew that if he beat me, he would have my soul and that they'd be able to take my soul, that there was no chance for me to get out of here. But, as long as I was able to fight, I knew that there was a chance for me to get out of there, go back to my body and, you know, live another day. So, the last time that I got him down, it was my last move. And I thought, if he gets up, this is it. And he looked at me and he said, you got me this time, he said, but I'm not finished with you yet. And when he said those words, I mean, that humming, that pulsating sound started fading and it started getting light and I started smelling rubber. It's like somebody peels out with a car or it smells like this rubber band. And I started hearing sirens. I was on the fourth floor of a hospital in San Antonio and I was above the emergency room, and so I was here. An ambulance is coming in, but I'm smelling this rubber and I'm thinking to myself that, you know, and I'm hearing these sirens and I realize that I'm confined and, like, chained to this bed. I guess I'd been moving around a lot and I'm thinking that I'm in prison, that I just killed somebody because I just pretty much, you know, been climbing with this guy and, you know, fighting to the

death with him. And I'm thinking I'm in prison. And finally my eyes open up and the nurse comes to me. It took her about 15 minutes to convince me that I hadn't killed anybody and that I'd just come out of a coma, that I was lucky to be alive. I'd been in a coma for 21 days, and you know, that I was going to be okay. And it wasn't until then, you know, a couple of days later, that I found out that they had me on life support, that my wife had come home an hour early that day, and when she found me, I was dead. And by the grace of God, you know, they got me to the hospital. They hooked me up on life support. And the doctors told my wife and my mom and my dad that I had no brain function, that I was a vegetable, that I was bad, and that they needed to pull the plug. And they pulled the plug on me. But by the grace of God, my heart kept beating, you know, and I kept breathing and, you know, I stayed alive. [00:21:36]/[357.4]

Fez: [00:21:36] That's a miracle. [00:21:37]/[0.3]

Billy: [00:21:38] Oh, yeah, it's a miracle. I know. Now, all those things that I did in my past, all those times I should have been dead. There's no situations I was in that, that now I know that God has had his hand on me my entire life, you know, and he's been basically building a testimony in me, you know, but yeah, I come out of that and still, I didn't learn my lesson even after that. [00:22:03]/[25.6]

Fez: [00:22:04] Well, let me ask you, 21 days, it didn't feel like 21 days when you were in the coma, right? Because you didn't feel like you were in hell for 21 days. [00:22:12]/[8.4]

Billy: [00:22:13] One of the first things I asked the nurse when I went to come out was how long have I been

gone? Because it's hard to explain the way time felt there, but that 21 days felt like an eternity. And I don't know if I actually experienced what I experienced in the last nanosecond of me being in a coma or if I experienced that entire 21 days. But, what I experienced seemed like an eternity. You know, if you can get your head around it, it may have lasted a half a second, but that half a second seemed like an eternity. [00:22:58]/[45.0]

Fez: [00:22:59] Wow. That's amazing. Now, before we go into what happened to you after you got out of the coma, I wanted to ask you about whether you . . . Okay, at this point on your YouTube channel, you give this testimony. You've got thousands of views on this testimony. Have you gotten feedback on the testimony? Do people believe you? Do they not believe you? Are they skeptical of what you're saying? [00:23:27]/[27.9]

Billy: [00:23:29] The majority, believe me. I've had a few people that don't believe me. And I've had some people tell me that what you experienced isn't biblical. You know that. [00:23:41]/[11.6]

Fez: [00:23:41] That's what I was going to say. Yeah. A lot of people are like that. [00:23:43]/[1.8]

Billy: [00:23:43] But, you know, God is sovereign. And if he wants you to experience what the outer darkness is, what we call hell, you know that God can do that. You know, if it can be used to, you know, to build a person's testimony, I, I believe God did that for me in a way to help me out, that even though it didn't at first, you know, but to share that later, you know, of what it means to be out of the presence of God. And that's what it is to be out of the presence of

God, that is hell and it's worse than what you can imagine.

[00:24:26]/[43.0]

Fez: [00:24:28] Wow. Yeah. I just wanted to say that I definitely believe in hell. I've had a lot of experiences with the demonic and I've heard lots of other testimonies about hell. So I definitely believe it. I believe a lot of Christians don't want to believe in hell because they believe that God is good, which he is, but they don't believe that he would send sinners to hell because they see it as unfair. But, that's a whole nother discussion. But, just for listeners out there, hell is mentioned in the Bible hundreds of times, I believe. I can't remember the exact number, but it's biblical. The idea of hell. So, Billy, you know, being one of the people who has experienced it, I don't think that's far fetched, but. So, Billy, what happened after that? Once you came out of the coma, were you able to recover your ability to walk around and stuff after that? [00:25:28]/[60.3]

Billy: [00:25:29] Yeah, by that time I was walking, it was still pretty bad. I had a limp and things, but, you know, I was getting around. But, by that time I was so addicted to things that I was on, morphine patches and Xanax and, you know, hydrocodone and all this stuff. You know, I was miserable. But yeah, after I come out of the coma, I found out that there had been this preacher that had been by my bedside for quite a number of days, pleading with me not to die. He said, You're not ready yet. And, um, I remember, I remember when I got out of the hospital, he came, he came to my house and he was trying to get me to say the Lord's prayer. And, you know, I tried to read the Bible a few times when I was growing up, and it was, to me, these vows and a bunch

of rules. And one part that I remembered out of there was Jesus telling the disciples that you've got to hate this world. You know, you got to hate your family and your friends and your kids and stuff like that. And I understand what Jesus meant now, but I didn't then. And I remember telling that preacher, I said, I can't say that prayer because I love my wife more than I love God. Three weeks later, my wife had me on a Greyhound bus sending me to Dallas, telling me to leave and don't come back here. So, you know, she was my idol and God was slowly but surely stripping me of my idols. [00:27:18][109.0]

Fez: [00:27:19] Was it because of personal issues, she just couldn't take it any more? [00:27:24][4.7]

Billy: [00:27:24] She didn't deal with me any more. I mean, she was always afraid that she was going to come home one day and I'd be dead, you know, or she was afraid that I would wake up one night and do something to her, you know, because I was pretty much just . . . [00:27:43][18.9]

Fez: [00:27:45] And just so we get this straight, she was not a believer either. [00:27:48][3.5]

Billy: [00:27:50] She was a believer. She gives God lip service. You know, like most people do in this world today. But, she would just say, I'm not one to judge people. But at the time, she was lip balm. And I don't know what she is today. We don't have contact anymore. But anyway, she had me on a bus, sent me away, and I moved to Dallas and I got an apartment with my son and he and I lived together for about a year. I guess about a year. And I'd gotten so hurt because, you know, I'd lost her. Not one day went by that she wasn't on my mind. I wanted her back. And, you know, I was taking

all these pills and I would wake up in the morning at 6:00, go out on my patio and I would smoke about four or five cigarettes. I would come back in my house and I had this 64 ounce cup from 7-Eleven and I would fill it up with ice and just load it up with Dr. Pepper. And I'd go sit down on my little couch that had a lazy boy built into it. And I had all my pills and had all my weed over in this little coffee table beside it. And after I'd come in from, you know, smoking and, you know, I would load up my mom and I would smoke a whole bottle, you know, a whole bottle full of weed. And then I would take a handful of pills and I would just sit back on that chair and I would turn the television on, and I would just be in a vegetative state for an hour and a half, 2 hours. And as soon as I would start to feel an emotion, start to feel pain, whatever. I would repeat that process. I'd go back out on the patio and smoke four or five cigarettes and go back, load up, Dr. Pepper, you know, just this vicious cycle. Vicious. [00:29:54]/[123.6]

Fez: [00:29:55] Self-medicating. [00:29:55]/[0.0]

Billy: [00:29:56] Oh, yeah, self-medicating. Trying to fill that void. You know, that void that I never could fill. And it got to the point to where the pills and the weed weren't working, so I got other weed that I was smoking, this stuff you find on the street corner, this stuff that looks like it was grown on Pluto, you know. It's got all these crazy names and stuff. It was high dollar stuff and it wasn't working. And I couldn't fill this void. And I had all these contacts from my days of being in gangs and that, you know, there was no reason why I couldn't find harder drugs. And I picked up my phone, I started calling folks, and every door I would go to,

it would get slammed in my face. You know, it was like, I don't have anything, you know, maybe come back in a few weeks. It's dry. I don't understand why it's so dry. You know, I've never been, you know, they tell me, you know, it's never been like this. And everywhere I would go, I was getting the same story. And finally I realized, you know, something told me. I heard just, you know, just your voice in your head say, you know, this is God doing this. You know, I'd never believed in God, but something told me, this is God. I remember calling my mom and I was always real open with my mom. And I told my mom, you know, that, you know, these drugs ain't helping me. I'm trying to get something stronger. And I said, everywhere I go, the doors get slammed in my face. I said that God's doing that. It's my mom. She's thinking, oh, he's going off the deep end. [00:31:28]/[92.0]

Fez: [00:31:30] So your mom's not a believer. [00:31:31]/[1.0]

Billy: [00:31:32] Oh, my mom is now. [00:31:33]/[0.9]

Fez: [00:31:34] She is now, okay. Praise God. [00:31:36]/[2.5]

Billy: [00:31:38] But on June 14th, 2012, it was a Friday. I believe my son was going to go out with his friends and he left me at home by myself and it was just me and his dog. His dog got a good show that night, but I remember when he shut the door and I knew he had went down the steps. I remember punching the wall and I remember thinking to myself that I'm going to end this and this time I'll make sure I don't wake up. And you gotta remember, I had already experienced the outer darkness, and I knew that I convinced myself that what I had experienced was not really

supernatural. It was just my mind, you know, that had done that. You know, I was thinking, if I can kill myself and make sure I do it right and make sure I don't wake up again, then it would just be like going to sleep. But I remember I was mad, I was cussing and I just cried out. I said, What do you want with me? Because I am the trash bin. You know, I was thinking suicide. I was mad because I couldn't get any drugs that were stronger. I was looking for heroin, anything that would work. And I said, what do you want with me? Because I knew it was God that was keeping me from going any farther. And when I said those words, I heard this voice and it just said, call out to Jesus. And I remember thinking to myself, you know, this is crazy, you know, because when I was young and went to this church and they told us that God didn't work miracles anymore, you know, after the apostles died and stuff, that God didn't talk to his children anymore, that the only way he spoke to his children was through the Bible. And so I remember thinking, this is kind of weird, but I said, okay. I said, If you'll take this away from me, if you'll take all this addiction from me, if you'll take this pain, depression, all these things that I've been powerless my whole life to turn away from. If you'll take it from me, I'll serve you. And whenever I said I'll serve you, I was thinking I'll go find some church building somewhere and I'll help them take out the trash or I'll say the prayer every now and then or something like that. I had no idea God was going to have me do what He was going to have me do. But I said, If you don't take this from me, I'll serve you. And the second those words came out of my mouth, it felt like, God come down out of heaven and just hugged me. And that's when my heart melt-

ed. All this anger, this depression, all this stuff, it's like all these things just started falling off of me. And I always tell people that God had me at hello. It was his love that got me. And then in an instant, well, I'm feeling this as soon as I felt the hug. I went down on my knees and I just started crying because in that instant, I realized God is real. That he's not just somebody that's in a book. That he actually is alive. And he talks to his children. I remember my son's dog. He's peeping around the corner of the room, like, let's go. I don't know. But then I heard his voice, you know, it's that spiritual voice. It's, you know what I'm talking about. [00:35:11]/[212.5]

Fez: [00:35:11] It's not a physical sound, but it's a spiritual sound. [00:35:14]/[2.6]

Billy: [00:35:14] It's inside. And he says, You take all the drugs, those drugs, and you throw them away. And I've had withdrawals before, you know, and I've seen people get terribly sick. I've been terribly sick with them. But then he said, you take take all those drugs and you throw them in the trash. And I said, Yes, Lord. And I know what withdrawals are. But I knew I trusted him. I had faith. You know, he's God, he created the universe. So, I'm in the trash. I know he's got me. I took my cigarettes. I even took caffeine. I don't drink caffeine anymore, but I threw my cigarettes, the weed, the pills, everything away. And I never had a single withdrawal. I've never had a craving since that time. I've been to rehab several times and they never took the physical addiction away, but they never took away the desire. They never filled that void. They never gave me something to fill it with. And God filled that void that night. And I remember I called my mom that night and I said, Mom, my mom's a hospice

nurse, you know? So, she deals with people that are dying and she's seen drug addiction and stuff. And I tell my mom, I said, Mom, God's alive. He's real. He came to me and he told me to throw away all my drugs. I said, I've thrown it all in the trash, you know, and my mom's thinking, Oh, God, you know, he's going to be in a hospital in a couple of days. And I have to go to Dallas and take care of him and all this. And and I'm like, Trust me, Mom. He's got me. He's got me. And it wasn't until, I guess about a week later that my mom realized God worked a miracle in my life. And that night, God removed the scales from my eyes. That night, in an instant, I seen that it wasn't just me, that it wasn't just me that's in horrible, horrible shape, that it was this great sense of loss that God opened my eyes to, the fact that the whole world is lost, and that the whole world is under this spell, that we're living this lie, you know, especially in the free world, you know, we're so consumed with things. And I realized that night that what is being taught in these buildings that they call churches are lies, you know, that God is real and he works miracles in his children's lives. And he still talks to his children. And that night, God gave me a hunger for scripture and gave me an understanding for Scripture to work. I knew it wasn't just rules to me anymore. It made sense. And whenever I read about how and what grace was, I understood what the grace of God is, that it wasn't anything that I ever did in my past that deserved what God did for me. I'd never done any work to deserve Him saving me. It was his grace alone. And I know that he had prepared me, you know, he had prepared works for me, to go through all these trials and tribulations that I've been through my whole life, that this was

building a story. It was building a song because every person that has a testimony has a song, a unique song to sing that only they can sing. And they're supposed to be at least one person out there that is meant to hear your testimony, and it's supposed to prick them in their heart. And they're going to want what you have, you know. And so, that's been my goal since that night, to preach to people what grace is, that if God can save a sinner like me, you know, with all the problems I had, somebody out there with these little bitty problems that they might have, I can take care of what I had. What you got is nothing, you know? And so that's why I try to let people know and that the grace of God is not something, you know, it shouldn't be treated as a doormat, you know, that the grace of God is something special. And it's not you being good. It's not about being self-righteous. It's about letting God be good through you. And it's all about dying to yourself and just letting Christ rise up in you and letting him do the work. [00:39:54]/[279.9]

Fez: [00:39:54] Letting the Holy Spirit teach you how to live, teach you how to be righteous. I think the Holy Spirit is the one who makes us righteous. Yeah, because we're just sinners, you know. [00:40:04]/[9.2]

Billy: [00:40:04] Filthy rags, our work, as Jesus said, you know, not everyone that comes to me and says, Lord, Lord will be saved, you know. And he said, you know, a lot of them will come and say, you know, I cast out demons in your name. And I did that. And he said, Get away from me, you workers of iniquity. Well, you know, there's a lot of people, I know a lot of people out there that if they do a lot of good deeds, you know, they do a lot of charity work

and things like that. But, when nobody's looking, when they think nobody's looking, you know, they're doing some of those things, same things that I used to do, you know, the addictions, the lust, the cravings and all those things. But they think because of their own good works that they're going to go to heaven. And what I try to tell people is that when God circumcises your heart, once you're baptized with his spirit, that he takes all that away from you. He gives you the conviction and the power to turn from it. And, you know, they say his call is remarkable. You know, how could you turn from that kind of love? And to me, that is freedom in Christ, is being set free from all those desires and from all those addictions. And that true freedom in Christ to me, because, you know, you're not doing anything. You know, Jesus told us, I'll send you the Counselor and he will guide you. He will guide you. [00:41:26]/[82.2]

Fez: [00:41:27] And, you know, it's funny. Jesus takes away addictions, takes away our desire to sin. And in my case, it was definitely lust and other issues. And the Jewish people were waiting for a messiah who would bring peace to the world. And Jesus did bring peace to the world by taking away these desires, because that's the real source of the corruption in this world, a source of the evil in this world, it's sin. So it just comes full circle. And so that's an incredible testimony that you have. So you've been sharing this testimony with other people. A lot of people have been receiving it. You know what? The thing that's amazing to me is that it's a testimony about deliverance from drug addiction. And there's so much drug addiction in our culture right now. And a lot of people believe that if they go to rehab, they're going to be

rehabilitated. But that's not necessarily true. I mean, you say it yourself. They took away that initial, I guess, physical addiction. But you still had a deeper seeded addiction, didn't you? That just wouldn't go away until you had that experience with Jesus. [00:42:42]/[74.6]

Billy: [00:42:43] It was that emptiness that I'd always had since childhood, you know, that. That, you know. An emptiness that only God can fill. To me, I kind of see things differently now. You know, since the fall, since Adam and Eve were tossed out of the garden. Every man born has that emptiness inside. And every man and woman born is always trying to fill that. And most of us try to fill it with all the wrong things. And, you know, that to me is, you know, we're all striving to go back to the garden, to have our contact back with God, you know, that they realize they were naked. And to me, Adam and Eve realized they were naked. And to me, well, once they realized they were naked, they were no longer clothed in Christ, and they lost their connection to God, and they were naked. They were exposed. And whenever Christ comes back into your life and you clothe yourself in Him, in His good works, then you've got your connection back to God and you've entered back into the garden and that's just something God has taught me. You know, that's from the time you're born again and you put all your faith and trust in him to do the good works. Then, you know, that to me, that's when you start your eternal life. You know, we still got to go through this death thing and stuff like that. But that's just the doorway. You know, I'm no longer afraid of death or dying. You know, I don't. I don't want to, you know, suffer a long, drawn out, painful death or anything

like that. But, you know, death has no more sting on me anymore. [00:44:39][116.7]

Fez: [00:44:40] Because you have eternal life and you're just going to go from this world to the heavenly world. You know, I wanted to ask you about the church you attended that told you that miracles have ceased. [00:44:53][13.2]

Billy: [00:44:54] The denomination is the Church of Christ And what they taught us was that after the first century, Christians died and the Apostles died, that God didn't work miracles anymore. They made it a point to preach this one particular sermon at least three times a year, praying it into us. If God doesn't work miracles and He doesn't talk to us anymore, then the only way God speaks to us is through the King James version Bible. And so, once I received this miracle and I received this amazing gift of grace that God gave me, I went to that church and I felt compelled to be water baptized. I wanted to be water baptized. So, I went and I got water baptized at this church. And afterwards I tried to share my testimony with the preacher and some of the older gentlemen there. And they completely and totally rejected me. I went to this church for six weeks and for six weeks, every sermon that preacher made, he directed at me, trying to convince me that the Holy Spirit doesn't come to us anymore. And he told me, if you learn how to read a King James version Bible, because he didn't like the fact that I had an RV, he said you'd be able to see it and your eyes would be opened up to the truth. And I said, You can't deny the miracle that God did for me, you know, taking away an addiction without withdrawals and so I have no desire for it anymore. I said that's a miracle. I said, you can never take that from

me. They wouldn't have anything to do with it because they were clothed in their doctrine. They were so programmed into this indoctrination and I shook their very foundation. It cut them to the bone, so I left. I couldn't go back to that church anymore. I had to trust my feet. And since that time, that preacher came over here one time, you know, trying to get me to come back. And, you know, he told me, he said, you know, God maybe did a miracle in your life, he said, but, you know, whenever you hear about a car crash and you hear about how it was, you know, rolled up into a ball and they cut the people out and somebody came out and they didn't even receive a scratch. He said, That's not a miracle. He said, That's just physics. And he said and he tried to tell me one more time. He said, If you just had a King James version Bible, he said, you would understand the truth. And that's when I realized that I love reading scripture. I love reading the Bible. I'm not a Bible hater. But I realized in that moment that a lot of these churches have turned the Bible into an idol. They've created a graven image and they've given it to ability to speak because now they'll tell you the Bible says this, the Bible says that. But they have no spiritual understanding about what it means. They only see it in a two dimensional view. [00:47:56]/[182.0]

Fez: [00:47:57] That's a really good point. That's a really good point. I think, um, I've had people come on and tell me that they've had supernatural experiences, but at the same time they discount other supernatural experiences. I think the whole thing is silly. I think you have to take the Bible and experience together and, of course, the Holy Spirit speaks to us and guides us. That's what the Bible says. And you know,

my mother, just to give an anecdote, I think she's a representative of a lot of Christians out there. She's the daughter of a pastor. And she raised me to believe that miracles don't happen anymore. She says that that's back then. You know, for now, things are different. But, I think finally there's a revival happening in America where you've got these testimonies like yours coming out and other testimonies that are talking about miracles, signs and wonders. And people are starting to become hungry for the truth and they want to experience God. So, uh, you know, thankfully, I think this is changing. Do you think it's changing? [00:49:00]/[63.5]

Billy: [00:49:01] I think so, too. I believe, though, that we have to take caution because I've seen a lot of people that are so hungry for truth and they're so hungry for signs and wonders that they're reaching out the wrong direction. Are you familiar with Kundalini spirits? [00:49:21]/[20.3]

Fez: [00:49:22] Yeah, I've heard of them before. [00:49:25]/[2.4]

Billy: [00:49:26] Yeah. And unfortunately, it's crept into the Christian movement and there's a lot of false signs and wonders out there. There's a lot of people going into these churches now looking for a feel good moment and, see, that's what a Kundalini spirit does. It gives you a warm and fuzzy feeling. It makes you feel loved and everything else. But, there's one thing that this spirit will never do and that is to convict you of sin. So these people go to these churches and they get all these signs and wonders and they get all this feel-good experience and everything. And then they go right back home doing the same, the same things that are killing them, you know? But every week they're going back

and they're getting these feel-good feelings, you know, and the churches are offering it to them because, you know, hey, they're paying the money. You know, it's a profitable deal for them. So a lot of people are so desperate, you know, looking for things instead of spending their time on their knees, praying to God, seeking after God. Because Jesus says, you know, seek and you shall find, knock on the door and it will be open. You know, instead of doing that, people are looking for a quick fix and they're accepting whatever a lot of these men behind the pulpits are preaching our way. But I do believe that there is a true movement going on. I didn't know what YouTube was until my son told me. I was telling my son, I have got to share with people what I felt like. If I had YouTube or, you know, another outlet, I would've literally spouted all this stuff that God gave me to share. I just couldn't hold it in. And my son told me about YouTube. He set me up a channel and everything. And when I discovered all these other people out there that are having these miracles happen in their life, I was like, because the first thing that I wanted to do that night and after that, God poured the spirit out on me to go to any church and I find, I'm family, you know, and live happily ever after today, you know, that's it. And I was so disheartened, you know, I was going to all these churches thinking, you know, that was it. I realized, man, you know, that they're not there. And then I got to YouTube and I seen all these people on YouTube that have experienced God, that experienced miracles and had been rejected by the building denominations. And so, I really found a family on YouTube. And I love everybody in the world, you know? Our family on YouTube is amazing, you know,

and Skype is amazing. You know, I'm getting to speak with you. I don't even know where you live. People in the UK, you know, and I speak to people in Australia, Canada and it's just, you know, sharing what God has done in our lives. It's amazing. So yeah, there's a true movement and there's a lot happening on YouTube right now. There's a lot of lies and deception on YouTube, too. But there is a true movement going on. [00:52:20]/[174.2]

Fez: [00:52:21] Yeah. Yeah. You have to use discernment to teach this, to be able to tell what's true and what's not. But I think it's huge. It's going to be very, very big. A lot of what I notice is what you said just a second ago, which is that a lot of people like yourself who've got a testimony get turned away from the churches and this is unfortunate. So hopefully the churches will repent themselves because the leaders of these churches are not teaching the right thing. I've noticed that they don't talk about sin and repentance because what they say is that once you are saved, you no longer have to walk out your salvation and repent, you know, whenever you need to. And I disagree with that. I think you do need to repent daily and whenever you need to. You know what I'm saying? [00:53:17]/[56.5]

Billy: [00:53:18] I know it's true for a fact. I know of one person that had a similar experience that I had and was delivered from all these addictions and they opened that door back up just a little bit and it came flooding back in. And they're still struggling with it, but they're trying to shut the door. You know, I pray for them every day. But, you know, it's when you take your eyes off of God and you put your eyes back on the world, that that the world will come

flooding back on you. And, you know, if you have the Holy Spirit, you know that that fruit of the Spirit is love, kindness, patience, gentleness, self-control, you know, all these good things, all the characteristics of God. If you have the Holy Spirit in you, then you should reflect the characteristics of God and they should just come natural, you know, shouldn't be you trying to go down a checklist of things you've got to do today. All your heart's desires should be for what's pleasing to him. But, we have to keep our focus on him and not the world or the world will come flooding in on you. [00:54:28][69.9]

Fez: [00:54:28] And I notice that it's not me that's doing it, as you say. It's the Holy Spirit. I mean, I don't even. It's just my desires, it's how they're changed now. They're different now. [00:54:42][13.3]

Billy: [00:54:42] Yeah, you're different. [00:54:43][0.6]

Fez: [00:54:43] It doesn't take an effort. [00:54:45][1.7]

Billy: [00:54:46] You know, the old is gone, the new has come. All this is from God. You can never say, look at what I'm doing. Look at my self-righteousness because it's not you. And I know where I came from, you know, I know what kind of person I was. So, you know, the people that see me, that knew me from way back when, they're like, okay, where's Billy at? You know what? Hey, you know, because they don't recognize who you are, you know? And it's the Holy Spirit doing it. [00:55:15][28.3]

Fez: [00:55:15] I wanted to ask you what your son thinks, number one. And then I wanted to ask you if you could stick around and we'll talk about what you're doing on

your channel, what you think of current events and maybe talk a little bit about how you've ministered to maybe the motorcycle gang they used to belong to. [00:55:36]/[21.2]

Billy: [00:55:40] My son is a believer. He's seeking God every day. He's still young, he's successful, and his eyes are on the world right now. But, you know, I'm praying for him, you know, for God to work in his life and to, you know, I believe all of us have to go through these fires, you know, and and the tribulations. And, uh, but I believe he'll come around. He's seen the miracle in my life. He's seen it firsthand. And he knows it came from God. And He's told me that I could never deny that there's not a God because I've seen a true miracle in you. And so, yeah, he's a believer now and he is seeking God. But he's young and it's like we all were one time, you know. [00:56:36]/[55.7]

Fez: [00:56:36] Is he married? [00:56:37]/[0.2]

Billy: [00:56:38] Now? He's not married. He'll be 25 in October. And, you know, he's just living that city life right now. He's not a bad kid. He's successful. He's very good. A computer engineer. Um, you know, he's just, living that life, you know, that, you know, we all live in Babylon right now. [00:57:00]/[22.1]

Fez: [00:57:00] Isn't it hard to live in this world knowing what we know now? It's difficult because we still have to pay the bills, put food on the table. And in my case, as a single guy looking for a wife, I do want that companionship and I do need that, really. So it's almost like you've got the spiritual and the physical. But, I think Christians sometimes take it too far. Sometimes it's 100% spiritual and they totally ne-

glect the physical. But, you know, the physical is important. [00:57:33]/[32.5]

Billy: [00:57:34] Yeah, you've got to have a balance. I've learned that. And that's what I try to share on my YouTube channel is my walk. I turned two years old. You know, I don't celebrate my birthday. I celebrate my born again day. I turned two years old just a few weeks back. And, you know, I've shared my growth. And, you know, when I first started, right after God saved me and opened my eyes to the wickedness in the world, I spent weeks on my knees at night crying for poor family members and friends of mine that had died that that, you know, at the very least were lukewarm when they died, you know, and very much in the world and all that. And I would cry and pray to God every night about their souls and stuff, you know? And now, you know, finally God came to me one night in that spiritual voice that you hear and he said, how can you do the work that I want you to do if you're worried about all that stuff, you know? He said, just keep your eyes focused on me. And so that's what I do now is, is just focus on, you know, what he wants to do and, you know, pray that there's things that we don't yet understand or, you know, something that I know I'm going to focus on his work from what he wants me to do. [00:58:58]/[84.5]

Fez: [00:58:59] Yeah, yeah, that's right. Billy Hobbs, YouTube channel under the name Billy Hobbs. Check it out and listen to his testimony the way he says it on his channel as well. I also wanted to ask you about the motorcycle gang that used to belong to and whether or not you went back to tell them your testimony. [00:59:27]/[27.6]

Billy: [00:59:28] Oh, yeah, I have. I spoke to two or three of the guys and they're very receptive. There's three of the guys that, you know, you're really never out of a gang, you know, but God had his hand on me. I could have gotten in a lot of trouble, you know, for leaving the club the way I did. But God kind of softened their hearts, you know, especially after I had the stroke because I had some guys looking for me for a while. But, since I had my moment with the Lord and was changed, you know, I was given this courage to go and speak to everyone, you know, and not just the biker club, but I went to them and some of them are still members, just not acting members, you know, and and they're, you know, they're seeking God, they're Christians. They believe in God, you know, and they're just seeking God to be born again. And that's what they're looking for. And they've seen the miracle that's happened with me, and they're seeking that. [01:00:44][75.8]

Fez: [01:00:45] That's great. That's fantastic. Billy, would you mind praying for those people out there who are seeking God, who maybe they've got addiction in their life, maybe they've got depression in their life. Would you pray that they would become truly free in the name of Jesus? [01:01:00][14.8]

Billy: [01:01:01] Sure. Okay. Father, I want to thank you for this time that you've given me to share my testimony, the song that you gave me to sing Lord, since the night you came to me. My mission in life is to let people know that you still work miracles and that true freedom in Christ is being set free from all these things in this world that's killing us. All these addictions, these pains. All these faults and desires that

this world is fooled into believing they have to have, and if they don't have them, that they can't have happiness. But, I just pray that you pour this message out to the world tonight and let them know that you're there and that, through your love and through your strength, we can do anything and we can turn from all these things that are killing us, that we're trying to fill this void in our hearts, these holes in our hearts. We're trying to fill our hearts with all these things that are killing us. We pray, Lord, that you open up the eyes to the blind, that they can see that you're the healer, you're the doctor, that you will take these things away and that you can heal the world. I pray this, Lord, in your son, Jesus' name.
[01:02:19][78.0]

[3669.7]

Delivered From Demons Of Pot Smoking (Jared Perkins)

Fez: [00:01:45] We have a guest on the show and he's actually going to be sharing his testimony. His name is Jared Perkins. He's calling in from Australia. And, uh, he's got a testimony having to do with marijuana and drug addiction and generational sin. So, it's my pleasure to welcome him on the show. Hey, Jared. [00:02:44]/[59.3]

Jared: [00:02:46] Hello. [00:02:46]/[0.6]

Fez: [00:02:47] So, it's 10:46 PM, it's a little late. It's like 14 hours ahead, right? That's crazy. But, I'm glad that we were able to connect because I remember you contacted me a while ago and then you were saying how, you know, you were impacted by some of the things that I was saying on the show, some of the testimonies that have been on the show. How exactly did you first hear about this show? And, you know, what was your initial reaction to it? Before we get into your testimony, I'm just curious. [00:03:16]/[29.0]

Jared: [00:03:18] Oh, I think I just saw it through a recommended on YouTube and yeah, sort of went through the videos and there was quite a vast array of different testimonials and interesting subjects, yeah. Caught my eye and listened to a few. Still got quite a few there in the watch later list to watch. So, it's amazing to see different walks of life and stories. [00:03:45]/[27.5]

Fez: [00:03:46] Now, have you heard testimonies before, you know, in Australia, in churches that you attend or is that something that's just new to you? [00:03:54]/[7.4]

Jared [00:03:55] Yeah, I've heard quite a few. Some have been very impactful, I guess, and some quite not so, but quite

a few at church. I was baptized at the District Baptist Church in town here about two or three months ago now. So, yeah. [00:04:16][21.1]

Fez: [00:04:17] That's great. So, would you say you're a recent believer, I guess new believer? [00:04:24][7.5]

Jared: [00:04:26] Um, not so much, so I guess I was, I wouldn't say, I guess, you know, when Zeitgeist came out, that really gave me, I guess, the antichrist view. And for a while I was quite Antichrist and I guess anti-Christian because of the way I viewed the world. And, you know, looking at people who claim to be Christians such as George Bush and people like that, that have this stigma around them of being Christian, it's quite easy to understand how a lot of people can be against Christianity as it's known. But yeah, in terms of actually repenting and following Christ, I am pretty, pretty much a babe. But I've, for quite a while, been coming around to, to the mental repentance of, you know, understanding who God is and being open to him as is the truth, the only truth. [00:05:26][60.0]

Fez: [00:05:27] I'm curious about what you said about Zeitgeist because a friend of mine who considers himself an atheist, he told me about Zeitgeist and how Zeitgeist is like the ultimate truth and blah, blah, blah. And that's how you used to think? [00:05:43][15.3]

Jared: [00:05:44] Yeah, definitely. I've bought all three DVD's and was, you know, running around sharing them with everybody and, yeah, that's exactly what I thought. And it's funny, you know, Netflix, whatever you would call it, the whole program that it is, they're actually premiering Zeit-

geist on it, so. Get ready for a whole new wave of.
[00:06:10][25.9]

Fez: [00:06:10] Oh, no. I didn't hear about that, actually, they're going to be doing that coming up in the next month or so? [00:06:19][9.3]

Jared: [00:06:20] Yeah. Yep. Yeah. [00:06:22][1.6]

Fez: [00:06:23] Yeah, so, I mean, um, we're going to get into that, first of all, but for those who listen Zeitgeist, who may be listening right now who are atheists, because I do get atheists listening to the show, what would you tell them about Zeitgeist to convince them that it's not the truth.
[00:06:38][15.6]

Jared: [00:06:40] I would say, look it up, look up the facts. Don't don't believe the people that are saying it's true because, factually speaking, there is no evidence for a lot of those similarities between Jesus Christ and a lot of those ancient demigods that are, you know, put up as though they're the same. And it's as simple as that. If you want to argue it and, it's funny, it was two days ago on Google Plus, which I'd commented stupidly on an atheist video about, commented about Jesus being Lord and, as expected, it was hit with a lot of atheist rhetoric for a long time and it just got to a point where I stopped pretty much responding to it. But yeah, just two days ago I had a girl say to me, pretty much, you have to do one of two things. One, prove that Jesus even existed, and two prove that He wasn't the same as Horus and all of these other gods. And if anyone that's listening that believes Zeitgeist thinks that they can prove it to be true, if you go to Zeitgeistchallenge.com, you can actually win \$1,000 if

you can prove it to be true. The claims that are made in that movie. So yeah, good luck with it. [00:07:56]/[76.6]

Fez: [00:07:57] Interesting, I didn't hear about that Zeitgeist challenge. [00:07:59]/[1.4]

Jared: [00:08:00] Yeah. Yeah, Chris White from Chris White ministries, I'm not sure. [00:08:04]/[4.0]

Fez: [00:08:04] Yeah, I know Chris White. [00:08:05]/[0.7]

Jared: [00:08:05] Yeah. Yeah, I'm pretty sure that he set it up a few years ago. [00:08:09]/[3.9]

Fez: [00:08:09] Cool, Chris White's great. Chris came on the show. You can check out his testimony. It's called 'A Former Conspiracy Nut Comes to Christ.' And also, Jared, you were kind of a conspiracy nut, right? [00:08:26]/[16.2]

Jared: [00:08:26] Definitely. Definitely. [00:08:27]/[0.7]

Fez: [00:08:27] Yeah, I mean, if you're getting into like Zeitgeist, well, I wouldn't call like it, maybe it is kind of conspiratorial, but let's get into some of your testimony. So, you were raised atheist or more agnostic? [00:08:39]/[11.2]

Jared: [00:08:41] I wasn't really raised, I guess, in any, you know, my parents didn't have any pre held beliefs of their own in terms of there being a god or there not being a god or which one it was. So, yeah, I was sort of just raised to believe what I guess society has us believe, which is more commonly now, obviously atheism. But, I was never an atheist, so to say. I don't think I ever believed that there wasn't a God. I was open to the possibility that maybe there was no God. But, I always felt that agnostic belief that there was a God, but because of how we can see, obviously religion controls a

lot of people that, how could it be any one of these gods of, you know, either the Bible or any one of those, how could any one of those be the true God? So yeah, I was open to the belief of God, but never believed that it was the God of the Bible or any one of these other gods that we see in the mainstream these days. [00:09:47][66.2]

Fez: [00:09:49] Interesting. So, you thought it was just more of like almost a, I guess, a universalist God, I mean, you know, a kind of detached God that really doesn't require anything of us. More like a Buddhist view of who God is, type of thing? [00:10:05][16.8]

Jared: [00:10:06] Yeah, just sort of some higher power, I guess that, um, is kind of unexplainable that I guess I could have never really grasp. That just had, you know, but I knew inside there had to be more so. [00:10:19][12.8]

Fez: [00:10:20] Yeah, so how long was it that you were kind of grappling with this idea of God and then, you know, what was it that kind of turned you turned your mind to think about other ways of looking at God. [00:10:32][12.2]

Jared: [00:10:37] I guess it was for a while. And yeah, it's only been maybe just six months since I've come to believe in Christ and It was sort of, yeah I'm sorry, what was the latter part of that question? [00:10:51][14.4]

Fez: [00:10:52] I guess I'm curious about what led you to look at God differently. If you started out thinking God was more of a universalist type of God, what kind of steps led you, I guess God led you through these different steps because he's the one who draws us to him, but how exactly did it happen for you? [00:11:12][20.3]

Jared: [00:11:14] Yeah, I mentioned briefly before that I studied for quite a while with the Jehovah's Witnesses, and I started to learn certain scriptures that made sense. And one of the main ones was the thing about the mark of the beast. And I guess it was seeing the way that reality is, in the world around us and then seeing that things have been written thousands of years ago that speak exactly about that. And I guess from being open on that principle of things that have already been written coming to fruition, being a reality, it sort of all fell into place. And then, you know, the reality of Jesus just made so much sense and I guess it all fell into place from there. [00:12:05]/[51.5]

Fez: [00:12:06] I had a former Jehovah Witness on the show and um, what she said was interesting because they have a more, they have a reverence of God that you can't really, it's difficult to find in many Christian churches today, but they don't have the personal relationship type, view of God. And I wondered if you noticed any of that when you were in that church. [00:12:30]/[24.4]

Jared: [00:12:31] Yeah, definitely. I wasn't actually a member, I nearly was. I got a tour of the actual local church and was studying for a few months with them. But yeah, they're very, I guess, very revering of God to the point where they keep each other really well in check, I guess, in terms of what they view to be scripturally right in the way of living. But yeah, it definitely, you know, there's things in their teachings that, I guess, it could be quite a decisive belief when it comes to eternal salvation and not, you know, recognizing Jesus as Lord is the main thing, I guess, that's definitely something that they do is they, they've lost the di-

vinity that they think he's the Archangel Michael.
[00:13:24][52.5]

Fesz: [00:13:25] Yes, that's exactly what I was going to say. [00:13:26][1.6]

Jared: [00:13:27] Yeah. [00:13:27][0.0]

Fez: [00:13:28] They say he's the archangel and they also, they don't believe that there's a heaven if I'm if I remembering correctly, right? [00:13:38][10.1]

Jared: [00:13:39] Yeah, annihilation. There'll be a point where, I guess, everyone who doesn't get into the Kingdom of God will just be cast into absolute nothingness and there will be nothing. So there's no eternal judgment for sin and things like that. It's a totally different belief.
[00:13:54][14.9]

Fez: [00:13:57] It's different, very different. So, um, you know, I would urge you to check those out as well, the testimonies with Kay Brown and, and others. But, the interesting thing is that they're excellent evangelists. They are better evangelists than most Christians, I would say. They're really good at that. [00:14:16][19.4]

Jared: [00:14:17] Yeah. You know what's hard though, trying to evangelize about the cross to one (haha). That's a task. [00:14:25][7.1]

Fez: [00:14:25] It is, especially today, and we're going to get into that. We're talking to Jared Perkins. He's calling in from Australia on Skype and uh, he's got an amazing testimony. We're going to get into the drug addiction that he was involved with, with marijuana and things going back to his generational, going back to his father. And it's just weird how in the US marijuana is becoming more accepted. So, Jared, I

mean, I don't know if you're aware, but here in the U.S., they legalized marijuana in Colorado. And just, generally speaking, I would say marijuana is just more widely accepted as more like a recreational drug that's completely safe. What would you say to people in the US who believe that marijuana is totally safe and it's okay to use it? [00:17:33]/[102.8]

Jared: [00:17:35] I'd say, you know, it's. It's not as bad as some things. If you compare it to alcohol, which is one of the arguments I used to use. It's, you're sitting at home a lot of the time or, you know, having a quiet snack and you're not harming anybody else. But like, I guess, definitely the psychological effects that you don't really realize until you come out of that are what play a large part in it. It's just like, I guess, any other vice that you become addicted to. It's something that takes quite a strain on your soul and your wallet and just, I guess, the direction that your life goes in. [00:18:14]/[38.5]

Fez: [00:18:15] I would say that marijuana is definitely more widely accepted than when I was in high school. When I was in high school, it was all about drinking like beer and liquor. And beer and liquor are just seen that way. They're always seen as not as harmful as we know that they are. But in your case, I mean, you were pretty much a marijuana smoker for how long? And do you think it was connected to your father being a smoker as well? [00:18:49]/[34.5]

Jared: [00:18:51] Yeah, definitely. I started smoking and it wasn't just marijuana. And cigarettes as well. And he was the same from when I can remember. He was always very heavily a smoker and if he wasn't at home hitting off a bong, you know, any time we'd go out, it was chain smoking. And that was what I sort of grew up from about eight or nine

when I first remember seeing him to me when he eventually died three years ago from lung cancer, that I was very much the same. The same. Yeah. So, I was smoking full time for a good three and a half years and then before that quite regularly for probably a year and a half to two years prior. Wow. [00:19:43]/[52.0]

Fez: [00:19:43] So, that's a while, a long time smoking. And I'm sorry to hear about your father. And, um, you know, there's a lot of people dealing with lung cancer and different forms of cancer here in the US right now. So, um, I have to ask, was your dad a believer? He pretty much died a nonbeliever? [00:20:04]/[20.8]

Jared: [00:20:05] He was unrepentant until the deaths. He was very, I guess, new agey and real sci fi kinda nerd. [00:20:18]/[12.9]

Fez: [00:20:18] Was he? Yeah. [00:20:19]/[0.6]

Jared: [00:20:19] Yeah. [00:20:19]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:20:20] Wow. Yeah, it's. It's, um. So, it's sad to hear that your dad was kind of, kind of like my dad, in a sense. Except my dad doesn't smoke, but my dad's pretty much an atheist, unfortunately. But, I guess we all have to pray for our parents, right? We have to keep praying for our family members because a lot of times, you know, what people don't understand is I want to emphasize this one point. Listeners out there who are atheist or secular or agnostic, and you're listening to this show and you're trying to understand a testimony and the Christian perspective on things. A lot of the guests like yourself, Jarod, come from families that are non believing and they come to believe in Jesus Christ. And, um. It's not something that is purely because we were

raised this way. You know, that's what people don't get. They don't get that we were not raised this way. And it's through our experiences that bring us to the understanding of Jesus Christ. I just wanted to say that. [00:21:20]/[60.3]

Jared: [00:21:21] If I can just interject on my own baptism at the local church, there was, I think, ten other people on the day and all but myself and one Muslim were all raised in the church that had then gotten baptized. It really is, like you can see how people, you know, relate that to being, you know, being raised in the faith. I think it's a great testament that Jesus calls all of us from every different walk of life. And yeah, it's a great realization to see that anyone can be called and saved so. [00:22:01]/[40.0]

Fez: [00:22:02] Yeah, yeah, absolutely. But in your case, with the marijuana smoking, I mean, people would say, so what? I mean, I know people who smoke marijuana and they went on to have flourishing careers. They got married, they had kids. In some cases, they continued to smoke marijuana. It was not a hindrance to them. So, in your view, why was it a hindrance to you and why do you think it was negative in your life? [00:22:32]/[30.0]

Jared: [00:22:35] There was hindrance in it really, you know. My life became about the drug. You hear about people who are addicted to heroin and how they're always trying to find their next fix. That was exactly the way it was for me. And yeah, the majority of my life and my relationships were built around getting that next fix. And it was yeah, it was quite a, definitely something that held me back for a long time, fears of what I could do in life. And it wasn't, you know, when you talk about people getting clean and moving for-

ward, I had done that before. I had quit cold turkey previously in the past. And, you know, it was things of life like relationship break ups and little things like that that always had me fall back into the same cycle. And yeah, it really wasn't until coming to the cross that He gave me that strength to be able to, you know, resist that temptation. It wasn't of my own strength that I was quitting. It was only through him that I could do it now and not, you know, have certain things in my life go wrong that will lead me back into that old cycle. [00:23:53][77.9]

Fez: [00:23:54] Right. It's interesting that you mention that, because, first of all, atheists and nonbelievers will always say that there's no need to turn to Christ if you have an addiction. Why didn't you go to rehab? You said you went cold turkey for a while, but that didn't really solve your problems. They would say, why didn't you go on to certain types of prescription medication? I mean, what's your answer to people who are of that mindset that, you know, you don't need to turn. You could have overcome this issue in your life a different way? [00:24:32][38.1]

Jared: [00:24:35] Well, I guess I would say I couldn't. I couldn't have overcome it. I'd tried multiple times to overcome it. And it wasn't, I guess, what a lot of people view it from the outside as here's a person with an addiction. But, when you're the person with the addiction, it's really a different level. I guess it's not something that we can look at and say, they need to do this to be fixed. It's something as an addict that we, I guess, you sort of see yourself and it's something that is inside you that's broken, that needs to be fixed. It's not anything that we can outwardly do that's going to fix

it until something inside us is fixed. There's a void that needs to be filled and it doesn't come from rehab or quitting cold turkey. From my experience, I know that to be true, definitely. I was. That was with a lot of things, not just with marijuana, with sex and all of these other things. Alcohol, definitely. [00:25:32]/[57.1]

Fez: [00:25:32] I was going to say the same thing because in my case, the sex addiction or the pornography addiction, rather, was really something that was all consuming and like there's no way, I just know that in down deep in my heart because I know now that, looking back, that it was spiritual in nature, like you mentioned, something broken. But there was no way I could have ever overcome that another way. And you're saying the same thing. There's no way you could have overcome the drug addiction and the other types of addictions and vices in your life. So, now, if we could, let's explain to people who are not familiar with this type of experience. What helped you to understand that Jesus was the correct path? How did he actually break this off of your life? I mean, how did Jesus kind come in and take this away from you? [00:26:35]/[62.2]

Speaker 4: [00:26:36] I'll get into that in a second, but the most amazing part of my testimony. But yeah, I guess, through reading the scripture and being open to that, through prayer, I guess, that, you know, going on a whim to to pray about it. And I definitely must say the prayer from the start was something that, I guess, God heard and used through me changes from the inside out to then change my situations and the way I was viewing what I was doing. So yeah, that was yeah, definitely the prayer was something that

that really helped and that was just amazing. I think back on it now, just how powerful it was. But yeah, the most amazing part of it was and this was, I think maybe three months ago. I was in a place where I was still being called back to, to delve into sin. And I'd quit cigarettes at this time and I was still mentally wanting to smoke marijuana and put my self in situations where I could get high again. And I went on a retreat in a council program and went on a retreat, the opening retreat. And this guy that came to speak who had started up a homeless fund in in one of the cities around here and spoke about how he'd done it. And throughout it, he kept dropping these key words, you know, I was very blessed and so on and so forth while he was explaining his journey. And then he dropped, oh I had a Bible study one time and immediately then, when it ended, I went on to speak to him at the end of the night and just sort of shared our testimonies and where we were at. Long story short, it ended up, you know, we ended up praying at the end of it and I'd had a deliverance performed on me. And it was, you know, it wasn't, hey, we're here to do deliverance. It was in prayer that it then turned in to a deliverance session. And yeah, yeah. [00:28:47][130.6]

Fez: [00:28:47] That's incredible. [00:28:50][2.4]

Jared: [00:28:50] It was amazing, man. [00:28:51][0.9]

Fez: [00:28:51] We're talking to Jared Perkins. Jared is calling in from Australia and he's calling in on Skype and he's sharing his testimony of faith in Jesus. And we're about to get into a very, very controversial part of his testimony, and that is when he was delivered of demons. And, of course, whenever you talk about demons, people automatically think you're a nut job. They think you're crazy, that you need help, that

they need to institutionalize you. I've had people tell me that, Jared, that I need to be institutionalized because I talk about demons. But, it's crazy how, you know, deliverance, once you go through it, that's the only way you know, it's real. I think, even me, if I heard about someone getting delivered, you know, before it happened to me, I would be skeptical, too. But, once it happens to you and just like once you have any of these types of supernatural experiences, that's when you really understand and get to know the power of God. But, in your case, Jared, how did it happen? You mentioned that you're talking to this guy who was sharing his testimony, you approached him after his testimony and you started asking him questions. [00:32:00]/[123.5]

Jared: [00:32:01] Yeah. Yeah. He was there to discuss a program that he had and it was, I think, by the grace of God that put him there. And yeah, at the end of it, after he dropped a few key words, it made me think he might be a Christian. Yeah, I approached him at the end and we were sort of sharing our testimonies and it got to a point and I told him, you know, I'm still struggling with marijuana addiction and I'm still having the urges to go and put myself in that situation. And, at the end of the discussion, he and his fiancé, prayed over me, stood up and had hands on the shoulders. And yeah, just started praying and, and as it was happening, I just felt this strange feeling come about me and, you know, I remember going weak at the knees and falling backwards and sort of coming back to on the couch. And yeah, I definitely felt a lot different mentally than what had happened before. But, yeah, after that had happened, he said that God told him that morning in prayer that God had spo-

ken to him and said to him that he wasn't coming up to the retreat just to give his speech. [00:33:22]/[80.0]

Fez: [00:33:23] God spoke to him and said that he'd be doing deliverance as well, haha. [00:33:28]/[4.9]

Jared: [00:33:28] Yeah. More than the speech. [00:33:30]/[1.6]

Fez: [00:33:30] More than the speech. [00:33:31]/[0.5]

Jared: [00:33:31] He didn't know it was going to be deliverance, but he knew there was something more to be done there. [00:33:35]/[3.8]

Fez: [00:33:36] That's crazy. So, um, you got delivered. Did you felt like a weight lift off you or did you just immediately change where you no longer felt the addiction, like the day after or what? [00:33:49]/[12.9]

Jared: [00:33:50] I guess when you think about demons, so to say, and Deliverance, where our thoughts come from, we don't know. So, when you're getting thoughts constantly put into your head that are, you know, in my case, it was always like, oh, would I go back here and smoke again? And when I get back to town, how can I get back in that situation and smoke again? Those thoughts were just constantly coming and after that deliverance, that was gone. It was that whole cloud, it was like a cloud of negativity that I knew consciously I didn't want to do that, but there was something in the back of my mind that kept urging me to do it, which I'm sure I would have done it again had that deliverance not happened. So, immediately after I sort of came back to full consciousness after the deliverance, which I kind of went out of it for a little bit, I was fully conscious, but I remember it was sort of like a yeah, definitely a strange experience and af-

terwards, even Luke had said to me when we were standing in the kitchen 5 minutes later, he said, wow, man, your eyes just, you know, black rings had come out from under my eyes that were there 10 minutes earlier. And yeah, I felt just it was so much of a change. It was just incredible. [00:35:13]/[82.4]

Fez: [00:35:14] That's amazing. That's great. [00:35:16]/[1.3]

Jared: [00:35:16] Something supernatural. [00:35:16]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:35:17] Yeah. It's something supernatural. I mean, it's hard to explain, right, when it happens to you, but you know that it's real. You know that, you know, were you shaking? Were you kind of like I mean, people have a Hollywood version of what a deliverance is like. They think of like an exorcism. It wasn't like that, right? [00:35:31]/[13.9]

Jared: [00:35:35] No, no, no. I think Hollywood has definitely, you know, misconstrued the whole view of what it really is and how simple it can be with the power of God and the name of Jesus. But yeah, it wasn't at all. It was just standing in prayer and they were calling, calling the spirits out. And I remember going weak at the knees and sort of falling backwards and then, you know, thankfully landing on a couch, sitting down and, yeah. [00:36:02]/[25.1]

Fez: [00:36:03] I've seen Deliverance, by the way, that were a little bit more intense, but not to the degree that, you know, we think they are from movies, but it was more like this woman. She kind of felt like weak, again, she was on the ground and she let out like a scream as she was being delivered. But, even that that's pretty G-rated, I would say, compared to what people think of a deliverance. So, I just would

urge Christians out there to not be afraid of deliverance because there's so many misconceptions about deliverance and how Christians supposedly are not susceptible to demonic influence. But, you know, that's not true. Based on Jared's testimony, based on my testimony, based on the testimonies of literally well over a hundred and just hundreds, I would say, just people who have not been on the show and their stories. So, um, you don't need like a priest to do kind of like, do all these crazy things with holy water. You just need a prayer, somebody to pray over you. I think it's helpful to have somebody pray over you. But also, I urge, you know, maybe when you're first getting delivered, it's helpful to have somebody there. But I would say if you have the Holy Spirit and you have enough to faith that you can get delivered, you can actually do it just you and the Holy Spirit. Jared, so what happened after that? I guess this happened, what, three months ago, you said? [00:37:39]/[96.6]

Jared: [00:37:40] Yeah, roughly a bit over three months. Oh, hang on. No, it might be about four or five now. Yeah. [00:37:46]/[5.6]

Fez: [00:37:46] Or five months. Okay. So, how would you describe your life now? I mean, is your life dramatically different? What things are better? What things are different after getting delivered? [00:37:59]/[12.9]

Jared: [00:38:01] Yeah. After the deliverance, yeah, definitely, the whole urge to smoke marijuana has gone. I mean, I have stumbled once before and smoked a pipe, yeah, I guess, it was over a month ago now, but it was definitely something that once having a deliverance, I guess it really strengthened my faith in God and helped me to understand the power

that he has. And since then, yeah, I've been a lot, a lot better. It hasn't been. Yeah, it's. It's something that. I guess it's hard to explain, but if I could give anyone advice, I would say, don't be afraid to do it at all. It's not something that's going to negatively do anything to you. It can only be beneficial if it's done correctly. And, it's such a simple thing. It's just spoken words that are used and um, you don't realize how much of a difference it makes until it's, it's done. And, you know, it can be for a lot of things. It's not just demons of addiction, but demons of infirmity and and things like that that hold us back from doing a lot of things for Christ. It can, yeah, it can be very beneficial and yeah. [00:39:17]/[75.8]

Fez: [00:39:18] And the way I would describe it as well, because I know there's so much misinformation on this topic, is to say that we are physical bodies, but we have a spirit and we have a soul, but for our physical bodies, there are things that we need to do to maintain it. For example, exercise, eating right. But, for our spirit, there are also things we need to do to maintain it. And I would say that those things are prayer to God, uh, you know, a relationship with Jesus. Um. Deliverance, if we need it. Uh, so those are the things that keep our spirits healthy because, the way I describe demons, they're really just spiritual germs. We can get contaminated by spiritual germs if we dabble in things like, you know, people talk about dabbling in the occult, Ouija boards and stuff, but it can be any sin really. Um, so it's a matter of just making sure, just like you take a shower to make sure you're clean and you don't stink. It's the same thing spiritually, so that's how I would describe it. Um, so very cool. So, Jared. We're talking to Jared Perkins calling in from Australia

on Skype. Um. I was curious about like, I guess, the conspiracy stuff. I mean, are you into the New World Order stuff and the Bible and like end time prophecy because that stuff would be considered conspiracy stuff to a lot of people today. [00:41:01][103.5]

Jared: [00:41:02] I guess definitely. It was something that I was really into for a long time now, I was running around telling everybody the sky's falling down and it was through that and then seeing who these political elites are and who they have allegiance to, that bring about a whole reality of what's really going on. And yeah, I guess that eventually was what led me into the reality of God and the truth in the Bible of, like I mentioned earlier, the mark of the beast. If we look at society and how it's going and I'm not sure if you have these, but we have like these bank cards. [00:41:52][49.2]

Fez: [00:41:52] Bank cards? [00:41:54][1.9]

Jared: [00:41:54] Like a credit card, yeah? [00:41:55][1.0]

Fez: [00:41:56] Is that like a debit card? [00:41:57][1.1]

Jared: [00:41:58] Yeah. Yeah. Do you have, like, pay pass, or? [00:42:04][5.8]

Fez: [00:42:05] No, I've never, I've not heard of that. [00:42:06][1.1]

Jared: [00:42:07] Um, I've, I've seen a bit about like, um, recently from America about conditioning for the mark of the beast. And um, they're talking about the microchip, the RFID. And that was something that I really saw and was like, well, here we go. This was what John the Revelator wrote

about 1500 or so years ago. And it's only now that we have a technology that we can even relate to be something like what he was talking about. And yeah, just with those cards, they're actually, you know, they're they're already physically conditioning us to do that. And with these ones in Australia, they have a chip in them that we just run, run our hand over a receptacle like holding the card and it processes the payment. So, I'm not sure if you guys have something like that. [00:42:53][46.6]

Fez: [00:42:53] I guess what we do is we swipe. [00:42:57][3.4]

Jared: [00:42:57] We used to do swipe. Yeah. For the last probably 9 to 12 months it's just been scan. So we scan it. So we're actually physically being conditioned to run our hand in front of a receptacle. [00:43:09][12.1]

Fez: [00:43:10] That's very interesting. [00:43:14][4.2]

Jared: [00:43:15] Yeah, that's been going on for a while. Yeah. [00:43:16][1.5]

Former Transgender: ‘My Story Is Banned On US Television’ (Walt Heyer)

Fez: [00:00:05] How did you come to know Jesus Christ? [00:00:11]/[5.9]

Walt: [00:00:12] Well, there came a point where I learned that this was a psychological issue, and since it's psychological, I knew I needed to begin to pray. And I connected with the church. I identified as Laura when I went to that church. I talked to the pastor and I told him what I was struggling with. And I asked him, I said, “Jeff, are you going to try to change me?” Meaning, was he going to try to change me from a female to male? His answer was, “No, my job isn't to change you, my job is to love you. It's God's job to change you. Just come to the church as you are and we'll embrace you.” They did—and they loved on me and gave me the freedom to be Laura. But they also helped bring me face to face with the reality of Scripture and face to face with Jesus Christ in prayer. And in doing so, I realized that I needed to admit that going through surgery was wrong and I needed to confess it to the Lord. I asked for forgiveness for mutilating my body. Praying was a process over a long period of time. I specifically remember praying with a Christian psychologist for a lengthy time one Saturday afternoon when I sensed the presence of the Lord. He actually came as a vision to me during that prayer with His arms stretched out, and I could see myself in that vision as a little baby. And the Lord picked me up and spoke to me. I can still remember this, just like it's today. He was standing in front of me saying, “You will be safe with me forever.” And in that moment, he picked me up and we disappeared from view. I realized at that mo-

ment I had been redeemed and restored to my birth gender. I was in the arms of the Lord and from that moment forward, my life changed. [00:02:16][124.1]

Fez: [00:02:18] Praise God. That's awesome. That must have been a great feeling. So you knew immediately that you had been back to your gender that you were born in? [00:02:31][12.9]

Walt: [00:02:32] Yeah. I knew that He had met me there in that place. He had just been waiting for me to get on my knees and surrender. I'd been in prayer for four years. It didn't come in a moment. This took a lot of prayer. It took a lot of time. It took a lot of confessing about being wrong and coming to grips with that. I also want to mention that during my eight year transgender life, I never engaged in any kind of sexual activity whatsoever, with anybody. [00:03:04][32.3]

Fez: [00:03:06] But a lot of transgenders do, though, isn't that right? [00:03:07][1.6]

Walt: [00:03:09] Some do and some of them don't. Many of them are asexual, not being sexually attracted to either gender. What they are dealing with is identity. Transgenders, for the most part, are dealing with an identity issue, not a sexual issue, unless it's the homosexual transgender. So it's not usually an issue of engaging in sex or same sex attraction. It involves a person's mind. [00:03:49][39.5]

Fez: [00:03:50] That's right. So let's say you would have an opportunity through this podcast to talk to someone who started to struggle with their identity from the time they were a child. Bruce Jenner, now known as Caitlyn, comes to mind. If you had a chance to deliver a concise message

to share with that person whose future hangs in the balance right now, what would you say? [00:04:09]/[19.0]

Walt: [00:04:11] Well, I would like to sit down with that person and tell them how much I know they are hurting. I really believe they are deeply hurting. But I'm also curious to know when it started. I would ask, "Do you remember what was happening in your life? What kind of thoughts did you have when this began? What was the trigger?" We didn't hear the whole story from Caitlyn Jenner, only that it started with dressing in women's clothing at an early age. But what I would want to know is - what were the events surrounding that, what were the feelings, what was happening and what was the dynamic? Once I get that information - and this happens to me with people that write to me and those who I talk with — I can always find when we get into a discussion, we have in every case been able to identify some trigger mechanism during one's early life that caused the onset of the desire to change genders or become gender-depressed. That's what this is really about. It's about having depression of your gender. And what caused you to become depressed about your gender is always something that is identifiable but it takes time, it takes work, and it's not easy to do. And that's what I would say to my struggling friends, to definitely get the mental aspect treated before ever beginning to consider any life-altering procedure.

Fez: So do you think there could be a much bigger issue here?

Walt: [00:05:48] Yes, I would really try to get a person to look at the psychotherapy side of this and see if we can identify whether it's a dissociative disorder with separation

anxiety, or schizophrenia. I don't know. In people struggling with gender identity, there must be something going on that has yet to be diagnosed and treated. [00:06:07]/[19.3]

Fez: [00:06:09] That's a great answer. Bruce—Caitlyn Jenner, if you are out there listening to this program, if you're hearing this, know that Walt and I love you. We want you to come to know Jesus Christ. We also want you to see another point of view rather than the mainstream media's and what they are saying is the norm. This is so important.

Walt, I think what you do is amazing because you talk to so many people out there who are dealing with this same issue. And after 20 years, you've come to know quite a thing or two about transgenderism after coming out of it yourself and returning back to the gender you were at birth. [00:06:45]/[36.3]

Walt: [00:06:49] Yes. An interesting run on my Web site, it's currently getting almost 33,000 hits every 30 days. [00:06:55]/[6.2]

Fez: [00:06:57] Praise God. That's awesome. So that's SexChangeRegret.com. Check it out. Follow Walton on social media. By the way, getting back to your testimony, I had a question about your faith. How come you decided to go to THAT church? Why didn't you try out any of the New Age Buddhism or any of those other things? How did you manage to find a Christian church? [00:07:18]/[21.5]

Walt: [00:07:19] Well, I had a psychologist who thought I was going to commit suicide, so he was concerned about me. He himself was a Christian and had a pastor friend that he knew very well. And he called his friend and asked, "Would you take in a transgender into your house?"

Because I'm so afraid that he's going to commit suicide if he doesn't have people surrounding him." In the book I talk about when I stayed at the pastor's home and lived with him and his wife, his son who is in a wheelchair, and his teenage daughter. There were five of us living there. Also, when I identified as Laura, I spent some time in a women's recovery home in a 12 step recovery program. We talked about whether I had a church and they told me about one located close to where I was. They said "If you go there, I think they'll welcome you with open arms", and they did. So, it was because of the pastor I was living with who knew the pastor at that church that I went to that church. [00:08:45]/[85.6]

Fez: [00:08:46] I see. So certain people were put in your life by God, to direct you into the right path? So that was a blessing. [00:08:53]/[6.8]

Walt: [00:08:53] It was God all the way. [00:08:54]/[1.0]

Fez: [00:08:55] Wow. I wanted to bring up something relating to Christians and transgenderism. Supposedly there's a website called TransChristians.org and TransChristians.word. I don't know if you're familiar with it, but apparently there are transgender Christians who don't see a problem with being Christian and transgender. There is a homosexual church and a Bible that the homosexual LGBT+ community has revised to allow for homosexuality. So what do you think about the website TransChristians.org ? [00:09:30]/[35.4]

Walt: [00:09:31] Well, you know, it's one of those things where I seriously doubt that these individuals have engaged in discovery of any comorbid disorders. So, they

haven't admitted that they were wrong, nor confessed to the Lord on their knees and asked for forgiveness. I don't know. I had once been at that point myself where I thought I was made that way. And that's why I asked the pastor if he was going to try to change me. Because I was going to put my guard up. I was unwilling to change. I was resistant. But, I think when you finally open yourself up to the love of Christ and confess you're wrong, that everything takes on a whole different dimension. You realize that you have to make a change, but you can't start until you admit you're wrong. And none of these people who are "transgender Christians" are admitting that they're wrong. [00:10:39][67.7]

Fez: [00:10:40] You're right, they're not. I don't understand how they can look at verses in scripture and actually think that everything is okay. But again, they're deceived. That's how the enemy works. I believe that. It's almost like people are under some kind of spell spiritually. It's really quite sad. And what you're talking about, having begun during the Obama administration, it is amazing how they've been pushing this agenda on all of us. [00:11:07][26.3]

Walt: [00:11:08] I don't think the Lord is done with them yet. I know that from personal experience because I struggled just like they do. And, you know, they'll be blessed beyond their wildest imagination if they ever get to the point where they can admit they're wrong instead of being defiant to change. And that's really the difference. Those who are open to the Lord intervening in their lives and showing them a way to be redeemed and restored to the way God made them, they can have full 100% joy of life. But if they're resistant and, you know, just against any change whatsoever to

their “lifestyle”, then they're not going to get the full benefit of the freedom and joy that the Lord has for them. [00:12:01]/[53.3]

Fez: [00:12:02] Yeah. They have to be open, to be willing to say they're wrong. What do you think about Mike Penner from the L.A. Times? [00:12:12]/[9.5]

Walt: [00:12:13] What happened with Mike makes me think of someone like Jazz - formerly Jared Jennings - who had decided as a 5 year old boy that he wanted to be a girl and followed through with it in his late teens. Since this can take years for it to metastasize — Jazz could become like Penner. You know, they put up Penner as the poster child for adult onset of gender dysphoria and he came out as a female for a year. Then he realized that this was not a good thing to do and when he went back to being “Mike” - and I have had it happen too - he got so much heat from the same people who had loved him that he committed suicide. So, as you can see, the people who are struggling with gender issues are a fragile group of people because they're psychologically depressed. And so they're bound to be tipped over fairly easily. [00:13:11]/[58.2]

Fez: [00:13:13] Yeah. Depression is a huge part of it, like you said. [00:13:16]/[3.2]

Walt: [00:13:17] Yes, the word dysphoria is in fact the word for depression. It is the opposite side of euphoria. So euphoria is excitement and dysphoria is depression. So the diagnosis is gender depression. But they never really treat the depression. All they do is cut body parts off and stuff a person full of hormones and say, go on your way, now you'll be happy. But that's not true. [00:13:41]/[23.9]

Fez: [00:13:41] Absolutely not. The suicide rates that we talked about earlier, 41 to 51%, speak to that. But also the fact that you're basically neutered. You neuter yourself when you do that and that's irreversible. Am I right? You can't go back ? [00:13:58]/[16.4]

Speaker 2: [00:13:59] Well, you can have some of it restored. But, you know, the truth is it will never function like it once did. And, you know, that's the sad tale of woe. Originally these surgeries were performed to help those struggling with testicular cancers where the genitalia had to be removed. Then people saw fit to use those procedures for a totally different reason than for what it was intended, sex change surgery, which is not sex surgery. It's an abomination of someone's body. [00:14:43]/[43.9]

[846.2]

A Veteran Who Almost Killed Himself (Billy Weatherall)

Fez: [00:01:44] It's my pleasure to introduce our guest for the day. His name is Billy Weatherall. He's a veteran of the Army. He still serves in the Army as a Reserves drill sergeant, certified personal trainer, founder of Christ Fit Gym. That's Christ Fit Gym dot org. It's a nonprofit donation only gym in Bossier City, Louisiana. The gym offers a variety of services, including free boot camps, PIO, Zumba, kids, dance, running programs, personal training, nutritional consultations, afterschool programs, daily Bible devotions, and a mis-

sion trip overseas to spread the gospel. Billy, welcome to the program. [00:02:46][62.6]

Billy: [00:02:48] Well, thank you. It's good to be here, man. [00:02:49][1.3]

Fez: [00:02:51] I'm so pleased to be talking with you right now because you're somebody in the body who I believe is, you know, you're living out the Lord's will for your life. You're doing something that's getting to souls. You're reaching out to people who haven't heard the gospel before. At the same time, you're making it so that the body of Christ can come together in community, which I think is a beautiful thing that doesn't happen as often, as often as it should. And most of the time, that's in a traditional setting, like a church where it's going to happen. So I think that's awesome. And is it true that ChristFit gym was run out of your garage for the past six years, is that correct? [00:03:46][55.5]

Billy: [00:03:48] Yeah, that is correct. We had it in my garage. I used to work in oil and gas and it was just very, very important for me. When I was always working, I'd get up super early in the morning and go to work, but I'd always be off it or try to get off at 530 because that's when all the guys would come over to my gym and we'd have probably like 20 or 30 guys just be stuck in a two car garage. And here in Louisiana it's pretty hot. But the guys were really drawn to it. They loved it. We were doing devotions every day, so it just turned into something a lot bigger than what I expected it to be. I actually got kicked out. The homeowner's association was going to kick me out of the neighborhood the week before we moved into the gym, but they were real nice. It's just that we started to get so many people coming to my house

that people couldn't get down the street to get to their house. So it became pretty big. [00:04:37][49.5]

Fez: [00:04:38] Wow, that's very cool. That's kind of funny, actually. So, it grew past a certain point where you got your own facility now. That must be nice to have your own space. [00:04:48][10.6]

Billy: [00:04:50] Oh yeah, it is great. We got about 2000 square feet of workout room and we got 8.8 acres in the back. So, we got tons of property to play on and a lot of room indoors to do some moving around. But just the way that it's going right now, we're really going to have to expand because we're getting so many people in there. We just have a hard time fitting everybody into that building for our classes. [00:05:12][22.3]

Fez: [00:05:14] Really? That's great. Um, I saw some videos. The tractor tires. Were those in the back of your property there? [00:05:25][10.8]

Billy: [00:05:26] Yeah. We've got probably about 50 something cars back there in the back of the property. So, we got us all these tires all the way up to the big old dump truck tires. So, we got a ton of stuff to play with out there. [00:05:37][10.9]

Fez: [00:05:38] That's a lot of fun. That's pretty cool. Okay, first of all, I'm curious about how you do the devotions. I think it's great that you're doing the daily devotions. I was watching one of your videos on your website, Christ-FitGym.org² and you were doing a boot camp. And in the middle of the boot camp, you're kind of speaking Bible vers-

2. <http://christfitgym.org>

es. And everyone, everyone is kind of reciting Bible verses. Is that pretty normal for your gym? [00:06:12]/[34.3]

Billy: [00:06:13] Absolutely. We have about seven different classes a day. And for every class we kind of study, we follow a plan for the kids. We're reading through the Bible. So, every day we'll sit down and I give the kids free Bibles and we'll just read straight out of the Bible. Right now we're in Joshua. So as I'm reading these kids the Bible, we're balancing the word back, top of each other because something might speak differently to me as a young kid. So it's just a great way to learn. I'll probably learn more just by the kids asking questions that keep me on my toes. So the kids, we read the Bible every day. We have guest speakers come in all the time and just share their testimony. A lot of guys in the gym have actually been stepping up. I've had a lot of these guys for six or seven years. And the thing that's so great about this is that you've got believers, you've got nonbelievers that are coming in. I mean, people come in all the time because we had some fantastic workouts and you come to the gym, you're going to work hard. And I'm laughing because they're like, Oh, Billy, I'm going to get so much faster. I'm going to get stronger. But I've seen the word, the word of God. I just hear so many men and women's hearts. So, it's such a unique opportunity to be able to share with these guys. And we're not pushing anybody. You know, we're not throwing a Bible at you. You know, if you want to be a part of the devotions, which everybody is, you know, to always sit down and listen. So, it's just, it's awesome to see these people come in and they all have questions. And these are just regular people that have never been to church before that never opened

the Bible. They don't know what Genesis is. They don't know what Revelation is. And so it's amazing to see what Christ has done. These men and women, when they just sit down, listen, and they start praying and they start developing a relationship with Christ. [00:08:04]/[110.7]

Fez: [00:08:06] That's incredible. Because I was going to ask you about the effects of the gospel on physical fitness. I'm really interested in that, you know, because I'm sure that you would get much better results by doing both together rather than just one or the other. Because I don't know if I mentioned it to you earlier, I'm a personal trainer. I work at a New York sports club here in New York, where I live. And I talk to a lot of my clients. A lot of them need to have a mentor. And I'm always trying to help them with this. I don't use the gospel as much as I should, rather I kind of direct them to my website sometimes. But I think the gospel would be much more effective in helping them to make that attitudinal change. You know, get rid of that insecurity, get rid of all these spiritual influences that are causing them to feel the way that they do. You know, this powerless, you know, type of mentality. I talked to a lot of people before in the fitness industry, former power lifters and such. Your mind has to be strong first and then your body can become strong. You need to have that strong mind and you need to have that strong attitude, I guess it would be the right way to put it. What do you think about that? [00:09:31]/[85.0]

Billy: [00:09:33] That you have to be disciplined if you want to be in good shape? You got to be a disciplined person. If you want to be a follower of Christ, you got to be disciplined. You got to pick up your cross every day and follow

him. And we just take that discipline that we're learning here in the weight room and we're just applying it, you know, 200% you're walk with Christ, because sometimes you don't want to finish that last breath. Sometimes you don't want to run that last mile. And sometimes, you know, sin is so tempting. You just got to be strong. Sometimes you got to pray and you got to be disciplined enough to slow down and to get in the word and just to pray. You know, you have not because you ask not. And that's what I'm always telling the kids is you just take this discipline and you apply it to your Christian long. Life is going to be much, much easier. [00:10:17][44.8]

Fez: [00:10:19] Yeah. I believe that. That's amazing. By the way, towards the end of the interview, I want to run an idea by you. I think, you know, yourself and a couple others in the body and me just praying to the Lord kind of inspired me to do something and I wanted to run it by you, but we'll get to that in a minute. First, I wanted to ask you about nonbelievers in your classes. And you mentioned that they're free to participate or not participate. Do you find that some of them are more reluctant than others or some of them are more and more willing to listen, as you say? And if that's the case, do they. Have you seen a lot of, I guess, conversions would be the right word or people coming to Christ? [00:11:03][44.0]

Billy: [00:11:05] Yeah, absolutely. And, you know, I get a lot of rough, tough guys come in there and a lot of rough and tough women. And I just tell them the first thing that I tell them when they come in the gym is, you know, watch your language. I don't want to hear any bad language. I don't

want to know who you slept with last night. I don't want to know how drunk you got. We're going to listen to Christian music and you know, in my house, we're going to serve the Lord. And this gym is something that the Lord has given me. So, I'm going to hold it to the standard that Christ has called me to, to run it. So, you know, when they come in, I see people that don't want to sit down, which is fine, you know, they don't want to get the Bible, which is fine. But, I just ask, just please listen. So, I had a guy that would never open up a Bible, he just paced around the room. And the thing about the gym is just when you sit down in that circle and you start talking, you start reading the scripture back and people just start being real and they ask for prayer and they talk about what they're struggling with. It just breaks that mold kind of opens everybody up. It lets everybody feel comfortable because everybody's just being real. So, I've seen men, you know, after two years of being there, pick up the Bible and they'll come into my office, you know, start reading the Bible and want to know where do I start to read. And then they eventually make a decision to follow Christ. And now these guys are my brothers, like if I got something to do with the military, if I'm gone for a couple of weeks, these are the men that are doing the devotions while I'm gone. I'm quite a bit sometimes with the military. And when I'm gone, I tell the guys, look, I know you guys can work out. There's no doubt in my mind that you guys are going to do a great workout. Just make sure that that word is read before every workout. And they do a fantastic job at doing that and upholding the standard there. But yeah, tons and tons and tons of people will come in there and spend a lot of time after

the gym. Just people wanting to talk that have questions. So, it has just been amazing. When I opened this gym, nobody told me that it was going to work. I didn't have the funding for it, definitely didn't have the support for it. Everybody just told me that there was no way this was going to work. And I'm so close to my family and a lot of my family didn't support it just because they didn't want to see me get hurt. But there was a year and a half there where I lost my job and the Lord just stripped me of everything I had. He kept telling me, Billy, I want you to do this gym full time and coming from a job with a lot of money doing oil and gas, I was just scared because I didn't know how I would be able to provide for my family. And then one day, I finally just threw in the towel. A year and a half of not having a job and doing over 150 resumes. The Lord made it impossible for me to do anything else and the gym has been going for eight months. Two months ago, we were \$2500 short on the last day and a guy walks in. I just prayed with the guy that worked there. We held hands and prayed. And I said, Lord, you know, you didn't bring me this far to watch me fail, you know, my needs. We need \$2500. And 10 minutes later, a guy walks in with a check for \$2500. So, I don't know why the finances are not as good as it's supposed to be, but the Lord has definitely provided every step of the way. And if you want to provide on the last hour of the month, then I'm all game for it because he has definitely provided what's there. But the experience in the gym there is nowhere else I'd rather be than to be a part of this gym. See the people coming in here because when they make a decision and when they start reading the word and they're growing closer with Christ and they're

developing a relationship with Christ where they accept him as their personal savior, all that late night, all the financial stress, all the blood, sweat and tears running that gym, it makes it all worth it. [00:14:54]/[228.6]

Fez: [00:14:54] God bless. That's an incredible story. That's so great to hear. So, The Lord told you about the gym for years right before you started moving on it. [00:15:06]/[12.1]

Billy: [00:15:08] Right. My wife and we were just praying about it. I lost my job. This guy came up to me one time, a good pastor, friend of mine, he said, Billy, you've been called to the ministry. And my wife and I kind of looked at each other and we started laughing because I just told her on the truck on the way to the wedding, I said, I feel like the Lord's calling me to do the gym full time. She's like, That's crazy. I said, yeah. I said, that's just my mind playing tricks on me. Well, the pastor walked up to me and said, Bill, you're being called to the ministry. And I said, Well, I'm calling the ministry that he's about to come down here and show me over there. Ain't no way I'm leaving the job and all that. I mean, a real cushy job to work for a family. I mean, life couldn't be better. And that was on a Saturday night. And that Monday morning, I ended up losing my job. The whole company went under. A deal went south and everybody lost their jobs. And I was just sat there baffled for a year and a half. I kind of ran and did everything to get another job because I just couldn't envision this gym ever working. And when I lost everything, all the money that I'd saved, you know, we'd almost lost the house. I just threw in the towel. And the Lord spoke a Bible verse to me; it was Revelation 3:8. And it said,

Behold, I know you've been strong and you kept my word. I've set before you an open door which no man can shut. And that opened door was the gym and I spent a lot of time praying and the Lord had to reassure me several times. I was really not as obedient as I should have been. So, I closed my eyes. I took a small step of faith and the Lord has taken me the whole way. [00:16:40]/[91.7]

Fez: [00:16:41] That's amazing. The Lord wants us to take a step out in faith. You know, the Lord is activated by faith. That's what I've learned myself and my walk with this radio show. I never thought I would be doing anything with radio in my life, but the Lord kind of put it in my lap. Just to give you an example. I'm just saying I can relate. It's, you know, the Lord operates in certain ways and he opens His doors for us and he does call us to do these things for him. So, it's so cool to hear your story, you know, because I want to just sit down with everybody in the body of Christ and just hear everyone's story. That's why I love to do. Now, I want to get into some aspects of your testimony because I think it's important. I was listening to the testimony on your website about that moment you had the gun to your head, to your temple, and you prayed to the Lord in your moment of weakness. And you said, Lord, I need you. Are you there? And I just wanted to ask you, because I have a theory about this. I wrote a post on my website, and the post is, 'Why are our veterans committing suicide?' And I noticed this trend. And the trend is startling. It's startling. And there's no natural explanation for it. I think there's a lot of doctors and what-not, and there's these therapists. I don't really believe what they're saying about some of these things. I was watching 60

Minutes. They have these veterans kind of reliving what they went through, just being out on this field as a way to get over it or something. I don't know, it doesn't make any sense to me. I don't know why you'd want to relive it, why the therapist was having this veteran go through that. But my point is, I have a sense that it's spiritual in nature. So, could you kind of go from the beginning a little bit? I don't want you to have to go too in - depth about, you know, what you experienced out there. But, do you think I guess I could just ask you straight out, do you think what you experienced in war has a direct correlation or a direct connection to how you were feeling? A lot of people call it PTSD. [00:19:36]/[175.0]

Billy: [00:19:38] There's a direct connection when you get out of the military. I got out in 2006 and ended up getting paid October 1st of 2006. But, when I got out, you know, I was up the tree with the 10th Mountain Division. You're around a lot of guys that just relate to you. You know, you don't have to explain yourself. So, you're around men that have had the same experiences that you have had in the past. So, you know that it's just a family. And when you get out, you don't want to explain yourself. You don't like to talk about what's going on. But, I mean, you go from on the streets of Baghdad to the mountains of Afghanistan, saving lives. I mean, you're there. You're helping out this country. You're doing great things for the nation. And when you get out of active duty and you get on the streets and you're dumping trash, and there's nothing wrong with dumping trash, it's hard for them to find a job. You just feel totally disconnected from the civilian world because your family can't cope with you. They don't know how to deal with it. And

all these veterans are getting out and they're just getting on medicine to help deal with their PTSD. They're drinking alcohol to drown out those problems and they're doing drugs. And I mean, I got wrapped up in everything, you name it. I got wrapped up in it when I got out. And just one night I was totally broken. Nobody could understand me. I was absolutely miserable. I didn't know who Christ was, never had a relationship with him. And that night, I mean, I was by about 2 seconds from taking my own life. And I looked down at a little camouflage bottle that an Army chaplain had given me six years ago and somehow it fell away on my coffee table. So, I'm taking that pistol up and I put it to my head. I glanced over at that Bible and I just cried out to the Lord. I said, Lord, if you're real, I need you right now because I have nothing. You know, the void and that heart alcohol couldn't fill it. My family couldn't fill it. I said I need help. And then that next morning, I passed out. Immediately after that, the next morning I got a phone call from a buddy and he said, Billy, I've been thinking about you, have been praying about you. Want to come to a Promise Keeper seminar tonight, come on kid, I was just going up there. So, I went there that night and gave my life to Christ. And when I did that, I said, you know, I'm leaving everything behind and I'm not going to touch another bottle of alcohol. I'm done living that way. I said, I'm going to be focused on you. I'm going to read your word. I'm going to serve you 100%. And I started doing that and I just became happy. And a lot of people were like, this is just a phase Billy is going through. But, then six months passed, a year passed, and I was just on fire for the Lord. My whole attitude changed in life. Instead of being negative all

the time, I was positive because as a child of the Lord, what do you really got if you don't have a fear of anything. So, that became my outlook on life. And, you know, the friends that had kind of left me during those years, you know, because I wasn't going out and drinking and partying with them, I was very alone that first year of being a Christian. I'd just be in my house, just reading my Bible and just praying and hanging out with my family. But, as I became more confident in my relationship with the Lord, the gym came about, I started doing Bible devotions. I didn't feel like I had what it took to read the Bible. Who am I to teach this God? Doing the stuff that I used to do? But, the Lord's not going to call you to do something. He's going to put you with what you need. And he had quit me. He definitely did. So, you know, since October 1st, 2006, my life radically changed. And the military, the stuff that I went through in the military, I love the military. And I thank God that I was there. And I got to see the stuff that I did see because it made me understand a lot better. Maybe understand life better. I've got to meet some of the world's best guys. I've served with some of the best men in the world. I would not take any of those experiences back because when I think something is hard now, when I think I've got a challenge, I'll just close my eyes and take myself back to the mountains of Afghanistan, to the streets of Baghdad, because when you've been there, you know, anything's possible. And if I could survive that, I can definitely survive today's challenges for sure, especially with Christ. [00:24:03]/[265.2]

Fez: [00:24:05] That's right. Wow. So, I mean, that first year you were a Christian. I can relate to that. And you were

saying how you were pretty alone and you didn't really, until you're more confident in your walk and you started reaching out and you started being more active with the gym. I just want to ask, for reiteration's sake, I guess, if you can just explain whether you still have any of those issues, you know, you had before. Those are all gone? [00:24:38]/[33.1]

Billy: [00:24:40] Oh, absolutely. They're gone. I mean, I'm fine now. I'll go to reunions with my buddies, you know, back from 10th Mountain and we'll get together. And it's just kind of sad to see that alcohol is just taking such a toll on them. They have such a hard time relating with their issues. And I'm all the time, you know, just pray about it. Well, just read the Bible. Quit drinking. You got to quit drinking. Quit doing drugs because that's only going to intensify the effects. They try to carry that all on themselves. They carry that load on their shoulders. And the difference between them and me is I don't carry that, Christ carries that for me now and it's just put behind me. So, I've just been able to move on and get past a lot of that stuff. And the only way that was possible was that night that I gave my life to Christ. [00:25:33]/[53.0]

Fez: [00:25:34] That's right, because you're casting your burdens on the Lord. He's taking your burdens. And that's what makes everything lighter. And if we're in the Lord's will, we have nothing to fear. And if we're trying to do everything out of our own strength, that's when we can mess up. That's when these things happen. So, I'm just curious about your brothers in the military. I mean, I'm sure you witness to them. And what do they say to you when you witness to them? Because I'm curious as to what their reaction is. [00:26:09]/[35.1]

Billy: [00:26:10] Well, some of them will be like, you know, don't throw that Jesus stuff on me and that's fine. You know, a lot of them don't have a relationship with the Lord, but a lot of them have come to know the Lord since they've got out. But, I keep in close contact with all of them, the believers and the nonbelievers. I love them. And that's a brotherhood, dear, that can never be broken. I've lost a lot of them. A lot of them have committed suicide. They've gotten drunk. They jumped off, killed themselves. So, I mean, it's just heartbreaking to me because, I mean, I would be there, too, if I never made that decision. But, you know, you can't force Christianity on anybody. I can point the way, but they have to walk that path. [00:26:57][46.8]

Fez: [00:26:59] Yeah, it's true isn't it. Sad that it takes us getting to the end of our ropes in order for us to surrender to Jesus. Who was it who gave you that Bible? [00:27:14][14.8]

Billy: [00:27:15] It was an army chaplain who had given it to me in Afghanistan at the beginning of 2002, or it might have been in December of 2001, a little Army chaplain was walking around giving camouflage bottles to people. I knew the Lord, but I knew in my head. There's a difference between knowing him and knowing him in your heart. And I took that Bible and I just put it in the bottom of my rucksack. And I thought that if anything did happen to me and I had that Bible on me, that Christ would protect me. And that was just a big lie that Satan had led me to believe. And that's the way it always was for most of my active duty career. And, you know, I'd always carry that Bible in my rucksack, when I'd patrol, that Bible would be in my rucksack. And

then when I was back in the States, it would just sit on a coffee table somewhere and most of the time it would be used as a coaster for my beer. So, I lived a horrible life in the military. I had no respect for God whatsoever. [00:28:29]/[74.0]

Fez: [00:28:31] What's interesting about your story, Billy, is that after this experience where you were broken and you reached out and you cried out to the Lord and he changed you, that's when he started opening doors for you and you started transforming your life. But, it took you, basically, to the point where you were giving your life to the Lord. You allowed him to be in control. [00:29:09]/[38.8]

Billy: [00:29:11] Absolutely. That next day, everything changed. I mean, I was totally different. The old building, the building that I used to be, was totally dead. I just became a totally different person. [00:29:28]/[16.3]

Fez: [00:29:29] Transformed by the renewing of our minds. And I think once we give our lives to the Lord, we're willing to give over control. I mean, I was raised Christian myself just like so many of us, but was off the path for years doing things I shouldn't and never really being in the Lord's will. How sad is that? Christians out there not really being in the Lord's will, not knowing that they're supposed to be in the Lord's will, not knowing that they're supposed to be giving their control over their life to the Lord and not really having this relationship. So, I don't think we can have that relationship until we are willing to give over control, you know? Which leads me to my next question I was going to ask you. How do you, as one Christian giving advice to another Christian, remain in the Lord's will and allow the Lord to continue to control what's going on with your min-

istry? Do you constantly seek the Lord's direction in everything that you do in terms of the direction of the gym? I mean, how do you see it moving forward? Do you feel that the Lord's telling you that he wants you to move in a new direction? Or what is he saying to you right now? [00:31:10]/[101.5]

Billy: [00:31:12] Well, I'm very schooled at the gym. I mean, we are in the Bible up there constantly. We pray up there constantly. So, it's a good environment to be in. And the thing is, I tell the guys all the time, you know, the gym right now is more of a spiritual warfare than Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa ever was because our battle is not between flesh, you know, it's the spiritual forces in this world. So, I have to realize that this gym is in the frontlines of Christianity because we reach out to everybody. And I'm aware of how satan will try to attack this gym. He attacked the people in the gym and some it is, you hear so many stories with 500 people going up there and just them struggling with the battles, the addictions, adultery, it becomes overwhelming sometimes. So, I have to pray for patience and energy all the time. And I'm not going to make a move without praying to the Lord about it. And I'm constantly praying Lord, keep me humble, let me stay submissive to your word. You know, we forgot what it's like to fear God. It's just constantly, Lord decrease me, so you can increase yourself within me. Don't let me boast about myself. Don't let me become prideful. Because becoming prideful is something easy, especially for men to do. It's easy for me to sit back and be like, you know, Billy, none of this is what my flesh would tell me. When you look back, all I did was take a small step of faith, and the

Lord carried me the whole way. But, it's just staying humble, not thinking that satan can't get me. You know, anything can happen to me. I have to be very, very aware. Be strong in the word. The minute that I put that Bible aside, Billy, that's the day he's going to attack me. But I realize that. And I told myself that constantly. And like I said, anything can happen. Anything can happen. Especially when you put that Bible to the side, you put the word to the side. [00:33:31]/[138.3]

Fez: [00:33:32] You know, we forget about the spiritual battle, don't we? I think a lot of Christians do. I mean, I didn't realize that there was a spiritual battle. No one told me about the spiritual battle when I was in church. I didn't understand it, but it's constant. It really is constant, now that the Lord showed me a lot more, you know, he shows me how deep it really goes. I think the good thing now, as you said, as we were talking about earlier, is that everything's already won. The Lord Jesus already won the battle. And I think that's what carries us, it carries me through, and I'm sure it carries you through as well. And just knowing that, like despite the tribulations, remaining in a state of worship and being joyful. And I think that's what combats the enemy. [00:34:42]/[69.8]

Billy: [00:34:44] Oh, yeah, certainly. Certainly when you really understand the enemy. And the thing with the military was we would spend weeks, months studying the Taliban, how they move, how they react to contact. Like we just studied and studied and studied. And so, when we attacked, we knew how to react. And it's the same thing with Satan. Learn about Satan, learn about his approach. Learn how he's going to attack you when you're more aware of

him and his schemes, you're able to defend it a lot more. You know, he's a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. And you have to just constantly allow God to put his hedge of protection around you. Because, if you live one avenue down, if you have one area of your life that's not honoring God, he's going to exploit that. He's going to hurt you. [00:35:38]/[53.6]

Fez: [00:35:39] Yeah, that's really important. So, I just wanted to, you know, we're getting to the end here. Getting back to your gym, I wanted to ask you, like a couple of years from now, do you have some kind of vision for what's next, or are you just kind of going along, you know, taking it step by step? [00:44:28]/[43.3]

Billy: [00:44:28] I'm going, okay. Yeah, I'm taking it step by step. You know, every month it's just getting the bills paid and the gym is growing. We do a lot of outreach. We do. We're doing a 50 mile run next month and we stay so busy with that for school kids, too. I mean, we got kids that come up there that don't have anything really. So, we stay really proactive, getting out in the community and helping other people. The gym's just not about the gym. You know, we like to get out and help other organizations and, you know, you asked where we'll be a couple years from now, as long as this gym glorifies the Lord, which we're doing, and as long as it's all about Jesus, I don't think the gyms going anywhere. But, if the doors were to shut down right now, the gym still has been a huge success. There's been a lot of people that have come to The Lord. A lot of people have been baptized up there. So, to me, it's already been a success. It's been much bigger than I ever imagined within eight months of us just

having that building. So, who knows, you know where it will be. You know, it's going to stay in the world and just see where the Lord takes us. [00:45:42]/[73.8]

Fez: [00:45:43] Yeah, that's an adventure, isn't it? [00:45:44]/[1.4]

Billy: [00:45:45] Yeah, it really is, man. And, you know, in the military, I just love combat. I love a great challenge. And I mean, the Lord has given me all of that. [00:45:54]/[9.1]

Former Conspiracy Nut Comes To Christ (Chris White)

Fez: [00:00:35] We're bringing to you hardcore Jesus testimonies. And tonight, we have a guest we have on the program, Chris White. He's a radio host and an author of many books, one of which is Daniel: A Commentary. And he's got a website and the website is BibleProphecyTalk.com. Now, before I bring Chris on, I just want to say Chris was one of the people who I reached out to when I was looking for meaning and what was happening to me. I was going through a lot of issues with sleep paralysis and he was one of the people who helped me a great deal and all the stuff that he talks about, StopSleepParalysis.org, all the surveys that he was he's been doing regarding that issue that are spot on if you're somebody who's dealing with sleep paralysis. Chris's website is a great resource. You know, he's a great man of God and I have a great respect for him, he's one of the smartest guys I know in the body of Christ. Hey, Chris, what's up? [00:01:55]/[79.2]

Chris: [00:01:56] Thanks a lot for having me on. [00:01:57]/[1.2]

Fez: [00:01:58] Well, thanks for coming on. Last time you came on the show, we talked about sleep paralysis. And it was a great topic because it's something that not a lot of people understand. They think it's scientific and they think it's not having to do with demonic at all. And of course, we disagree. And I would refer you listeners out there to that show, which I'm going to link to, if that's something that you're interested in. But, on this show, I thought we would go into a little bit of your testimony, Chris, because I love

to have people come on and share incredible testimonies of how they came to the knowledge of the truth, the Lord Jesus Christ. And you were dealing with sleep paralysis in your case and other issues. So, would you give us a little story of how you came to the faith? [00:02:53]/[55.0]

Chris: [00:02:55] Sure. Yeah. I can't say I remember ever getting my testimony anywhere, so it'll be good to have it out there, I suppose. You know, I guess it started, I mean, as it always does when you're little, I didn't really grow up in a tremendously religious family, although my mom was religious to a degree. And she had prayed for me when I was, I didn't find this out till later, but when she was pregnant with me, she prayed that she basically gave me to God, like whatever he wanted to do, that I was his basically. And she said she had a thing she told me about much later in life, something that said I would be a preacher, but not in a pulpit. For most of my life, that did not look like it was going to happen. But, I found out that she was consistently praying for me throughout a lot of that time. [00:03:54]/[58.8]

Fez: [00:03:55] And she was absolutely right. [00:03:56]/[1.3]

Chris: [00:03:58] Yeah, well, I guess you could say, like I said, I had kind of a tinge of Christianity. I sort of, I believed it was true, I think, for most of my life. But, we didn't go to church very much. I don't really remember that as part of my growing up or anything like that. And, you know, I said the Sinner's prayer, you know, five, six, seven, eight hundred times, I don't how many times, you know, whenever we would go to the thing and they had something like that happen or whatnot. But, it didn't really have a lasting impact

in the sense that, especially in high school, I got really into the drug culture and that sort of psychedelic thing and, you know, just partying and everything that goes along with it. And right out of high school, I got into a band with some guys that I knew in high school and we became a pretty successful band. We played over 150 shows or something like that a year for the next ten years. And we traveled all around and, of course, you could imagine that the debauchery was pretty high in that scenario. We were heavy drinkers. I think I drank every single day for seven years. I was a pretty severe alcoholic. [00:05:13]/[74.5]

Fez: [00:05:14] Wow. [00:05:15]/[0.5]

Chris: [00:05:16] And I, I, you know, it's funny looking back on it because I had a sense that it was wrong, that it was going on the wrong path. And I remember there was only one prayer that I ever prayed, and it was, I mean, I prayed a number of times, but only one thing consistently, which was to get me free from that. I didn't want it, especially in those nights when the room was spinning and I had to get up and go to work in the morning. Those kind of prayers, Lord, take this away from me. But, I never had any desire to do anything about it. I was, people probably would have said I was a quote unquote good person, I suppose. But, I really wasn't in my heart and not just the alcoholism or the drugs or whatever. It was *ust* everything, you know, I was just selfish and all the things that go with it. And anyways, so, so at that time, right around, you know, still in the band and everything, I started getting into the New Age. I've always been interested in those sort of interesting things, you know, what about the pyramids and what about this thing and that thing? So, I lis-

tened to Art Powell for, you know, all those all those nights driving the bus or whatnot. I was pretty well familiar with all the conspiracy concepts and that drew me into the New Age. As you know, most of the stuff that's out there that's kind of interesting about the pyramids or whatever is basically a springboard for the New Age belief system. So, I got into it pretty severely, I mean, I wasn't ever doing like channeling, you know, or do anything that severe. But, I believed the New Age philosophy and, of course, the New Age philosophy is just totally incompatible with Christianity. I remember actually when I first read David Icke's book, The Biggest Secret, I believed it. I mean, I believed everything in it. And he said something in it one time about uh, basically, in *Zeitgeist*, the movie says, you know, that Jesus was just a pagan God and it was just a repeat of all these gods who come before him. I remember, even though I didn't believe it at that point and I, you know, certainly wasn't living in any kind of Christian life, I still remember thinking, man, if this is true, then all that stuff is false. And I remember, even now, I remember saying to myself, maybe even to God, I'm going to figure out if this is true or not. And it's funny that I ended up really diving into that and producing a lot of material that refuted that, but, as well as the ancient astronaut theory, all that stuff. So anyways, um, I guess it started, something started to change when in the conspiracy research that I was doing, um, I, I came across some stuff that started to conflict with the New Age and it started to make it look like the New Age was essentially trying its best to tell lies that people wouldn't pay attention to Christianity, or that it would debunk Christianity. That is to say, some of the things that

the New Age was saying I was finding was flat out factually incorrect. And that started this kind of Christian conspiracy research that I was doing. So, I started shifting to that kind of idea and it was just one of the many things that were going on in my life at that point that were sort of pushing me in a direction to pay attention, I think, um, keep in mind that at this time I was still a severe alcoholic and everything else. [00:08:49][212.7]

Fez: [00:08:50] Your band, were they involved in the New Age as well? [00:08:54][3.8]

Chris: [00:08:56] No, not really, I mean, I was the only one that was really interested in that stuff. For the most part, they just didn't really care about any of that stuff for the most part. [00:09:05][8.4]

Fez: [00:09:05] And the music itself was pretty psychedelic type music or? [00:09:10][4.7]

Chris: [00:09:11] The music was really just straight up rock and roll. We got compared a lot to bands like The Black Crows or the Rolling Stones, that kind of thing. We actually played a lot with some of the Black Crows side projects and stuff like that. We played with Lynyrd Skynyrd, that kind of thing. So, mostly it was Southern Rock, I guess you could say. [00:09:31][19.6]

Fez: [00:09:31] But, getting back to what you were saying, the New Age and you started engaging in this Christian conspiracy research and what was one of the first milestones that you, the paper or book or article that you read that started you thinking that way? [00:09:55][24.2]

Chris: [00:09:58] I'll tell you what it was. It was Michael Heiser. Michael Heiser put up a website very early

on called SitchinIsWrong.com. And when I found that, because I was a full on believer in Zechariah Sitchin, I mean, I believe, you know, aliens came down here, genetically seeded mankind, built the pyramids, all the rest of the stuff that Zechariah Sitchin said. And when I found Michael Heiser, it gave me, in addition to all the little things I was finding, it was that that gave me the foothold to say this is all wrong. I remember emailing people that were big in the conspiracy world at that time and saying, look, we have this wrong and people like Freeman and Dr. Deagle were surprised at the kind of answers I was getting because I was trying to tell them, hey, look, this is all wrong. We're doing this all wrong. But, you know, it was just an intellectual pursuit at that point. I think a lot of the things that, you know, that I want to do, they were intellectual. I just wanted it to be wrong. I think a lot of people out there are like that when they do conspiracy research or any other kind of research, they're finding that they come to Christianity's doorstep because they find out that it's true and they find out that there's all this evil that's trying to turn them away from it. But, that's only half the battle. Intellectually, you can come to the agreement that Jesus was who he said he was in an intellectual way, but I think that's different than what happens next. [00:11:33]/[94.9]

Fez: [00:11:33] So what was the reaction of some of your colleagues or, I guess, just friends who were interested in the conspiracy stuff when you told them that they're wrong? [00:11:44]/[10.3]

Chris: [00:11:46] Well, I can't remember if what I'm about to say is, it was right around that time period. I don't

know. I think this is right around when I got saved, that's when I was really trying to tell people, especially because right around this time, you know, the stuff about Zeitgeist and stuff started coming out. And I remember just going out to the conspiracy world and all the forums everywhere and starting to post about this stuff, starting to say, look, guys, this is wrong. Jesus wasn't the same as Horus, you know, and I tried my best to get anybody to listen to me. And I was so shocked at the complete unwillingness for people to look at the evidence, so much so, that it started the so-called Zeitgeist Challenge, which was, look, I'll give you \$1,000 if you can prove me wrong. So, that started the whole thing right there is I actually had to try to, you know, pay people to look at the information, of course, nobody ever did take the Zeitgeist challenge, even to this day, there's never been a serious inquiry about it. But, the point is, is that I was overwhelmed with the underwhelmed reaction from the conspiracy community about the things that I was finding. [00:13:02][76.0]

Fez: [00:13:03] Mm hmm. Okay. [00:13:04][0.8]

Chris: [00:13:06] So, somewhere along the way, my girlfriend, who was a Christian, she was around. I wasn't a Christian, but I told her I was a Christian because I thought I was a Christian in some weird way. I guess I, I don't know what to say about it, but for about a year, we dated and I remember her telling me one night, this drinking thing, you know, if we ever got married, we couldn't do that. I was like, you know, whatever and to make a long story short, I just quit drinking. I quit drinking that day. And that wasn't anything to do with my salvation. But, something happened

when I quit drinking. It stopped a lot of the cloudiness that was going on in my life. And it really at this time, when I was trying to figure out a lot of other stuff, it all started coming together really seriously at that point. And it came down to, okay, something, something kind of like a supernatural experience. I remember it clearly. I was still smoking pot at that point, and I remember, this is kind of a terrible thing to say, but I remember one time I was still smoking pot and I got high and I remember thinking, just been so convicted about it. Like, this is something that, you know, you probably shouldn't be doing, this new kind of thing. And I remember almost like, this is gonna' sound crazy, but almost like hearing a voice of somebody saying something like, this guy believes all this stuff, you know, but if he would believe in Jesus, like he believes in all this other stuff. That's the word I remember hearing. And I know it sounds weird, but I remember whatever that was and I remember thinking at that point, you know what? I'm going to find out about Jesus. I'm going to go to my room, I'm going to pick up my Bible and I'm going to start following Jesus. And I did. And I almost, this is, again, gonna' sound crazy, but I almost heard cheers. [00:15:30]/[144.6]

Fez: [00:15:32] I believe you. Go ahead. Keep going. [00:15:34]/[2.4]

Chris: [00:15:36] And I don't know if it was that day, but I was saying, I don't know if it was a week after, two weeks after or whatever. But, I can tell you this. Things were different soon after that in my heart. Things were different in the way that I viewed sin. Things were different in the way, the peace that I had. Things were just plain different in my

zealousness for Jesus, I mean, it was a night and day difference in that regard. I began to see, like mainly, the things that were different was I began to love the things of God and seek after those things and seek after Jesus and started to really be convicted of the other sins in my life. I mentioned pot, for instance. Pot didn't stay around for much longer and I didn't have to have anybody tell me. Trust me, I was trying, those moments after I was a Christian, but still smoking pot. I was looking for every excuse in the book. If you were to ask me at that time, Chris is smoking pot, okay for a Christian, I would say, yeah, man, it's good, you know, it helps you, I would have given you every possible apologetic argument, but I didn't need that at the end of the day. In fact, I got a real strong impression that pot was, it was something that I couldn't do and do what I was supposed to do. It was like a decision that I had to make almost. You gotta' drop pot, or you can't do any of the other stuff. I didn't even know what other stuff was. Again, I'm not talking audible voices or anything here, I'm just. And so, I dropped pot and it started being other things, you know, and in a non-supernatural way, in this case, like other things started coming up to the surface like, okay, what are you going to do about this issue? Like pornography or whatever? And I started to look at these big things in my life. These things that I was doing that I now saw was wrong and I began to fight against them and begin to, uh, to slowly get out of a lot of that stuff. And, um. [00:17:38]/[122.6]

Fez: [00:17:39] But, before you continue, I want to just backtrack for a sec. I heard cheers also at a certain point in my testimony. I just want to say that that's a confirmation for me. When you said that, you heard cheers. That's number

one. Second of all, when you heard that voice and you were smoking pot, saying, man, if you would just follow after Jesus the way he follows after this other stuff, looking back, do you think that was the either the Holy Spirit or an angel or something like that? [00:18:08]/[28.6]

Chris: [00:18:09] You know, it's interesting because I don't know what to tell you that was, but I can tell you what it sounded like and it sounded like an older black woman. And I don't know, it was the way she said it. If he would believe in Jesus like he believes and all this other stuff, I mean, I don't know. And she was saying other stuff. I felt like she was saying it to somebody else, but it was about me and I couldn't make out a lot of the other stuff. I know this sounds like quite interesting. I don't know. I got the sense, I don't know what it was. It may have been just whatever, but in any case, what it was, even if it was my subconscious, it was true about me, that if I believed in Jesus, like I believed in all this other stuff, and it wasn't that alone that did any of this stuff like I was sort of saying. It was this building up of like everything pointing to Jesus, everything, saying, okay, if this is true, what are you going to do about it? Because that's the point that everybody comes to in all this research. Okay, this is a guy that can raise the dead. He's a guy that says that he is going to judge the world at the end of time. This is a guy that says he is the only way, you know. He's this guy, if he is who he says he is, it requires an action on your part. Jesus says, to repent and believe the gospel. And I believe that's what I did that day when I stood up and went back to the Bible. I believe that I had a belief, in a sense, in my heart, of what I understood about the Gospel. I believe Jesus was who

He said He was, but I didn't do the other part. He says, repent and believe the gospel. And I think that that first part is what I didn't do. It just changed my mind. That's what repent means, comes from a Greek word, *metanoya*, *meta* meaning change, *noya* meaning mind. And I changed my mind about God that day. If God was God and if He was God, he's the boss and I ought to follow him. It's a heart level change, it really doesn't have anything to do with, did I quit pot or all those other things. That's of course, you know, part of the things that happens when the Holy Spirit begins to indwell you and change your mind about all that stuff, but if you truly change your mind and you truly repent, it's simply an act of deciding that God is your God and that that means that you should follow him. So, that's what I think happens. [00:20:28]/[139.0]

Fez: [00:20:29] Okay, very interesting how the Holy Spirit takes us through the whole process. Everyone's got a timeline, I think, of just this is when you know Chris is going to do this and this is when Chris is going to learn from this mistake. And, you know, it's amazing how everything is mapped out, it seems, because the things that we've been through, if it weren't for those things, we wouldn't have the wherewithal to speak about it in an intelligent way so that the people who are out there who are still struggling with those things will receive what you're saying. [00:21:01]/[31.8]

Chris: [00:21:03] Exactly, the Bible, I think it's 1st Corinthians, one of the first chapters in that book. Might be 2nd Corinthians, first chapter, uh talks a lot about that and says that's the reason we go through some of the things that

we do so that we can properly minister to others who have gone through the same things. And in my life, that was certainly true. You know, I talked about Zechariah Sitchin and there's others like David Icke I mentioned, but Michael Tsarion and Jordan Maxwell and all these guys in the conspiracy world, I look back and if I hadn't have been deceived by those guys, I certainly could not have done the work that I did ultimately in showing a lot more people that they were wrong. [00:21:38]/[35.2]

Fez: [00:21:39] Right. Right. So, after you started to do some housecleaning and you were getting rid of bad habits in your life, when you were finally cleansed of all those things, I guess you could say, what was the next step? [00:21:56]/[16.3]

Chris: [00:21:57] The next step was I remember that, right around that exact same time, was the same time that I started to get really zealous for ministry. I remember the only thing I knew to do at the time was to burn a lot of the YouTube videos that I was watching, stuff like Paul Washer and these other, you know, sermon jams and things like that, that were on YouTube that really helped me. And I said, man, people have to know this. So, I started just burning copies of those videos and I would write on them the words watch me, and I would just walk around my town. I didn't even have a car at that point. I just, at this point, it's interesting how I got out of the band too, I'll talk about that a little later, but the point is, is that I started just handing those things out everywhere I went. [00:22:45]/[47.9]

Fez: [00:22:48] That's a cool idea, by the way. [00:22:49]/[1.6]

Chris: [00:22:51] Yeah. I actually started an entire ministry out of it. I don't know what if that website is still up anymore, but it was called DVD tracked where I eventually went, went through and took a lot of testimonies, people coming out of Islam or homosexuality or a lot of different things and got real specific ones for different groups like Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses and whatnot, but the main one was just a straight gospel one which basically applied to everybody and that's the one I always handed out everywhere I went. So, that's really when the ministry started for me in terms of the online stuff that I did today. And even in that process, there was a lot of pitfalls and things. I think that, when a person is zealous but they don't necessarily know the Bible very good, they are kind of in a vulnerable position for Satan and his devices because Satan's primary tool is deception and he can work better in that regard if you don't know the Bible very good. So, Satan just changes his hat. He knew he couldn't get me with the new age stuff anymore, so he took that hat off and he threw it in the trash and then he put another hat on that said Christian legalism and he put that hat on and he knocked on my door and he said, hey, look at all this cool stuff. So, for a while I kind of got into the, you know, we need to keep all the Jewish feasts and do all this stuff. And really, it worked on me because I was at that point so zealous, you know, hey, if Jesus told me to do it, I'm doing it, you know? And so, so I kind of got into that for a while. And that's another thing that, because I got into that for a while, I was able to really see what it was all about and helped me to ministry to a lot of people. I've done a number of projects, probably the

most complete one that I did was a film about the Sabbath called, "Should Christians Keep the Sabbath?" and if you go to YouTube, you will be able to find that. It's about an hour and a half long, it's a really detailed presentation about the covenants and what they mean. It's such a great study. It's something that I'll cherish every minute of that study because I learned so much. But anyways, that's where I went right then. And that's when I really started picking up the pace in terms of my podcast. I was doing a conspiracy podcast for a while, but at that point, somewhere around there was when I started doing almost all Christian kind of stuff. And I remember that transition period, you know, afraid if I talked about Christian stuff and the people that listen that were into conspiracies, or they wouldn't like it or whatever. Eventually I just like, I don't care what they, what they like or whatever. So we're just going to talk about Christian stuff and, and, and I guess it's all kind of downhill from there in terms of the ministry that I have been able to do after that. It's been a learning experience. I'll say one of the best things that happened to me at that point, right after the legalism turn, when I got turned on to listening to verse by verse Bible teaching. So, I found a lot of stuff online, people like David Guzik and Chuck Missler and, and a lot of people that just taught verse by verse through the Bible and I almost got, like, addicted to it. I mean, I would listen to, you know, sermons about, chapter by chapter, every chapter in the Bible I went through and more. It's more than you know and a lot of different teachers. And so, it was through that process that I really learned doctrine and I learned how to understand the Bible, how to interpret the Bible. It really helped me develop

because the Bible means what it says and says what it means. And, you know, if it's worthy of our respect and worthy of our study. It really blew my mind about that. So, that's a really important thing today. And one of the things that we do is we send out free data DVDs that contain it. To do later day to DVD contains eight gigabytes of free material, tons of verse by verse teaching and lots of videos and stuff like that. It's called The Christianity 101 DVD. It's totally free, I'll ship it to you wherever you are in the world. You just go to any one of my websites and look for Christianity 101 DVD. [00:26:57][246.7]

Fez: [00:26:58] That's cool. And by the way, you have a lot of websites. You've got StopSleepParalysis.org you've got BibleProphecyTalk.com. What are some of the other ones you have? [00:27:11][12.5]

Chris: [00:27:12] Oh, I don't know. Uh, I'm drawing a blank right now. There's. There's 25 of them out there somewhere, but a good hub is ConspiracyClothes.com³ or NowhereToRunRadio.com⁴ [00:27:25][13.1]

3. <http://conspiracyclothes.com>

4. <http://nowheretorunradio.com>

Caught In The Snare Of Transcendental Meditation (Deborah)

Fez: [00:00:00] So you describe in your testimony that I read, and I will post the link for that, how you started to use mantra. You would say a mantra. What is the idea behind that? And were you led to believe that there was no spiritual connection to Hinduism in the meditation? [00:00:25]/[24.5]

Deborah: [00:00:26] Yeah, absolutely. T M was really sold hard to the West through the Beatles and others who learned it. The thing that made it so appealing to me and to so many others was that it was quick and it was easy. I wasn't doing some spiritual and difficult exercise that would take time and discipline. No, nothing like that. It was a very simple technique and that made it appealing because I didn't want to go in for some long spiritual thing. The spirituality of it was never a particular motivation for me. I guess I just wanted a quick fix really, to feel better. As you say, the mantra, yes, that is pure Hinduism. I didn't know that at the time, because when they teach you, they don't tell you that. It was a big lie that was told to the West. [00:01:36]/[70.8]

Fez: [00:01:37] It's rather strange. They didn't charge people for their services. I mean, what benefit do they get — these promoters of T M - by telling you these lies? I don't understand it. It's almost like it's a spiritual reason that they're doing this, but they don't even realize it. [00:01:54]/[17.0]

Deborah: [00:01:55] The people that taught me were nice people. I think a lot of them genuinely believe in what they're doing. They certainly weren't after my money. I think they really thought, at least on the level, that they were doing

good, that they were helping the world. They're helping the life of the individual. That's the impression I got. You could improve yourself, be better, go higher up. The people I met seemed quite genuine. [00:02:26]/[30.4]

Fez: [00:02:26] Yeah, it reminds me of yoga because it's very similar in that they divorce it from the Hinduism and they sell it as self-help and almost like an exercise that you're just doing to de-stress your life. [00:02:37]/[11.1]

Deborah: [00:02:39] Absolutely. [00:02:39]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:02:40] And of course, we know that there are testimonies out there. By the way, you can refer to testimonies like Sister Purvi's, an ex yogi. She talks about how it really wrecked her life. So, I mean, Deborah, this issue is pretty big. So, when you did meditation, did you ever levitate off the ground? [00:03:00]/[20.1]

Deborah: [00:03:01] No, no. I heard about that. And I found that really repulsive and unpleasant. I never wanted to go there. I started to hear that there were people doing this. And I thought, no, no, I don't want that. I just want the basics. Again, denial, you know, because that's not what I am doing. It's okay because I am not doing any of that stuff. [00:03:23]/[21.8]

Fez: [00:03:24] So that really is a part of it? So that's not a stretch for me to say that? That's something that people who do TM really do? Is it done through the use of spirit guides, is that what they say? [00:03:37]/[12.5]

Deborah: [00:03:37] No . . . well, I'm not totally sure. Because I heard about it and the idea was, well, if you get to that, there's a certain level and there's a certain secrecy. Until you get to where you really want to do it, then you'd have to

go on for further instruction, it probably would. I don't really know. I get the feeling that it wasn't spirit guides. I get the feeling it was some advanced mantra. [00:04:01]/[23.6]

Fez: [00:04:02] I see. Wow. Okay, so, Deborah, since you were practicing transcendental meditation, you must have been getting some benefits or otherwise you would not have continued doing it. But you became a born again Christian at a certain point. How did that happen? [00:04:21]/[18.7]

Deborah: [00:04:22] Because I guess I was on a journey. T M, I had never thought of as being a "spiritual" answer. So I kept seeking and I found the Lord. Well actually the Lord found me. I guess that's a different part of my testimony. But yes, I got saved, I think it was about five years after I had begun to be involved with TM. [00:04:48]/[25.4]

Fez: [00:04:49] I see. I'm curious to hear that part of the testimony as well. So. I've had other Jewish believers come on the show before and often they said that it was a Christian who kind of challenged them and their thinking because the Christian seemed to have a closer relationship to God than they had being a Jewish person. Was it like that for you? [00:05:11]/[22.0]

Deborah: [00:05:13] Partly. The girl who led me to the Lord and who prayed with me that day, yes, she was like that. Her personality was attractive spiritually for that reason. But parts of my journey were supernatural. From the age of 15, I dreamt about Jesus. I had dreams of scripture and I didn't even know the Bible back then. But I would be dreaming about it. [00:05:48]/[34.9]

Fez: [00:05:49] You mean you were dreaming about things in the New Testament? [00:05:55]/[5.7]

Deborah: [00:05:56] Yeah, both old and new. Yes, I had dreams about the Lord. And then there were instances where I would pray if I was in a tight spot or needed help. I didn't know who I should pray to, I really didn't have any idea. But, I found that when I prayed to Jesus, that was when I got the answer to prayer. So, sooner or later, I began sort of putting two and two together. And that's when I knew that the Lord was who He said He is. [00:06:31]/[35.7]

Fez: [00:06:33] Wow, that's great. I always love to hear stuff like that. [00:06:36]/[3.4]

Deborah: [00:06:37] Yeah, well I enjoy sharing.[00:06:38]

Fez : [00:06:39] But, I heard about something unfortunate that you experienced and wrote about, I believe - that even though you were Christian and you were born again, you still experienced some anti-Semitism. Tell me more about that. [00:06:51]/[12.1]

Deborah: [00:06:52] I think maybe for most Jewish people there is somewhat of a barrier, I think because of the way Jesus is portrayed. First off, he's not portrayed as a Jew, and perhaps this is the case more now than when I was a child. I experienced a bit of racism when I was young and I also knew enough back then to know that Jesus was a Jew. So why was this hard for so-called Christians? Jewish people, until they get saved, tend to think everyone who is English or American is a Christian who worships Jesus. I mean, probably they weren't actually worshiping, but in our eyes they were Christian because they were not Jewish. So why

were they then using racist terminology? I couldn't figure that out. But, it didn't stop me. I knew in the end I needed the Lord, you know. And so I got saved. I still had some questions. There were still some things unresolved, but the Lord did resolve them over the years. Subsequently, I didn't wait till I had all my questions answered before you know, I got saved. [00:08:16]/[83.4]

All Forms Of Yoga Are Demonic (Sister Purvi)

Fez: [00:03:36] Is yoga dangerous? What's really going on when you actually do yoga? You go to a yoga studio, Bikram yoga, hot yoga. There are so many types of yoga these days, and it's a real question because why has it become such a popular thing to do? I mean, I was at Whole Foods recently and I saw all this yoga paraphernalia that they were selling. It was on sale. Recently, I went to a church and they were actually doing Christian yoga. I wasn't there to see them do it, but I actually saw them advertising Christian Yoga in the bulletin Sunday morning. It's just become so prevalent. And it's a question not just for Christians, but for anybody out there who is considering doing yoga. Of course, people say it has qualities that are good for your health, for example, stretching and just feeling good. But we're going to get really into it because some Christians fully embrace yoga. But, you also see this debate that's going on between certain aspects of the body, people saying that it's not good and others saying that it is. And I actually have a great guest on this show tonight, Sister Purvi. She's joining us on the program all the

way from California. She's on Skype. And she's a former yogi. She used to practice something called Hatha Yoga. And she was a meditator for a number of years, so she was very involved in yoga. She was raised Hindu. So, no one better to discuss this issue than Sister Purvi. What's going on, Purvi? [00:05:24]/[108.9]

Purvi: [00:05:25] Thank you for having me on. Thank you so much. [00:05:27]/[1.6]

Fez: [00:05:28] Well, thank you for coming on. This is a critical issue, Christian yoga, but not just Christian yoga. Yoga in general. So, what really is going on when you practice yoga, Purvi? [00:05:40]/[12.3]

Purvi: [00:05:41] Well, there's a lot going on. I mean, if you just start and look at the word itself, you know, the word yoga literally means to yoke. That is the definition of yoga. So its design from its inception is to yoke with something. And that's the purpose. That's the purpose of yoga. Now, there's different types of yoga that will enable one to yoke in different ways. So, there is Hatha yoga, which people are very familiar with, which is the physical aspect. And there's other yoga, you know, doing a certain type of work is considered a yoga. Doing certain types of breathing is considered a type of yoga, doing certain types of meditation is a certain type of yoga. And all of these things work together in congruence as a system. And it is a system that is designed to yoke with Hindu gods. And that is the origination of yoga. That's what yoga really is. And that's what it has been designed to do. [00:06:42]/[60.9]

Fez: [00:06:44] Yoking with Hindu gods. So do people realize this? What about the people who say that it's just a

yoga class? The yoga instructor didn't talk about any Hindu gods. So am I in the clear? [00:06:57]/[13.2]

Purvi: [00:06:58] You see, as a Christian, I mean, we understand that the Lord is very clear if we're reading His word and understanding that we are not to have any appearance of evil, we are not to be involved in yoking in the practices of unbelievers. And that's exactly what yoga is doing. And it's very naive. Naive would be a nice way to put it, but it's a very blind and extremely dangerous thing to just involve oneself in practices that are literally pagan and completely opposite to the God of the Bible, exactly opposite of what He would want us to do. You know, we're moving our whole body and our whole breath and our whole being and chanting things and okay, let's say this, not even chanting, just even our body, moving it in the ways that were designed to yoke with Hindu gods, which are demonic. So we're doing all of these things and if we're saying we're Christian, if we're coming from that perspective where we are a Christian, then we better really think about what exactly are we doing and is this something that God would want us to do? That's the important question that has to be asked in every aspect of our life. Not just yoga, is it O.K. but, what am I doing? Is this what the Lord's will is for me? First seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all else shall be added to you, right? Matthew 6:33. So, it's like first that has to be the forefront of our understanding in our life and we understand then yoga is not what the God of the Bible would want us to do. Then, it becomes very clear and obvious that engaging in such practices is the last thing that we should be doing. [00:08:48]/[109.1]

Fez: [00:08:48] Purvi, I want to read a few articles on Google. The first things that come up when you type in Christian Yoga are Christians who excuse yoga. They say, it's okay. Here's what they say. How things have changed in the last few thousand years. Most yoga currently practiced in America only slightly resembles the original practice. In fact, most of what we call yoga in the West is not truly yoga at all. It is only Asana, the physical postures and Pranayama, the breathing exercises. There are myriad schools of thought in modern yoga, and to sum up all of them in a few paragraphs, we do them no justice. So that's one. Here's another one real quick. Um. This is 'From Yes to Yoga.' Can a Christian breathe air that has been offered to idols? Willis, another Christian, she's talking about this outspoken evangelical like ourselves. She's saying, Willis, who criticizes yoga and other Christians, may have good reason to feel uneasy about yoga with her background in the new age, which was clearly an oppressive force in her life. I could be weary of what yoga reminds me of too, but it bothers me that people like Willis demonize a healthier exercise regimen and engage in fear mongering. Or is it fear marketing among evangelicals? The stereotype of evangelicals they reinforce, I'd rather live without. We can leave the spreading of wrongheaded stereotypes about evangelicals to the more experienced bashers like The New York Times. So, it's almost like an uphill battle, isn't it, Purvi? It's crazy how you've got people who are Christian, who claim that they're Christian, who are saying that yoga is O.K. [00:10:30]/[102.1]

Purvi: [00:10:32] It is absolutely sad. I've heard a lot of these arguments. I've talked with quite a few people that

tried to skirt around the fact of what they're really engaging in and making excuses for doing something that feels good to them. Because if you think about it, why are they hanging on so strongly to it when there's so many different types of exercises out there? Why is it that yoga is something that they feel that they have to fiercely defend as a Christian? And what is it that they really like so much about it? There can be several different answers that come about. One could be the physical euphoria that comes about when they do the yoga and they say, you know what? It feels good, it's good for my body. It's good as an exercise. So, therefore, you know, they ignore all the important components of what yoga really is about just because it satisfies something in their flesh. So, what is that euphoria? So, this is the thing that is dangerous to undo and it's important to understand and is very dangerous about engaging in these practices. When I was doing these yoga practices, it felt so good. Let me tell you, when I started doing it, how did I get to the level of becoming, you know, doing it at such high levels? I was not a very, I was not just a passing, you know, person that just did yoga sometimes. I was deep, deep involved. And that's because I felt that I gained some benefit from it. Now, the benefit that I thought I gained was an absolute deception. That's the thing. That euphoria that I experienced, which is very real and I've talked about this before, is akin to taking a drug. It's like you literally ingest something into your body, and what happens, your chemistry changes right there. The chemical balance of our system can change through doing these practices. And it's not just the healthy stretching. Stretching is good. Let me just make that known. I'm all about stretch-

ing and health and the body and fitness is great for the body to take care of it. But it's, why these specific ways of doing it and when I was doing these things, it felt so great for so long. And a lot of this euphoria, the majority of that euphoria, what I felt was so bad for me, but it felt so good just like a drug does, and it's actually demonic. And I mean, I would have all kinds of sensations. It wasn't just the euphoria of feeling good. I mean, once you get at the higher levels, this is where it ends. This is a logical conclusion. I mean, people can say, well, I'm not experiencing all these things, what I'm about to describe, but you have to look at it for what it is. If you're saying it's okay to engage in something, you have to look at what it is and at its logical conclusion. In the end, it wasn't, you know, it wasn't anything but casual and it is anything but casual, yoga in any form. And I'll get to that in a bit. But, just doing it at the extreme level that I was, the logical end of that was that I was taking it so seriously, giving everything that I had into it, and I would actually experience shaking and different emotions and trembling. Sometimes I'd just cry, sometimes I'd just laugh. Sometimes I would just start jumping up and down because this energy would come where I didn't know where it came from and I would start murmuring things and just weird things would happen to me. And I thought it was a part of my enlightenment. Okay? I thought that this is something that I'm getting somewhere that means that I'm breaking barriers, that this is a good thing. And that's what we're taught. When you experience different emotions and different sensations, that it's a part of the Enlightenment process and that it's a good thing. The truth is that I was allowing demons to come in-

to my body, take over and actually create these things happening to me. They were actually coming into my body. I was allowing, I was just like open to, I was like, come right on in, everyone. That's what I was saying when I was doing these practices. Just imagine that you're doing yoga, but what you're really saying is, hello, come on in. And so, there's different levels of this euphoria. There's different levels. As I said, I was at the extreme. Now, when you first start doing it, you get a little taste of this thing and oh, all these different breathing things and all this stuff feels so good. And then you get sucked in. See, the enemy entices you with a little bit here, a little bit there, and tries to suck you in deeper and deeper and deeper. And so, if any Christian is saying that it feels good and that is an excuse for what they're giving why they should continue in doing yoga practices. I would like to give a couple of analogies, very important analogies that I've given before. It's like this. It's like saying, well, it feels good. Okay, so if there's a group of people, Satanists that are known Satanists that are carving out a pentagram within a circle, a very known satanic symbol, and all of them are digging together and they're all shoveling together this big thing in the middle of the ground. And you go over there and you start joining them because you say, oh, you say, this feels good on my arms. This is a great exercise. This feels wonderful. I'm enjoying this. Well, what are you doing? Oh, I don't care about all that. It's just. It's just a satanic pentagram. But my arms feel great. This is wonderful for my arms. And it's no big deal. Right or wrong, in the eyes of God, it's a huge deal. What are you doing? There's a million other practices you could be doing. You want to go and join the Satanists and doing their

pentagram because your arms feel good and you're making excuses for it? I mean, we have to really think about what we're involving ourselves in. Okay. Say we like a red shirt because our favorite color is red. You know, I've given this example before. Our favorite color is red. And we decide to buy this shirt because it's red and this shirt happens to have an upside down cross on it, known as the Petrine cross symbolism all over it. It's covered. And we say, but I like the red color and so I'm going to wear this shirt and I'm a Christian. I just like this red color and it feels good to wear my favorite color. I mean, this is really how insane it is. If people understand truly what yoga is, that there is no Hinduism without yoga and there is no yoga without Hinduism. There's a former guru, his name is Yogi Rabindranath Maharaj, and he's quoted as saying, there is no Hinduism without yoga and no yoga without Hinduism. So, we understand that to be the truth. If we really look into it and we don't run away from the truth because we're scared and we want to make excuses for living the way that we are, then a whole different understanding can really be clear. [00:17:39]/[427.6]

Fez: [00:20:06] We're here with Purvi, MartusMinistry.org She's a former yogi. She has an amazing testimony in terms of what she went through. She says she went through demonic influence when she practiced yoga. And we're asking her about the whole Christian yoga debate, but also about yoga in general and whether it's really beneficial. A lot of people are going to fight us on this because a lot of people have really become addicted to it, I guess, just like anything else. And they say it feels good, but in the end. I mean, it's just a matter of time, really, right? Maybe the people who

say that they feel good now. It's only a matter of time before they start to understand the spiritual aspects of it. Don't you think? I mean, a lot of people say, yoga, you're worshipping gods in each one of these poses that you're doing and then other people say, well, yoga is only bad if you do the whole, you know, spirit guides with it, which is where you, like, open your minds to, to that whole aspect. What do you say to that? [00:21:29]/[83.0]

Purvi: [00:21:30] They'll see it sooner or later. That's correct. Is that, sooner or later, it's going to catch up with you doing such things. I mean, initially even a Ouija board. A lot of people like it and they say, okay, this feels good. I'm talking to these spirits and all this stuff. And it's cool because these spirits are helping me out and you know, it's cool and they like it. And then sooner or later, as we know, countless testimonies of people saying, well, oh, it all came crashing down. When things started happening, my house light started turning on by itself, you know, weird things, whatever it was, the oppression started. So, it is sooner or later. People say, well, I've been doing it many years, nothing bad has happened and only good has come out of it. So, there's different groups of people that we have to address, like if it's somebody that's a professing Christian that is doing this. You have to really look at the implications of what you're involving yourself in, even if you feel that you, if you feel as a Christian, if there's someone listening today that's a Christian that does yoga, professing Christian that does yoga, you know, if you really feel that you have the ability and the capability to separate the spiritual aspect from the physical. And that, because you don't worship Hindu gods and you think

that it's totally fine to separate that out yourself, I just ask you and urge you to do a few things. One is to really consider. Did you make that decision for yourself or did God say, okay, that's fine. You can separate the physical aspect and you can separate the spiritual part, and that's just fine. Or did you make that up on your own? Scripture speaks differently. It says in first Corinthians 6:19 through 20, that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own, for you are bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body and your spirit which are God's. Glorify God in your body. It's very specific there, and it says that for a reason. Who are we glorifying when we're doing yoga? Yoga literally means to yoke with Hindu gods. It's definitely not the God of the Bible. And so I would urge anyone that's a professing Christian that's practicing yoga to really look at this decision that you've come to feel comfortable with, that you've made, and a lot of people are joining in that we can be Christian, do yoga, maybe even put scripture to it, makes it okay. And to really search deeper if you're sincere in seeking truth, because you will find that in your prayer that if you're really seeing this, God does not want anything to do with yoga. It says, you know, scripture again says, take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. Take no part in it. That doesn't mean that we can take part, take what we want, and then leave what we don't want. And we are fine because we say so, you know, it's absolute foolishness. And God said, he says, take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness. And that's really where it's important to make that correction. [00:24:48][197.6]

Fez: [00:24:49] Yeah. I think there's a lot of people who are going to find out the hard way, maybe eventually when they start to understand the spiritual aspects of it. I've never been one to get involved in it. I don't know why. I think maybe a lot of females do it. That's at least who I've seen going to yoga class. That's who generally goes, you know. I heard that there's a movement among Hindus to take back yoga because of what they see as an infringement on yoga because it's supposed to include the Hinduism. So, imagine for a second that someone took water baptism from Christianity and totally secularized it and made it into something that's totally just something that you do for relaxation or something like a bath and then take out all the religious aspects of it. That's what a lot of Hindus are claiming that is going on with our acceptance of yoga. [00:26:03]/[73.6]

Purvi: [00:26:04] Yeah they are. And they're right actually, that they're so deceived obviously, in that they're not worshiping demons, which they don't know. And I pray for them and I love them. I want them to come to the knowledge of Christ. But they are absolutely right in that they understand exactly what I said earlier, which is that there is no Hinduism without yoga, no yoga without Hinduism. And so that tearing this part is kind of picking and choosing, even from their perspective. It's absurd, you know, and it's certainly absurd from the Christian perspective, really, and the will of God and what we need to be doing, for sure. And yeah, you know, as you mentioned, that sooner or later, it's going to come crashing down, whether you're a Christian. Spiritually, if you're really seeking the will of the Lord, he will show you. I have countless people that come to me and talk to me

and share with me that they started getting involved with yoga. But, then for some reason, some kind of reaction just came into them and they just could not do it anymore. They didn't even understand why a lot of people were just totally confused as to what was going on. And then they came across what I was saying and it made sense to them. They're saying, now I get the Lord doesn't want me to do this. It's clear, you know, some people, many people, you know, saying that they went and the first class, they went immediately, like the Lord told them, stop, and they just stopped. You know, sometimes it takes longer for people to, you know. It depends on what your relationship with the Lord is and how close you are, how in tune to hearing his voice, but count on it. Time and time and time again Christians that have almost been sucked in or even, you know, Christians that have said, well, I went and I started doing the stretching and stuff and I thought that was fine because I made a distinction between the spiritual component and the stretching. And then, all of a sudden, they started chanting and stuff, and then I was like, 'No, I can't be a part of that.' Which really shows the root of where it's coming from. It's never stretching, chanting. You know what? This chanting these invocations. Invocations are to literally invite a spirit, invoke a spirit. That's what it means. And you're doing these things and that's connected with yoga. I mean, definitely it's called mantras. You do different mantras along with the practices, along with the meditations. [00:28:26][142.4]

Fez: [00:28:27] Purvi, I just want to emphasize what you said, because that's critical. Our listeners out there who are curious as to what the truth is, you know, don't listen to

us. Pray, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and tell you what the truth is, and he will. And then, all of a sudden, you're going to feel this conviction. Don't go in there because you think it's an innocent yoga class because it's really not. It's really deceptive. By the way, Purvi, can they go on your website Martusministry.org and find some of these testimonies? [00:28:55]/[27.4]

Purvi: [00:28:57] Of the people that have come out of yoga? Yeah, there's various testimonies on our YouTube page which, you know, along with the website, there's a testimony section and it has different people's testimonies, including, you know, different former yogis. But it's all different testimonies. They're not just related to yoga, but these testimonies that I'm talking about are generally people that just come to me and say, this is something that I've been dealing with, just personally, what I've encountered, most of them haven't made formal testimonies. I do encourage everyone to make a testimony, then get that out there so everybody can hear these things because it's important for people to know. I mean, I've come into contact with so many people. If all of them made a video or something to get that out there and show it, it would be amazing to really see that God is showing his children the truth about yoga. He really is. And it's just, do we have ears to hear what he's saying. [00:29:53]/[56.2]

Fez: [00:29:54] I want to understand what your background is because it's really interesting to me. You were raised Hindu? [00:30:20]/[25.9]

Purvi: [00:30:21] Yes. [00:30:21]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:30:21] And are your parents still Hindu after seeing what happened with your transformation? [00:30:24][2.9]

Purvi: [00:30:26] They are, but I know that there's just so much change in them that is encouraging to see for sure, because they do see my transformation, they see answered prayer and everything else. So, I definitely see change in their life taking place, which is very just, it's encouraging and I pray for them for sure. But yeah, I had no inclination at all towards knowing anything about the Bible. I had never really talked to many Christians before. I really did make sure that I wasn't really friends with the Christians because they were to me, really out there, from my perspective, and I had a lot of ideas about what they really are. And there's a lot of false prophets and false Christianity that's out there that gives true Christians a bad name, you know? And so I was just going off of those things. So, last thing, I mean, people that knew me before, the last thing they could ever picture me doing is becoming a Christian. I mean, I am the first and only one in my family ever to come to Christ. And that means all sides of my family, both my dad and my mom, as long as the generations go back, ever. There have been no Christians. But, there has been a wonderful testimony of my grandma before she passed away. Hallelujah. Glory to God that she did end up coming to the Lord as the Lord led me to talk to her and share the gospel. It was awesome. I'm so excited about that that I'll be able to see her one day. So, she's the only other one and she passed on. But, everybody else is very much thinking that I lost my mind, basically. [00:32:12][105.6]

Fez: [00:32:13] Yeah, same. You're not the only one, believe me. [00:32:15]/[1.9]

Purvi: [00:32:15] Yeah, they just think I've completely lost it or that, you know, the thing is that, oh, she's just become so Americanized, that's the thing. They'll be like, oh, you know, she's just so Americanized that she just wants to fit in with everyone that, you know, there's a lot of excuses that people make. It's so far from the truth because I'm not fitting in with the world, you know, obviously. [00:32:39]/[23.8]

Fez: [00:32:40] Well, I don't actually know too many Indians. I mean, the Indian students who I went to school with, they all kind of had this community together, which I was jealous of when I was in college because they were so tight-knit and close. And, I don't know, I'm just guessing that maybe you were part of one of those types of communities and coming to Christ and having that, you know, not really being able to fit in with them anymore, that must have been hard. [00:33:12]/[32.0]

Purvi: [00:33:13] Oh, family is so important in Indian culture and in many cultures around the world. I mean, it seems like it's just like the focus of everybody's life, everything structured and centered and planned around families, and communities and helping each other. And so there's a lot of wonderful, beautiful things there. And so you would think that, you know, if somebody really loves and accepts you and then, you know, it wouldn't matter, whatever that they would be accepting. Obviously, we know that's not the case because there is a spiritual battle that goes on immediately. You become a stranger in the world. You know, it's like oil and water when you come to Christ. So you're just no

longer one of them. I mean, obviously, and nor do I want to be one of them in the sense, not just the Indian community. I mean, one of anybody in the world, whoever they are, from anywhere across the globe, you know. I just accept that I don't fit in there. Yes. It does make me really think about them. I just cry. In fact, I see some of the family pictures and the different things where, you know, I'm not invited or whatever it is. And people and families getting together. There's all these communities that are bonding and stuff and I just look and I cry and I cry because I just cry for their souls and how they do not know what they're doing and they're just living on in this world. Like it's just going to go on forever. And it does break my heart and I pray for them. [00:34:40]/[87.4]

Fez: [00:36:43] Purvi, we need to address something here. I'm a former personal trainer. I used to work at New York Sports Club. I used to work at L.A. Fitness. I used to work at Equinox. These are big, you know, national chains. And every single one of these gyms has yoga classes that they offer. And everyone takes yoga, pretty much, who goes to the gym, even if it's just a limber up. And this includes, you know, I mentioned earlier, mainly females, but I think some males as well. And it's something that's so common. I mentioned earlier Whole Foods Market. I know you live in California, you got Whole Foods, there was a mannequin I saw, which I took a picture of a mannequin in a yoga pose and it's just so prevalent. What are we supposed to do when it's gotten this bad? [00:38:06]/[83.4]

Fez: [00:38:08] This is the deception of our time. You know, when the Bible says the whole world lies in the de-

ception of Satan, there is, everywhere we turn, there is deception. So this is really a sign of the times in the sense that wickedness is rising on the earth, deception is rising on the earth. And there is going to be that agenda to get people yoked up, to get people submitted to Satan as much as they can. I mean, he's not giving up. It's a very, very critical time on Earth. And we do see it spreading and exploding like crazy, just yoga and so many other things, so many other forms of witchcraft and occult and mediums and readings, literal readings and all of these types of things that open us up to demons is, is promoted on such a massive, I mean, you see it in the movies with Harry Potter and all of these things constantly, even in cartoons, children's cartoons. I mean, there's so much bombardment, so much wickedness and so much evil that it is really not surprising for those that have eyes to see and open to the world that we live in. There's a reason that, you know, it's clear that Scripture says love not the world nor the things in it, you know, and this is what the world is exalting. It is exalting yoga, which should be a red flag right there, that we should not be going towards the crowd. If everybody's exalting this like this is such a great thing, and then we just join them like it's no big deal, you know, we have to really think again. So absolutely it is everywhere. It's mainstream. We have to expect that to be like that. [00:39:47][98.5]

Fez: [00:39:48] Natural Awakenings magazine too. You see Natural Awakenings everywhere, Whole Foods included, and not just yoga, you've got Reiki, you've got all kinds of new age practitioners, you know, trying to sell their wares or whatever. [00:40:04][15.9]

Purvi: [00:40:05] Yes. [00:40:05]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:40:06] By the way, this whole thing of loneliness, because when you come to the Lord, you start saying things like you're saying and things I say kind of echo what you're saying. It makes us very unpopular and, at the same time, lonely because a lot of people, even our own brothers and sisters who go to church, even they think we're taking it too far. So, how do you deal with the loneliness? [00:40:34]/[28.5]

Purvi: [00:40:36] Yeah, this is a part of when I first got saved and we'll get into that, how that happened. But, when I first got saved, that was something that I just immediately accepted because, as I tried to share the truth and got excited about, you know, the truth of the Lord and that nobody else was sharing that excitement that I saw around me in the way that I was and how I was. And look and I'm exposing stuff and I'm just like, so naive. At first I was like, hey, everyone's going to just listen and get saved. And I was just like, I'll be like, well, and then like, reality started setting in and like, no one was around and like, no one was listening. And I was like, what's going on? How come nobody gets it? Like, it seems so clear to me, you know, because the Lord gave me eyes to see and hallelujah for that. And so, it was an adjustment period because, you know, we tend to be people pleasers and wanting to fit in with the world. And, you know, there's so many teenagers having identity crises. Which club do they belong to and who are we? Who are we? Who are we? And so what happened was, you know, it was spectacular, though, because in that loneliness, in being the only one that I knew, I mean, literally in my family

and anywhere, there was something that happened in that loneliness that was very beautiful, that was precious, that I'm so grateful for, is that it brought me closer in my relationship with God because I depended upon Him even that much more, because I had nobody, literally to, you know, talk about anything. And so my relationship with the Lord grew. And as that happened, you know, more understanding came and then it became more beautiful for me. Like, you know, Lord, even if nobody for the remainder of my time on this Earth, if absolutely everyone on Earth thinks that I'm crazy, I'm so grateful to you that you are there for me and that you will never leave me or forsake me, you know? And then I just, you know, wept in that. And then I did, of course, pray that I would have that fellowship with people that really understand and praise God that he brought me an awesome man of God, my husband to be able to share truth with. But, about the loneliness, in general, I think that it's a very, very big part of our walk with Christ. Not fitting in with the world and just being ridiculed and mocked and scoffed, and more so as you see the agenda, the anti-Christian agenda, just rising on every level. I mean, with laws being enacted and everything else against those that are simply following Christ. And so, it's going to get worse. The persecution will get worse. And, this is already the case around the globe with so many brothers and sisters actually dying for the faith. And so this is an opportunity right now. There's an urgency in the times that we're in. And it's a great opportunity, although it can be very difficult. And, you know, the world, we were never told it was going to be easy, but we're told it's going to be hard, but it's a great opportunity to be able to re-

ally shine our light in this world because we're here on this earth for a reason, in this time, you know, and we want to use that opportunity that God's will be done in our life through us, you know. And so, yeah. [00:44:14]/[218.5]

Fez: [00:44:14] I just think that it's biblical. The loneliness is biblical, but it's still hard. So, how did you get saved? What had to happen? [00:44:30]/[15.4]

Purvi: [00:44:31] How I got saved is the most beautiful, exciting thing to talk about. I love talking about this. It's amazing. It's so exciting. Okay, yeah, I was, as I expressed, the last person on earth to understand what being saved means. And so, you know, I was involved in all the stuff we talked about, just some of it, you know, just real deep in the yoga stuff. And I decided to give my whole life to this yoga stuff because I was like, all right, this is it. This is my life. This is what I'm gonna dedicate everything to. So, I went to India, and in seeking that, I decided to leave my apartment. I was living alone, and I decided to just go. And, you know, whether it be in the ashram in India or in the ashram that they have, it is a place in the United States. But, I decided, one of those places. So I went there to do the higher level programs. And I'm talking about, like, you don't eat for certain hours so that you can do certain practices where you have to breathe in certain ways and you sit in a certain position and everything down to the detail. Like, I was so dedicated and I was thinking, I'm going to get enlightenment. If it's not in this lifetime in my framework, then It'll be in one of the next few lifetimes. And because we believed in reincarnation, I believed in reincarnation. So, basically I went to India. I started getting really, really sick, physically ill. And I

was told, you know, that is just part of the karma coming out and it's just part of the process and everything else. And so, I just stuck to it. I was told to do more yoga, which was the solution. That's what I was told. I did and everything got worse and worse and worse. And I'm talking about, when I say I'm sick, it's like deathly ill. I'm talking about extreme sickness where I was not able to move forward and even stay at the ashram any more. I was forced to come back and live with my parents as an adult. I had to leave my apartment, like I never went back to my apartment. I couldn't even move the stuff out. I had to have people move it out. I was that sick. I came back. I came back and I was completely dependent on my parents for help. And they were thinking, like, what the heck happened? You know? And then while I'm going through all this, I'm getting sicker and more desperate. And I mean, I don't know how much to go into this, but just as far as the symptoms, there were quite a few and it was a lot of things, mystery illnesses and definitely something that's called Morgellon's that people know little about. And there's like a fungal component, a bacterial component, a parasitic component, and all kinds of weird stuff happening in my body and with my nervous system, as well as on my skin and lesions and things and all kinds of weird stuff. Literally, like attracting bugs and very strange stuff. Twitching, violent twitching, in the night. I remember I twitched so bad I hurt myself. I mean, that's how bad I was. Like, it's more like a convulsion and I couldn't breathe. Like, I remember gasping for air, and I was so scared. I never had that problem in my lungs where I could not breathe. It was so bad. And I went to the doctors. They just thought I was crazy. They had no clue.

The doctors literally wanted to mentally institutionalize me. And that made everything so much worse because I'm thinking you talk about loneliness and that loneliness when you don't know the Lord and you're going through that. It's horrific and it can only lead when it's that bad to one thing. And that's suicidal thoughts. And that's exactly what happened. I decided, at some point, nothing was working, nothing was helping me. I tried all the chanting, all the visual, positive visualizations. You know, they say do that positive attraction. What do they call that? Like the secret or whatever that is? [00:48:26][234.7]

Fez: [00:48:27] The secret, yeah. [00:48:27][0.6]

Purvi: [00:48:27] Yeah. And all that. I tried to do that stuff. I tried to do more yoga, as I said, and call on different gods names. And I tried everything that I could possibly think of and more meditations and different types of meditations. And I just was exhausted and I was starting to do things like choke myself in the middle of the night. [00:48:47][20.0]

Fez: [00:48:48] What? What do you mean? Explain. [00:48:49][1.0]

Purvi: [00:48:50] Yeah, I got up in the middle of the night. This had never happened to me in my entire life. And I got up in the middle of the night and I didn't know why, but I was choking myself. So my hands were literally around my own neck. And I was choking myself. And I was like, what happened? When I came to, I was like, it just felt really weird. I didn't know what it meant. Everything was weird that was going on in my life. At that point, it was just like, nothing surprised me at this point. I'm just like, another

weird thing. And then, I started talking one day. This was a pivotal moment in front of my mom. I was so angry, first of all, that nobody understood what I was going through. I was so angry about the situation. And then, one day I said in a voice that was not mine, I said, "I'm going to take you all down with me," like that. [00:49:44]/[53.9]

Fez: [00:49:45] Who were you speaking to? [00:49:46]/[1.2]

Purvi: [00:49:47] My mom was there and my father. [00:49:49]/[0.2]

Fez: [00:49:50] She heard you say it that way? [00:49:52]/[1.8]

Purvi: [00:49:52] She heard me say it that way. And she just looked at me. I just looked at her. And I was shocked because I was able to know that I just did that. And I heard it come out of my mouth. And then I just, I literally stood there for like 5 minutes and I was like, that wasn't even me. That wasn't even me. And I told my mom, I was like, "That wasn't even me." And she's like, "I didn't think so," you know, she just was like, "What is going on?" [00:50:17]/[25.3]

Fez: [00:50:17] So now, I just want to ask you something because that's pretty wild, what you just said. And people are going to put the brakes on here now. But the thing is, do Hindus believe in demons? [00:50:32]/[14.9]

Purvi: [00:50:34] Okay. So not in the way that Christians do. They have something called rakshasa, which are considered, like bad spirits or whatever. But, that's the whole false dichotomy that the enemy puts up there. They have the good gods, Hindu gods that fight the demon bad gods, you know, and then their good gods are victorious. So they

have this whole thing. But, they're all demonic and it's all deception. And there really is no true good in it. And so, you know, in terms of the demonic possession, the way that I understand now, is totally different. I mean, there are actual cases in India where Hindu priests go to homes and they supposedly try to do what would be considered like casting out demons or whatever. But, the thing is that it never works really. Even if it appears to work for a time, there's always a give and take, you know, there's demonic false healings, false miracles and things like that. And there's things that like, like my former guru gave us, you know, he would do these healings, quote unquote, and some guy would be perfect for some time. It would seem like, well, and then it would end up coming back or there would always be a give and take. It's never a true healing with the devil. And so the devil does deceive to make people think that there is something there in the power of what he's doing and to deceive them into thinking that, you know, like that priest guy is doing a good thing, you know, the Hindu priest guy. And so there's so much deception revolving around that. But definitely I didn't understand demons in the understanding of the Bible, of Satan being real and the demons under him and of the implications that it has on people in the way that I do now. [00:52:32]/[118.4]

Fez: [00:52:33] Wow. This is fascinating. We're here with Sister Purvi, Martusministry.org. She's sharing her testimony of how she came to know Jesus. And what she's sharing is pretty incredible. She's talking about demonic stuff that affected her. She says that she was sleeping and she saw her hands were choking herself and waking herself up in

the middle of the night and, Purvi, that's pretty amazing. That's pretty incredible. What happened after that? [00:54:32]/[119.3]

Purvi: [00:54:33] Yeah, it was crazy. So yeah, I was doing that and I didn't really know what to think. Everything was just crazy to me at that time, so I was just like, What's going on? But after that experience happened about saying that in front of my parents that I'm going to 'take you all down with me.' As soon as I said that, that was a really pivotal moment. I realized there's something else going on and that my understanding of, you know, demons and things, maybe I should look into this more because, what I was taught in yoga, that wasn't what my guru taught me at that time, was that there is no real good or bad in the sense that there's just consequences to things and it just makes everything so flowery and sound some way that people try to get sucked into what he's saying and it's absolute nonsense, just flowered up, you know. But he said that. And so, I remember thinking that and so there's just consequences. So, I was just like, okay, I'm just going to keep on following whatever he says. But, this became a pivotal moment where I'm like, no, something has to change. This is different. Like, this is really crazy. That wasn't me. So, I started getting piqued about demons and what demons are and what they do and things like that. So, that was a pivotal moment for me. And then what really happened is I decided to, you know, look online and and things like that, for more help and seeking and searching because I had become so confused and overwhelmed and depressed that, you know, as I said, it only led to suicidal thoughts. And so, I had decided to just go and kill myself at the rail-

road tracks. My parents, you know, there was a railroad track there and I was very serious. But, you know, before I did that, you know, I just started looking, you know, keeping in mind this thing about this voice thing that happened to me, keeping in mind this choking thing and, you know, maybe some things that had been planted in me before of what people have said about Christians before, in the past. And so I started looking online for any help, and I just kept coming across the Bible. Now, this was a perfect time because this was right before I was going to go commit suicide. I was just at my wits end. I was completely broken. And I went and I decided to read some scriptures that were like online, something that I wasn't seeing. It just kept coming up and I was just like, huh? And something that hit me strongly was Revelation 13: 16 and 17. Now, there were a lot of things that were hitting me strongly about the Bible that, you know, I initially just wanted to be like, oh, I want nothing to do with the Bible. But, all my identities at this point were broken. Everything I thought I knew was broken. I was humble. And that's a beautiful place to be because I was able to receive truth, because before it was like, no, I don't want that because I think this, this and this. But I had no clue what I was talking about, right? So, I was humble and broken and I saw Revelation 13: 16 and 17. And at this point, I had already known about certain conspiracies in the world, about surveillance technology and about a lot of the new world order agenda, about certain things like that with the wicked elite and how they're controlling people. And there's so many lies and deceptions out there. But, there was something that hit me and struck me about that. The scriptures are about the mark of the beast

that no man will buy or sell without this mark, either in the right hand or the forehead. And I just was struck with it. It just hit me like, wow, that is real. This is true. And that's the way that we're headed. We're really headed towards the mark of the beast system. From everything that I know, the way that they're merging information into just one system. I mean, at the time that was written, how could you possibly have thought that could be possible, that the whole world would be part of a system where, without some mark, you couldn't buy or sell. I mean, it would be lunacy. But now, we're seeing before our very eyes this possibility becoming a reality. And these things are happening and shaping. And in going towards that goal with the One World Order really coming strong and with all this stuff. So, anyway, those scriptures hit me hard and I thought at the time, well, you know, maybe the mark of the beast is true, maybe that part of the Bible is true. But I just don't know about the other stuff. People talking about this Jesus being the one that can save me, I just didn't believe that stuff to be true. So, my conclusion at the time was just kind of like, okay, part of the Bible is true. And that's cool. But, as I started, you know, really thinking and sitting there, I was just like, let me try an experiment because I want to see if Jesus is true or whatever. I have nothing to lose. So, I remember just asking and saying. Okay. I'm calling on you now. You know, this is what people say about you. Jesus Christ. I'm hearing these things about you, and I'm desperate and I'm seeking you and I want to know. And I just said, "I'm calling on you now in the name of Jesus Christ, I'm calling. Hello." And I didn't expect anything to happen. But the moment that I said the name, my body started shak-

ing and I was shocked because I was like, no way. How come I'm having this reaction? Like, What is going on? I was so shocked. I was like, Why? Why, why? That just kept on coming to me. Like, you know, the words that the demons tremble at his name. And so, the demons were reacting. And so, it was an amazing thing because that really built my faith. And, you know, I wasn't born again yet, but like, that was like a huge thing that I just started getting so curious about. And after that point, I was like, there is something to this name. There's something to this name. And then I was like, 'Okay, let me get a Bible.' I ordered a Bible. I started reading and I just looked at more stuff online and different Christian stuff that I was coming across. And then I kept hearing over and over again people saying, you know, you've got to ask for forgiveness of sins and just really ask Him to be your personal Lord and savior and give your life to him. And this kept coming up and that seed kept getting planted. And I was like, I came to the point where I was like, I have got to do this. Like, I believe now. I believe enough because I had just been shown. I was thinking and I just went and I just said, "Be my Lord and savior." And this was the time I got saved. And I didn't even realize what I was doing, how huge it was. And I just said, "Be my Lord and Savior. Forgive me of my sin. I'm going to follow you now. I'm here. I'm completely yours, Lord. Here I am. And everything that I have, I'm giving it to you now. Here it is." And I meant it from my whole heart. And that day, I didn't realize. I just stood up and I had no clue what I had just done, how huge it was. And then my whole life changed. And from that moment, it was peace. The anger that I had and all of those things were

just gone. And there was just a whole different perspective of looking at life and reality and the world and everything. My healing started. That's when my healing started. And so, my healing process was physical. The healing process was a slow process, 100% from the Lord, no doctor, there was no medicine, there was nothing that did it. But the Lord is the one, I can guarantee. But it was a process for a reason because I learned a lot through that process and it kept me in that place of really seeking. And now, I'm totally healed, you know. I didn't have any hair. I was bald. I was forced to be bald. I mean, the conditions were just horrible. And so, from that moment, I had a chance, a transformed life. And ever since then, I decided that I wanted to share things with other people and, you know, share this stuff. And I started writing documents and sharing videos and getting it out there and that's how I started doing YouTube videos and just, like, wanting to share. And that went on for a while. And slowly I didn't realize that, like this little five minute video I did about yoga, like literally just 5 minutes. There was so much spiritual oppression trying to prevent me from doing that video. It took me, I don't know how many times just to do that video, but it finally went through and it went viral. And so people started contacting me and saying, I'm having similar experiences and this happened to me and I found the Lord and it was just an awesome thing. [01:03:15][521.7]

Fez: [01:03:17] That's amazing. Praise God. [01:03:18][1.0]

Purvi: [01:03:19] Yeah. And so from then on, you know, I started sharing and then everything changed and in

a more radical way after the Lord brought me my husband and how we met even was just amazing. [01:03:34]/[15.4]

Fez: [01:03:34] How did you meet? [01:03:35]/[0.4]

Purvi: [01:03:36] It's just so much, but I'll try to keep it brief. What happened was he sent me a message. He was already doing ministry and sharing documents and doing things and really aware of the end times as well. Same as I was. And he just sent me a message, actually just sharing a document that he put together. And at the time, he didn't even know that I was Christian. He wasn't watching my videos. He had just seen something that I was doing about the New World Order. And he said he normally never does that on YouTube. And then, I looked at it and I don't know why I said this. It just came over me. I know now it was always there, but I sent a message back to him that said, "Hey, I said, if you're ever in California, let me know." And he was like, did she send this to the wrong person because, I don't even know. I normally don't do this. And he happened to be only an hour away from me. And that was an amazing thing, too. And then. And then we met. And then the world just confirmed it in so many ways that we were to be together. And it was just like amazing things that the Lord would do that I just knew were from Him, like the fact that my parents instantly loved this man, it was just, I mean, they were the most overprotective people ever that they would never even imagined me meeting someone on the Internet. And it's just amazing that everything fell into place and we started, you know, the word joined us. And then we started a new ministry together. [01:05:17]/[101.3]

Fez: [01:05:18] What a blessing. You know, I feel like a lot of the people I have had come on are people who do ministry online and such. It's almost like I'm starting to come to that realization that, let's say we've got a single person, it's probably going to be somebody who's also doing ministry, but it doesn't have to be. I'm just saying that maybe it just makes sense because I know that the Lord wants us out there doing His work. And so, until He comes back, and everyone's saying it's going to be soon, which I agree with, I think that it's just more effective. I mean, imagine somebody who is hardcore, you know, someone like yourself, really called into the ministry, yoked with somebody who is like totally in the world, it just won't work. It's not going to happen. [01:06:05][47.0]

Purvi: [01:06:06] When I met him, my level of understanding of prophecy and everything went to a totally different level that I had never even possibly imagined. Because he's been involved with everything in depth and understanding the scriptures and everything. And so I learned so much from him. And so, I'm just blessed that we do ministry together. And, you know, he's the bishop of the ministry and he leads the ministry, obviously. And we do this together for the glory of God. And until the end, we just want to keep on sounding the alarm of the things that are going on prophetically and also sharing the good news of the gospel. [01:06:44][38.7]

Fez: [01:06:45] Thank you. Thank you for coming on and sharing your testimony. It's a blessing to hear it. I know people will be blessed. [01:06:51][6.2]

Purvi: [01:06:52] Thank you so much. I really appreciate you having me on. Thank you so much. [01:06:55][3.1]

To Hell And Back Near Death Experience (Joe from AUS)

Joe from AUS: [00:00:00] I was just a Christian who had fallen away, you know. I was doing stuff that I shouldn't have been doing. It wasn't doing, like, major things. It was just, like, alcohol and pretty much alcohol. But, when you fall away, you know, your full weight is only two sides of the fence. You're either going to be on one side or go all the way across, or you're going to be on the other side and you might as well worship the devil.

Fez: [1:03:00] So, what happened?

Joe from AUS: [1:05:00] Well, what happened was I died and I had taken an overdose. And what happened was I collapsed at hospital, I was actually freaking out that much. I was telling them, I'm going to die. I remember hitting the floor in the hospital and the toilets, because I tried to go and spew up some of these pills and all this stuff and stop myself from actually dying, um, but it was too late. I hit the floor and then, all I remember is, I woke up in this pitch black void, I mean, pitch black. It's like being in space with no stars, just pitch black, but the vastness of it, of the dark, it's, it's massive. And then, on one side, I reached up . . . and I can tell you, it's so physical. It's like, you know, touching your knee. I actually reached up and grabbed my knees and I could feel my knees and I was looking at my body, but I

could see the outer edge of my body, but not my actual physical inner body. But, physically, when I grabbed my knees, it felt like I was grabbing my knees. It wasn't anything spiritual about it, it was physical. That's the best way I could explain it. And then, I thought to myself, man, I'm immortal, my body, you know, died. And I was actually joyed over that because you don't feel any kind of pain or suffering or foggi-ness of your mind because the is loaded down by chemicals or, you know, food or whatever. You feel free. Your spirit left your body. And what happened was on the side of me, I was kind of like floating, if you want to call it floating. And on the side of me, a massive fire lit up, you know? And, um, all I could say was it was huge. And from the top of my head to the, on the right hand side of the bottom of my feet, it started to burn. I was going into this fire. It was like an oven, a furnace. That's the best way I could explain it. It was like a furnace, you know, a furnace that they put the cremated in, it was like that. And, um, all of a sudden, I just freaked out. I just screamed, like, because the pain was that unbearable. Like, if you can imagine trying to jump in an oven 10 minutes, like up full blast, that's the physical pain it felt, and that moment when my body lit up on one side, I just screamed out to God and I said, I've got to get out of here. I got to get out of here. And just in that moment, it was like God was watching and he just reached in and pulled me out. I woke up. The doctors were on top of me, when I came through, they put a security guard in my room and he was telling me what happened, you know, because they wanted to keep an eye on me. Then he said to me, look, basically, you died, the security guard was telling me, I said, far out. It's bad, you

know. And so, what I did was when I got out of the hospital, it took me a little while to repent properly, to really come back to the Lord. But, when I did come back, like I started to share, I actually went to find out information like who else has passed away and seen this stuff and come back, that has lived to tell about it. And I found on the YouTube that there are like, well, thousands or hundreds of cases, but some that are recorded on YouTube, they are people that are Muslims. There were people that were Hindus, there were people that were Buddhists. There were people that were atheists. They all had passed away, died in accidents, all sorts of stuff, drownings. And when they awoke in that place, afterlife, they woke up either meeting Jesus and given another chance to return and to repent. Obviously, they all repented, some woke up in hell, were shown hell, and they all came back and repented. There's one about a Buddhist monk who went through Burma and converted like nearly a quarter of Burma, a totally devoted monk, you know, high up ranking monk, that died for three days and came back and lived to tell the story about how Jesus is real and how the Buddhist faith has been a lie from the start, you know? [00:04:58]/[298.2]

Fez: [00:04:58] What's his name? Do you have his name by any chance? [00:05:00]/[1.9]

Joe from AUS: [00:05:01] If you just Google . . . well, he got imprisoned, going up, getting imprisoned by the Burmese government. If you just Google 'Buddhist monk goes to hell,' you'll find it and it's on YouTube. If you YouTube it, it's Buddhist monk goes to hell, you'll find that case, but there's a lot of people, there's many cases, there's um,

Muslim terrorists that talk about, there's one on there, a really good one on there, Muslim terrorist how he converted in a prison he converted. He met Christ after fasting 14, 14 days I think it was. Fasted and prayed 14 days until something happened in prison There's many cases. And what I did was I just took all this information and put it on some charts with their photos and stuff like that. So, when I go out to preach the gospel, I share with people, you know, it doesn't matter what faith you're from. Look, here is testimony of people that died and saw Christ, saw Jesus, you know, and they're shocked. And I ask them as Christian, I'll say this straight to their face, I'll say, you know what? If you seriously died today, do you know where you're going to go? But, that's something that needs a question. You need a question, if you die, where are you going to go? Because this thing about Christ is real and these people don't just wake up in a dream. Well, my friend said that to me. Oh, how do you know it wasn't a dream? I said to him, you know, if it was a dream, then these Muslims, these Hindus, these Buddhists, these atheists, when they died, they should have woke up to their dream. They should have woke up to Allah. They should have woke up to Buddha. They should have woken up in their dream. But, they never woke up to that. They woke up to one person. It was Christ and it was judgment. And it was to either choose to follow the faith that the Lord's given to receive his son and the forgiveness of sin. Well, that was it, you know? [00:06:51][110.2]

Fez: [00:06:52] That's an extremely good point. And did they, kind of like, turn around when you said that? [00:06:57][4.8]

Joe from AUS: [00:06:59] People . . . people turn around. People turn around If you just walk in the spirit of God. Like, this is the thing. Intellectualism is a hard way to convert people. You can kind of share practical things like, look, if you died today, where are you going to go, man, because if you died . . . like, we all know people that have died and you're going to die. Like, when I share with people, I say, every single person here is going to pass away. And you'll foolish not to make a really on purpose decision to figure out, man, where am I going to go? What's more important? Where I am living for, you know, 40, 20 years on earth? Or a million years? [00:06:59][0.0]

[415.1]

A Real Bronx Tale: Ex Hoodlum Turned Christ Follower (Bobby Osofsky)

Fez: [00:00:00] We have a guest on the show to discuss his testimony of how the Lord Jesus changed his life, as well as the different ministries he's become involved in. I think opportunities like this are the best because what they do is they actually allow us to look at a person's life and say, this person is living for the Lord Jesus, and it's coming through in his work. Because ultimately, we want to be people who, through our actions, others can see that God is working in our lives, not just in our talk, right? So, Bobby O., welcome to the program. [00:01:01]/[61.0]

Bobby: [00:01:03] Thank you. [00:01:03]/[0.3]

Fez: [00:01:04] His name is Bob Osofsky. Just to give you a little bit of his resumé here. He's been involved in men's ministry for over 30 years. He's a certified men's ministry coach with Iron Sharpens Iron under Brian Doyle, he's spent ten years on the board of directors there, spoken all over the East Coast for men's ministry. He's also got a passion for church security. He is integral in the formation of Church Security LLC, along with former SWAT cop, Rich Perez. And what they do is they help coach churches on how to assemble security teams to protect the church itself, the leadership as well as the congregation. It's good to have you with us, Bob. [00:02:09]/[65.0]

Bobby: [00:02:11] Thank you. It's a great honor. And I appreciate what you're doing. Taking Kingdom Ground and serving the Lord the way you are reaching people with

this show. This is a great, great vehicle to touch people's hearts and lives. Thank you for the honor of having me here. [00:02:27]/[16.2]

Fez: [00:02:27] Thank you for coming. All right, so let's get into it, Bob. Let's talk about your background. Were you raised, Christian? What's your story? [00:02:35]/[8.0]

Bobby: [00:02:37] Well, I was raised as an atheist. My mother was Jewish by, I guess you call it, heritage. We didn't practice the religion. There was no teaching of God. They wanted me to learn Yiddish. I think I got my nose broken the first time by cutting out of school with a buddy of mine and winding up in a junkyard and having a couple of German shepherds chase us and having a sick thrown to chase the shepherds, the shepherds hit me right in the face and I went out cold. And that was my first time I had my nose broken. Had it broken 14 times after that. Never in a fight, very proud of that growing up in the Bronx, never in a fight, but I was raised atheist. We didn't believe in God and my father just didn't have any beliefs at all that there was God or that there was a savior. We celebrated Jewish holidays and we'd drive around and looked at Christmas lights in the Bronx in the days that everybody in the Bronx would put Christmas lights in their windows and their house fronts. But, to talk about God, or a savior or eternity in my house? That conversation never came up and it left a void in my life. At around age 15, 16, I was paralyzed from the waist down at age 12 and then had a relapse with the disease at age 13. At age 12, the doctors told me I'd never walk again, and I just believed that somehow I had more to do in my life but then be a cripple. And I could hear my friends playing basketball from my

bedroom window like a block and a half away in the schoolyard and I wanted to play drums. I was a musician. And these are things that just tore at me. When I did finally get some feeling back in my feet, I was able to walk again. Within a year, I had a relapse and the doctors at that point told me I probably took three years off my life. [00:04:34]/[116.7]

Fez: [00:04:35] What kind of disease was this that stopped you from walking? [00:04:40]/[5.1]

Bobby: [00:04:42] It was a muscle disease, very much like polio. [00:04:44]/[2.2]

Fez: [00:04:45] Okay. [00:04:45]/[0.0]

Bobby: [00:04:46] And I don't give it utterance. I don't speak about it. I'm 56 years old. The doctors told me I'd be dead in my early teens, so I believe in the ultimate physician today. And I'm thankful someone somewhere must have been praying for me. I still wasn't saved. I was still an atheist, but I knew that I was alive for a reason. So, I went on a spiritual search. I read books on Christianity, on Judaism, I read books on Buddhism. You know, back in those days I enjoyed the martial arts and I think the TV show, "Kung Fu" had just come out, so I said, maybe I'll move to China, live on the mountain, become a monk, you know, that sort of stupid thinking. And you know, every kid, you know, every teenager I think today especially is searching, why are they alive and especially in these times. [00:05:36]/[50.6]

Fez: [00:05:37] Right. It's in their crazy times that we live in. [00:05:40]/[3.0]

Bobby: [00:05:42] Well, these are crazier times than even when I grew up and to search for identity I love when I see in churches a good team or a good, you know, youth

ministry, especially good pastors, like really looking out for their kids. Like what I see we have at Harvest Time and like Faith church in New Milford and so many other churches I know in the area. It blesses my heart to see the next generation. [00:06:05][22.7]

Fez: [00:06:07] That's right. [00:06:07][0.2]

Bobby: [00:06:08] The guys who are powerful ministry leaders doing that for the kids. I didn't have that. So, what I did is . . . [00:06:14][6.6]

Fez: [00:06:14] You know, you have a long, long history of just testimony after testimony. And I want to make sure that we focus in on certain things here because there's a lot to talk about. But, I want to ask you this crucial question, because I think a lot of people who go to church, they go through the motions, but they really don't become a mature Christian until certain things happen in their life. And for me, I know it was the ability to, you know, pray and have a conversation with God, a two way conversation rather than a one way conversation. I think that's a big milestone. But, in your case, what would you say were some of the things that happened to you that allowed you to become a more mature Christian? [00:06:58][43.2]

Bobby: [00:07:00] Well, once I became a Christian, I always had mentorship. I knew the power of a mastermind team. And what I did is I surrounded myself with Godly men. So, at that time, God For Me hadn't been formed, but I was a friend of head coach, Scott Caesars. And Scott and I were friends for 25 years, still pray for the man, great ministry out on the island. [00:07:25][24.5]

Fez: [00:07:26] I jumped the gun a little bit. I apologize. We didn't actually get to the point. We actually didn't get to a point where you talked about you when you first became a Christian. So, would you talk about that? [00:07:39][10.9]

Bobby: [00:07:40] Oh, that's enough to scare people off the radio show. [00:07:43][2.2]

Fez: [00:07:44] Okay. [00:07:44][0.0]

Bobby: [00:07:45] Well, you know, again, I didn't believe in God. I had a dear friend whose name was Willie Salas. And Willie was a Bronx guy like myself, you know, he had some street sense and he'd been through a few different things in his life. And one day, I guess I was about 20, I was in the schoolyard just still playing basketball, shooting around, waiting for everybody to show up. Willie comes by and says to me, out of the blue, 'Bob, God's calling you and he wants you to be faithful to him and he wants to change your life.' And I said to him, Willie, whatever you were smoking, Willie, you didn't finish the joint. Go back and finish it, but that message 'aint for me. And he walked away. [00:08:21][36.3]

Fez: [00:08:22] Okay. [00:08:22][0.0]

Bobby: [00:08:23] And then I was working right after I graduated college. I had gone through a couple of rough experiences, including a bad stint working at GM. I was working in a factory. I was a musician making, you know, 500 bucks a night, doing studio work, played with some great jazz players in the city. Some of my dear friends, guys like Victor Lagamas, he's still playing around Westchester. I just heard that Victor's still playing with other friends I have today. I haven't seen him in 30 years, so it blows my mind how

God let's you see things in circles. That's just a segue. But, what happened was I was working at Alexanders because I had messed my knee up in the factory and my hands and a girl I was dating told me she was going to Bible study and wanted me to go. The challenge was the guy hosting it I knew was having an affair with his wife and trying to get in the drawers of my girl. [00:09:14]/[51.5]

Fez: [00:09:15] You knew that. You knew that from hearsay? [00:09:17]/[1.8]

Bobby: [00:09:19] No, I knew that because she told me he was hittin' on her and I knew the girl he was having an affair with. I mean, it was true. It was in the open. I didn't understand how this man could even say he's a man of God. Today, you know, I would strongly rebuke him and call his pastor and bring him to correction, but that being said, so I don't believe in God and if this is an example of godly men, I'm telling people, you know, I don't need this. Well, at the same time, I had two friends who I played ball with. Their uncle was the head priest of the North Bronx, down in what's called the Grotto, Saint Lucy's down in the Bronx. So, I meet their uncle, Father Maltese, and here I am, this bearded, long haired, angry youth. I'm in my early twenties. And Father Maltese just lets me come and sit and talk with him because I have questions about the Bible. Remember, I'm still on the search since I'm 15. [00:10:18]/[58.8]

Fez: [00:10:19] Okay. [00:10:19]/[0.0]

Bobby: [00:10:20] And he says to me, we'll sit every Sunday and we'll talk about what you read. And he gave me assignments to read and we didn't talk from 9:00 to ten. We talked from 9:00 to two, three in the morning. I would show

up with pages of notes, questions. What about this? What if we melted down this golden altar that was just built in this church? We could get everybody out of the projects. We could buy them all homes. And he said, yes, but within five years, 80% of them would be back in the projects, 20% of them would be thanking us and praising God. But, their lives would be better because the Word of God says that you should work that you might have and you can't just give a handout. Hence the philosophy of when a man's hungry, you teach him how to fish. You don't just give him the fish, which is part of the problem with our country today. We're giving too much away and not teaching people how to get. [00:11:10]/[50.3]

Fez: [00:11:11] I agree with you there, definitely. [00:11:12]/[1.0]

Bobby: [00:11:13] You know, but that was the lesson I learned from him and he thought I was going to be a priest. Couldn't do that walk of, you know, just enjoyed chasing women too much. But, that's where I really started getting a dose of God. And what happened is, I ended up in multi-level marketing and it was added to some really destructive stuff on the streets that I was hooked up with, and people I was working for. Most of the guys I worked with are dead today. I'll leave it at that. Oh, absolutely. My best friend, guy was like, my only friend I had that my mother would let in the apartment when I wasn't home was shot in the back of the head and they shot his face off, left him in the street as a message for me. [00:11:55]/[42.4]

Fez: [00:11:56] Oh my God. [00:11:57]/[0.4]

Bobby: [00:11:57] And everybody else said, you know, that's an eye opener when you're in your early thirties. But at that point, I was walking with The Lord, but in between, I go to this multilevel meeting, they say, get your book signed, get autographs from the big shots. Well, I don't go to this, they used to do these nondenominational Sunday services. I don't go to the Sunday service. I get up late. I like sleeping late Sundays. I walk in late, they're doing an altar call, there's 400 people up by the stage. I think they're all getting autographs. I pushed my way through. I'm from the Bronx. I get right to the front and the speaker says, now we're going to see the Sinner's prayer. And I say, 'What the F' and someone put their hand over my mouth and said, 'pretend you belong.' And I'm looking at the speaker, she's looking at me. He's looking like someone ought to take this guy out of here. I'm looking like, 'sign my book already.' [00:12:49][51.8]

Fez: [00:12:50] That's hilarious. [00:12:51][0.9]

Bobby: [00:12:52] And now, it was hysterical in hindsight, I must have scared the tar out of him. I looked like Manson junior at the time. Full beard, long hair, a plaid suit, a paisley striped shirt, polka dot ties, black hushpuppies, like brand new ones, but I had already gotten them covered in paint from the curb where they were painting where my mother lived. The esteemed look of success, you can picture me, right? [00:13:18][26.2]

Fez: [00:13:18] I want to see that picture. [00:13:20][1.6]

Bobby: [00:13:21] Oh, I can't find the pictures from those days, but I was the sharp-looking guy on my team. Everybody else was just total street urchins. [00:13:28][7.3]

Fez: [00:13:29] Okay. [00:13:29][0.0]

Bobby: [00:13:30] The guy handed me his Rolex watch. About an hour later, he hands me a diamond ring that these guys all wore. And he said give it to me at the end of the leadership, come back. And I'm thinking, I'm way ahead by now if I just leave. [00:13:45][14.8]

Fez: [00:13:46] Right, a test. [00:13:47][1.8]

Bobby: [00:13:48] I gave him back his jewelry. Only about three months, six months later, another big meeting. I went to the altar call. I wanted to change my life. And that's how I got started with this walk with the Lord. [00:13:58][10.2]

Fez: [00:13:59] So, at what age were you when you finally decided that you wanted to follow The Lord? [00:14:10][8.9]

Bobby: [00:14:11] 23, 24. And then from 24 to 34. I lived what I call my dirty decade. I would go to church, I might give some money. I wasn't obedient. I was living a sinful, lustful lifestyle. I was going out to church. I got baptized with a church out in Brooklyn, Pastor Vince. I forget his last name, they used to call him the Apostle Vince. God let me bump into Vince at a leadership conference that Bishop Roderick Caesar and A.R. Bernard were running a few years ago. Got to see him again and hug him and thank him. And then I found out that one of my dear friends, Vidal Goring and Vidal's wife Jade, Jade is an amazing gospel singer. But, Vidal and Jade run a great organization, a beautiful ministry called 'The Bridge' out of Danbury, which gets kids off the streets, gets them doing Christian rap, teaches them how to run the studio, gets them in a church, teaches them mu-

sic, whatever they need to get them added a life, if you know what I'm saying. [00:15:12]/[61.1]

Fez: [00:15:13] Okay, I understand. [00:15:13]/[0.7]

Bobby: [00:15:15] And it's just a beautiful thing these guys do. [00:15:17]/[1.9]

Fez: [00:15:18] That's amazing. You spent your whole life here in New York, right? I mean, you set down roots here. You've met so many people through the years, I don't know if you keep in touch with them. But it's amazing to me these stories that you can tell here. [00:15:39]/[21.5]

Bobby: [00:15:40] Let me just complete that one quickly. Jade and Vidal when they moved out of the Bronx and came up to Connecticut were looking to rent the place. They wind up renting the townhouse from Pastor Vince that he had as an investment. Again, just how God lets you see how he's orchestrating your life, that he's always there. [00:15:59]/[19.5]

Fez: [00:16:00] That's incredible. [00:16:02]/[2.1]

Bobby: [00:16:03] Totally blew me away, but you're right we try and keep in touch, I hate the word 'tried' with as many people as we can. You know, people who I've met years ago and sometimes we lose track of some of them, but they're on my prayer list and they get covered. [00:16:14]/[11.3]

Fez: [00:18:52] We are back. We're talking here with Bobby Osofsky. And he's Mr. Men's ministry, over 30 years in men's ministry. We're talking about his testimony and let's get into the men's ministry stuff now. How did you first get involved with men's ministry? [00:19:39]/[46.6]

Bobby: [00:19:41] Well, because of multi-level marketing, I developed, and I had a great season with that, I spent

a lot of years just building that, I didn't have other jobs or anything. I've made a lot of mistakes in my life. I think that makes you a good men's minister because you see what everybody else is about to. One of the things in my life I asked God to do for me is, whenever I make a mistake and it costs me, and we all realize that there's consequences for our conduct, even as Christians, we have grace, but there's consequences for our conduct, I always ask God, somehow use me and use my testimony to help somebody else get through whatever this particular challenge is, so that it's not for waste. Let, somehow, my pain, my stupidity, my foolishness, my pride, my arrogance, somehow still bring you glory and honor. Let it add to your majesty. So, what happened is through just mentoring guys and counseling guys, getting hooked up with God For Me. I don't know if you want all the details, but, you know, I wound up on the board of 'God For Me' Men's Network and 'God For Me' ministries with Scott Caesar and I started to teach people. You know, people would ask me, we would do these business meetings and I was out at Upper Room in Dix Hills, a great pastor there now Bishop Tony D'Onofrio. His entire staff of pastors, unbelievable, everyone from his brother, Pastor Nick, Pastor Dennis, who's now in California. All these guys, amazing men of God, totally faithful and a united team. You know, I love the Psalm 133, which says, where there's unity and harmony among my people that God commands my blessings. I would paraphrase a lot of Tony's teachings. Now, this is still my dirty decade. I'm still not really walking in maturity, but God's word was hitting other people. He was using me as a vessel to still touch other people's hearts and lives. And what

happened is, I would bring people that would see me at business meetings. They'd say, where did you get that teaching? I said, I'm glad you asked and I always had like ten Bibles in my trunk. I'd say let's go to the diner and people would sit around and we started teaching the word. Then, I'd bring them out to my church and say, go back to your neighborhood, find a church that teaches the word like this, so you're in a church that is alive. A lot of churches are dead in this country. [00:22:13]/[152.5]

Fez: [00:22:14] That's true. There's too many. [00:22:19]/[4.8]

Bobby: [00:22:19] That's a two day show. [00:22:22]/[3.3]

Fez: [00:22:23] That's a big problem right there. [00:22:24]/[1.1]

Bobby: [00:22:25] That's how I started and from there I got introduced to Brian Doyle. Brian is my covering through Iron Sharpens Iron. And my certifications are a national coalition of men's ministry coach. I wound up going, getting married, going through a divorce. Very painful. A lot of Christian men don't realize that God hates divorce. He does not hate the divorce and women as well. And that was, you know, here I thought I failed God. I wasn't involved in God For Me at that time. I had stepped back from mentoring people because the household was so insane. I believe when you go through a crisis in life, you need a season to go through it, a season to heal and then just serve, wherever you go, just serve. And God started raising me up. He raised me to where I was on the board of 'God For Me.' He raised me to where I started attending Faith Church in New Milford, Connecti-

cut, under Pastor Frank and his father in law. I served as his armor bearer with Pastor Rick and we'd go around. I was his assistant, if you would, in men's ministry up there at Faith church. When I left that church, I was mentoring 29 men at the church and it wasn't even my primary ministry. [00:23:37][72.1]

Fez: [00:23:38] Well, at the time what was your primary ministry? [00:23:40][1.6]

Bobby: [00:23:41] 'God For Me' was, where I served on the board, would go out speaking, help post events, meet with pastors. I became a consigliere to a lot of pastors and great men of God, became friends with guys like Alvin Slaughter, served men when they were in town, whether it was the security team, which is a whole 'nother part, if we get to that today, guys like Jesse Duplantis, Rick Renner, Bernie Williams when he visited the church, Allen Houston, our friend, when he was up at the church, I was on his security team, escort team, if you would, but God would just put me in front of these men. And for some reason, we'd wind up having conversations late and they'd open up to me, and because I didn't betray their trust, they would continue to call me. A lot of them are great pastors today and a lot of the guys I call my spiritual sons, guys like Rich Perez, guys like Joe Padro, who's out at Bethlehem Assembly of God in Long Island, Steve Milazzo's church. Joe was on the board for seven years, he now helps run their security team, guys like Al Melendez, who's up at Solid Rock, right by the Woodbury Commons Mall. He works with Pastor Tom at that church, guys over at Gracepoint over in Rockland in New City with Pastor Floyd and Pastor Carl. These are all great

men, who've I've had the privilege of sitting with, speaking with and some of these guys or guys that just kind of grew up with me, not the pastors, but the ministry leaders and board members. And it's great to see how their lives have gone on. And God's used me in some way, shape or form to help them get through a hurdle. [00:25:17]/[95.9]

Fez: [00:25:18] You're saying that you got into the man's ministry because it kind of fell in your lap almost. You're saying that you happened to be speaking to a lot of these men and they would confide in you and tell you things about them. And it just naturally developed. [00:25:31]/[13.2]

Speaker 2: [00:25:33] Well, I'll give you an example. When I was Faith Church, I was helping out in the parking lot. It's one of those ministries where most guys really don't want to go out in the hot or cold weather. I mean, it's great in the spring or the fall, but when it's pouring, snow, it's minus six degrees or so, 96 degrees. And you got to be out there between two different sets of services. It takes a little out of you no matter what your age. And I remember when I became a member at Faith, they said, where would you help? And I remember looking at Pastor Al, another dear friend of mine, another dear friend of mine, we still have dinner every couple months. And I said, I guess you need some help in the parking lot. And he looked at me and laughed. They had one guy at the time, we wound up building that ministry to 12 men who prayed with people as they were coming into the church. And a great band of brothers. [00:26:24]/[51.2]

Fez: [00:26:25] Uhuh. [00:26:25]/[0.0]

Bobby: [00:26:25] And what happened was, I remember, we went to a retreat and I like to call them advances.

The guest speaker was none other than Alvin Slaughter, who today is a dear friend and just saying, I know Faith Church just started their satellite church down in New York City at AMC Theater on 42nd Street. And Alvin, I believe, is going to be there at least once or twice a month with them. And I think they're doing that once if not twice a month right now. He has an amazing ministry, like a Barnabas spirit, if you would, or preaching and his music is unquestionable, some of the best gospel music you've ever heard. God uses him that way. Well, Alvin and I went out and stayed up until two, three in the morning. I had brought cases of books to bless the men with. And I asked Pastor Rick, can I bring a few books and we could talk in a minute about basic books guys should read. What happened is Rick asked me to come back at a men's ministry meeting, give my testimony, looked at me and said, parking lot, no, man's ministry, yes. And I stayed in the parking lot, wound up coming alongside Pastor Rick. We built that ministry where it impacted, I'd say, 80% of the men in the church. A typical man's ministry pulls 10 to 20%% at a men's ministry meeting, but the key is to reach out into the other areas of the church, create entry points, work with the men who are in music ministry. That's still men doing ministry, whether it's missions, like Steve Gamble and other guys have done it at Harvest Time, whether it's guys in the parking lot, guys teaching, guys in the commissary, whatever it is. [00:28:09][104.0]

Fez: [00:28:10] Let's make it really basic and easy to understand for most people. Let's define what a men's ministry is, because I had to look it up myself, because I've never really been involved in a men's ministry. The only time I went

to a men's ministry was when my cousin's husband in New Jersey, he invited me to a men's ministry, it was a breakfast. And what happened was, we would have breakfast, all the men in the church, and there were speakers and then we had a, you know, a speaker who gave a great testimony. And it was mainly a social event. But, you know, other than that, I really haven't been to any men's ministry. So, how would you define a men's ministry? [00:28:52]/[42.4]

Bobby: [00:28:54] You just defined what I consider, and I don't mean to offend anybody listening to this who's involved in men's ministry, a weak men's ministry. It's effective because it gets people out. It's effective because they get to worship God together. It's effective because you hear a testimony and you'll hear God's word. But, men's ministry comes from men interacting with men. [00:29:16]/[22.5]

Fez: [00:29:17] Okay. [00:29:17]/[0.0]

Bobby: [00:29:19] Under the power of the Holy Spirit. But, what would have been better is, like, whenever, I like to teach, whenever I teach a topic, I like to do a workshop, ask three or four questions, break the guys up, three or four guys at a time. Have them speak to each other, speak into each other's lives. Realize they're not the only one going through that crisis. Teach each other how to pray, there's a lot of great men in church sitting right next to you today, they've never prayed, they've abdicated manhood, the priesthood in their in their household, and they lived their lives, one Bible study, if you would, at the table, or devotional. They're afraid to pray out loud. What men's ministry is is men ministering to men, taking them, discipling them. That's what the great commandment is before Jesus left us. Go out to all the na-

tions and do what? Make disciples of the nations. Well, we have to disciple and raise each other to a level of maturity. [00:30:17]/[58.1]

Fez: [00:30:18] I just don't see that happening in most churches, even, look at my experience. I don't know. Hopefully, that's not the majority of men's experiences with the men's ministries at churches. But, what you're saying is that a man's ministry should be an opportunity just for men to come together and talk about real issues, to have a real dialog about things that are going on in our lives. [00:30:46]/[28.2]

Bobby: [00:30:46] Let me give you an example. They have 50 guys in a room. Break it up into ten groups of five, give four questions and then go around the room, say, how did each group answer those questions. Ask the guys, do they have a prayer? First of all, how many guys go to church, they got friends at work, they got friends in their neighborhood, but they don't have a friend in church. But we do the nod. You know the nod? I wish this was a live cable show. You know, they do the nod, like you walk past someone, and you half bow, your chin goes into your chest. [00:31:16]/[30.3]

Fez: [00:31:17] Yes. [00:31:17]/[0.0]

Bobby: [00:31:18] But, you don't say anything. If you know each other after three months, you might even grunt and go, ahuh? But, you don't even stick out your hands. Well, you know, if guys have something in common, they like going to a Yankee game, Met game, a football game, whatever it may be. Going to see the Knicks play. I know we're in Connecticut, so maybe some guys who actually want to go see Boston. I'm sorry about that. [00:31:41]/[22.9]

Fez: [00:31:41] Haha. [00:31:41]/[0.0]

Bobby: [00:31:42] Look. But, you know, doing something together and then on the way, saying, by the way. I'm really having trouble with this issue. I'm really having trouble with my finances. I don't feel like I'm the priest in my house. I'm not getting the answers to prayers like I should. My wife is questioning me because the guy who lived next door got a big promotion, they moved out, they got a big house. And she's saying to me, well, you've been making us tithe, so how come? Or, how come you're not tithing? You know, and that's a whole other issue on obedience, that's a whole that's a whole to show. These these are things that are real men's issues. These are real challenges that every guy goes through. But, they think they're the only one, so they never talk to anybody. [00:32:30]/[9.5]

Fez: [00:32:30] Never talk to anybody. And I think the difference between men and women is that the women always have a way of talking to one another about problems. And men just kind, I don't know how you describe it, but men isolate rather than engage. [00:32:49]/[18.7]

Bobby: [00:32:50] Men don't trust. There's a book out. It's called Trust. It's a yellow and black book. I'm looking at it right now. It's by Les T. Csorba. It's called Trust: The One Thing That Makes or Breaks A Leader. But, it's the one thing that makes or breaks a men's ministry leader, not just a church leader, but it a men's ministry leader. Guys have to trust you. You have to say, hey, I screwed up here. I wish I hadn't gotten divorced. I wish I hadn't had to go through this. I wish I didn't deal with this pain. I wish I didn't have a credit card debt. I wish I never have a drinking problem, a drug problem, a pornography problem, a lust

problem. If that girl in my office keeps bending over wearing that skirt, I'm going to explode one day. And guys don't, you know, they make a joke of it. But, you know, they want to come home and you can't talk to your wife about it. [00:33:38]/[47.9]

Fez: [00:33:38] Let me tell you something, Bobbie. I have something that I need to just make sure everyone here listening gets a good understanding of an example of what you're talking about. That happened to me. So I was talking to someone at church recently. I'm not going to name names, but this person confided in me saying that they had problems that they felt the church was not helping them with. They felt that on an individual basis, when they would bring their concerns or their life problems to someone else in the church, that person would, you know, I guess, listen attentively, but not really want to help or not really reach a hand out. And I think that's a big problem in the church because that's not the first person that came to me saying that. There's actually more than one within the past two weeks, I've heard this problem. Some people, they don't feel they don't feel, as you said, discipled. I guess they don't feel that, you know, people in the church are willing to reach out a hand and help someone in that way. [00:34:39]/[60.2]

Bobby: [00:34:41] There's a couple points that you're bringing up. Number one, we forget that the church is not the building. The church is the people who attend at the building. And we're the church. So as a maturing Christian, as a man on the frontlines of the battle, as you've made yourself, you've put yourself out there just by doing this show.

And again, I compliment you for your efforts.
[00:35:03]/[22.2]

Fez: [00:35:03] Thank you. [00:35:04]/[0.3]

Bobby: [00:35:04] Just because of that, guys will come up to you. They'll be attracted to your boldness, your leadership. Now, what we have to remember is we have to be Christlike and in many instances today, I'm a bachelor in this season in my life, I run several companies, I help Rich with a Church Security LLC. We're doing seminars all over the place for churches to teach them security. Time is really of great value to me. It is. It's the one limited asset that we have on this earth. And unfortunately, most people are too busy to really pay attention to a brother in the church. There's a great book out called Too Busy, Not To Pray. But we have to be better time managers. We have to care about the people in our lives. When I disciple someone, I expect to speak to them every other day. There's levels of relationship. I taught that last year at Harvest Time. It's a topic that I love to go out in churches and teach their men because guys become acquaintances, they become friendly, they need prayer partners. My prayer partner is Bill White. Bill was chairman of the board at God For Me when I was on the board. We both resigned around the same time. We both cover each other in prayer. It's a bad week when we only prayed two or three times together, covering each other and blessings and affirmation. A typical week is 4 to 5 times during the week we're on the phone 10-15 minutes praying for each other's needs. And we're very direct and talk before we pray what's going on in our lives. We're very transparent. [00:36:44]/[100.2]

Fez: [00:36:46] Wow. That's a great gift and benefit. I was about to ask you, you know, what are the main benefits of being involved in a type of man's ministry and you just named it right there, just having that person praying for you on the. [00:37:02]/[14.2]

Bobby: [00:37:02] Having a prayer partner, then from the prayer partner, you get an accountability partner, someone who, you know, you think you're going out to the bar and you gotta' call in first. Now. you should have an accountability partner with the same struggle you have. If two guys enjoy going to strip clubs, they should not be accountable to each other because they'll say, let's go to a strip club and discuss this. [00:37:21]/[19.4]

Fez: [00:37:22] Yeah, right. Yeah. [00:37:23]/[1.0]

Bobby: [00:37:23] And it's a joke, men, like water, seek their own level. So, you'll see them at the end of the service. They're usually floating around the same level, if you would, of spiritual growth and maturity. The reason pastors hang out with pastors is because they understand the struggles pastors go through and we need to pray for our pastors and leaders of our nation daily. So, we have this, we have acquaintances, we have friends, we have prayer partners, we have accountability partners. Billy is also my accountability partner as is Pastor Rich Perez, as are several other men. [00:37:57]/[34.2]

Fez: [00:37:58] Right. [00:37:58]/[0.0]

Bobby: [00:37:59] And then you have accountability, they have counselors for someone who has a serious problem. And then top of that, what you have you have prayer partners, accountability partners. Key keyword, I want to

make sure I mention this part here, is mentors. You have to have a mentor, someone who will disciple you and raise you up and hold you to a higher standard. [00:38:26]/[10.2]

Fez: [00:38:27] Right, it's so important. [00:38:28]/[1.3]

Bobby: [00:38:29] How many men are willing to let someone else get in a grill and say you're messing up? [00:38:35]/[6.4]

Fez: [00:38:36] Yeah, not many. [00:38:37]/[1.1]

Bobby: [00:38:38] I have a lot of pastors who I love they're mad at me at many different seasons in our relationship because I'm willing to fight with them for areas that I see that they're blind to. And I'm willing to fight with them, for them, for their churches, for their families, because they have to change something. Marshall Johnson, state wide receiver for the Colts. Very soft spoken man. I haven't seen him for years, he taught me one great thing, among many. He said, how do you get a guy out of a pit when you walk by? If you see a guy in a pit, he's dealing with the problem. Do you reach your hand down? No, they'll slap it away, saying, you won't be able to pull me out because of the weight of my burdens. Do you hand them a rope? The rope will break because of the weight of my burdens. Do you hand them a ladder? He'll say, the ladder cannot reach far enough. Do you fill up the pit with water? He'll go, the water will only turn the ground soft and I'll sink into the weight of my own problems. There's only one way to help a man out of the pit. Do you know what it is? [00:39:43]/[65.3]

Fez: [00:39:43] No. What is it? [00:39:44]/[0.6]

Bobby: *[00:39:44]* You jump in the pit with him, say, I've been in this pit before. I know the way out. Follow me. We'll get out together.

Angels and Demon: True Stories That Will Rock you

(Hernando Ruiz)

Fez: [00:00:05] We're talking to Pastor Hernando Ruiz. He's been a pastor for 13 years. His website is cancnj.org⁵ and he's sharing his testimony of faith. So what happened next, Pastor? You told me earlier about this spiritual warfare that you dealt with. Could you give us some examples of that? [00:00:27][22.1]

Hernando: [00:00:29] When I gave my service to Jesus, you know, and experienced peace in my life and I really experienced what is called being born again, um, after that, um, there was tremendous spiritual warfare that came against me from the dark world. When I used to go home in night-time after work and I went to bed, I started seeing all these demons. They come to attack me, and it was demons, uh, the eyes, you will see, like lamps for the eyes. Um, there were demons that, um, they have swords. Some of them, they jumped on me and they started trying to kill me with the swords. And that will happen, I mean, every night I would dreams being attacked by demons. You know, I actually would hear them. And I feel that when I wake up the next day, I will, I will have pain in my body where they attacked me and I didn't know how to defend myself. I was just, I didn't know anything about spiritual warfare at that time. And I would just say, Lord, help me, I need your help. And this would happen every night. So, the first angel visitation that I had, it was when, when I, um, I was having these

5. <http://cancnj.org>

attacks from the devil. At one time, I couldn't take it anymore. I believe there were, like, hundred demons on my basement. That's where I used to sleep. And I said, Lord, I can't stand this anymore. Please, help me. I said, please help me, Lord. When I said, Please help me, Lord, I saw two angels that stood beside my bed, one on each side. So, when they stood there, all the demons left. The demons left immediately. And that's when I understood the spiritual world and the spiritual warfare is true. [00:03:04]/[154.9]

Fez: [00:03:05] You saw the angels' faces? You saw their bodies, their details? [00:03:10]/[4.9]

Hernando: [00:03:10] Yes. Yes. And I still see them, you know, when the Lord allows me to, you know, when I have to, um, minister to someone that is being oppressed, you know. That happened more often after they got converted, you know? But, I still have, uh, one of the gifts that I, I flow in is in the discernment of spirits and The Lord has told me many things about what is called spiritual warfare. And I just want to say to the listeners that, um, uh, there could be many things, you know, uh, behind relatives or family or even yourself that you may not understand. But behind that, there are spirits that are oppressing people. I mean, um, man is between the matter of oh God and evil. And this is real. And we need to be trained. You know, we need to ask The Lord to help us to, you know, be better, have discernment. The Bible teaches in Ephesians 6:12 that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the dark that is spiritual. [00:04:32]/[81.4]

Fez: [00:04:33] I believe that the depression, addiction, anxiety, all these different things, anger, are spiritual in na-

ture. They originate from the spirit realm. That person's spirit is not right with the Lord. In many cases, it will manifest in the way that that person behaves. That's not to say that they're possessed, but maybe they're oppressed. What's your thoughts on that? [00:04:58]/[25.0]

Hernando: [00:04:59] Yeah, my thoughts on that is the same. I agree with you. Um, I, I in I was in Chicago in 2001 and that was like one of the, um, um, times that The Lord taught me to help someone to be delivered from a demon and the demon was called a Spirit of anguish. That's because the demon spoke when I was delivering this woman. And that's when I learned, like you say, that there is a fear. It's a bit of depression, you know. And, you know, behind that emotion, there could be a spirit if you continue to open the door to that. So, my thoughts on that is if the person has unforgiveness in their lives, you know, and they're not able to forgive, they could attract the spirit of forgiveness, you know? A spirit of fear, a spirit addiction, you know, it could be dominating your life. So, that's when you need to help these people to be delivered. One of the things about that I really want to share with whoever is listening to us is that in order to deliver someone, you know, in order to help someone, you need to be full of compassion. Because, you know, God will use someone that is compassionate and merciful for these people, you know? Um, so I learned in my ministry that the more compassion you have, the more mercy you have for people, and the more you feel the need for them to be delivered, um, the more The Lord will use you. Uh, I teach my intercessors that, um, when you pray for someone, you do need to be in favor of that person. Because the Bible says

that God is not against us, he's with us. You know, if God is with us, who can be against us? This intercessor, somebody that is doing a spiritual warfare, is praying for someone, they can't have anything against that person that they're praying for. [00:07:33][154.6]

Fez: [00:07:34] Because it'll allow a spiritual door to be open and then it could affect their, uh, their ability to help that person. I agree with that. But, I'm curious about what other angelic experiences that you've had, Pastor Hernando. [00:07:46][12.6]

Hernando: [00:07:48] Yes, I had an experienced that, we used to go to the mountain to pray with these other pastors and ministers. And I saw this angelic visitation, even though we perceive angels going into the mountain with us, you know? Sometimes, I perceived the angels as going, I don't see them, but I perceive they are there, it's like a discernment they're there. And I will know if they are angels from God or I will know if they are angels from the enemy. And years ago, we experienced that. And actually, I want to share this, it was a visitation for a demonic angel. We were praying and I saw this beautiful angel that stood right in front of me, you know. And I almost, you know, like, wow. You know, I was impressed with the beauty and the lightness and the Splendor. And I asked him, I asked the angel, did Jesus come in the flesh or come in the Spirit. And as soon as I asked the angels that, the angel flee, he couldn't stay there. So, there is when the Bible teaches that you need to test the spirits to see if they are from the enemy. That's when I see something from the spiritual side, you know, from there. Angelic beings. But, that was from the enemy. Now, when

I was in Mexico City. I was participating in the march that they do every year. They will do a march for Jesus. There were like 200,000 people march in one of the main streets in Mexico City, in Mexico and at the end of the march, we were sitting on the platform because we were getting ready to do a vigil from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. to the next day. And I would see some people that they were ministering, there were some worshipers, there were some dancers, you know, some flags and banners. Banners. I would see some people that they were praying, but their movements were like they were drawing a sword. And that caught my attention. Um, but I just kept that in my mind. But, at that particular event, I saw like, like chariots of angels coming down to the event that we were participating in. And there was a lot of healings, deliverances, in that, um, event. So, I saw angels coming down where we were sitting. And um, my pastor at that time, he came to me and said, um, Hernando, you know, this lady that is over there, this lady is seeing some angels coming down to this place. And I told my pastor, yes pastor, I'm seeing the same angels that are coming down. And they were like, actually, there were like chariots of horses coming down like something like a large, you know, type of experience, you know, coming down onto the place that we were. So, after the event, three days later, we were at the hotel getting ready to come back here to the States. And, uh, I was just, you know, laying in my bed and all of a sudden, I was awake, this was a vision. I was awake and I saw an angel to my right. And this angel was like a warrior, like, he had the armor of God. And he had the armor of God and he had a sword and he was all like, golden angel, the color of gold and very shiny.

So, he stood right next to me and he had this sword on the left hand. And he was, actually he was like pointing at me with the sword. And I asked him three times, did Jesus come in the flesh or come in the spirit? And the angel stood right there listening. And I realized that he wanted to give me the sword. And when I took the sword, I felt a very powerful anointing come in my life. And then I realized that all these people that I saw at the event, they draw swords. I believe that they probably had the same anointing that I had, you know, and for some reason they were like using this sword. So sometimes when a minister deliverance, it is kind of, you know, maybe for some people won't understand this, but I use the sword, you know. [00:13:12][324.3]

Fez: [00:13:13] So, this sword is a spiritual sword. And it's used in spiritual warfare against the enemy you're talking about, right? [00:13:19][6.6]

Hernando: [00:13:20] Yes. Correct. [00:13:21][0.7]

Fez: [00:13:22] But the angel didn't actually say anything to you. You just felt in your spirit that that's what it was. [00:13:27][4.5]

Hernando: [00:13:28] Yes. Yes. When I took the sword, the angel went away. [00:13:31][3.1]

Fez: [00:13:32] By the way, what do angels look like? [00:13:33][1.2]

Hernando: [00:13:35] Well, you know, that particular angel looked like a warrior, you know, dressed like a warrior with the armor of God, that particular angel, but one angel that I saw in Bogota, Colombia, when I traveled to minister at this church, I was ministering to the Bible school teachers and they took me to another room. And this was very beau-

tiful, this experience that I had. I started ministering the word knowledge and discernment and word of wisdom. And when I started out approaching, to pray for people, all of a sudden, there was an angel behind me. And every time I pray for people, this angel had wings, two wings. And he will come and extend the wings towards the people that I was praying for. And he would cover us with the wings and there were many supernatural things that started happening at that moment that I would pray for people. [00:13:35][0.0]

[795.7]

Real Ouija Board Story From London (Nicole King)

Fez: [00:00:10] Have you been plagued by Quija spirits? Have you played with the Ouija board? Have you come in contact with spiritual beings, third dimensional beings? You're not sure what they are. You think they're ghosts, You think they're dead relatives. If that describe something that you've experienced, you're going to want to hear our next guest here on the show. Her name is Nicole King. She used to mess around with the Ouija board, used to dabble in the Ouija board, the occultism that is the Ouija board. And she joins us on this show to talk about her experiences. Now, she actually had a positive end result when she found the solution, which is Jesus, to this whole problem. So, it's my pleasure to welcome Nicole King on the show. [00:00:52][41.7]

Nicole: [00:00:53] Hi, there. [00:00:53][0.3]

Fez: [00:00:55] Nicole, how's it going? [00:00:56][0.5]

Nicole: [00:00:56] I'm really well, thank you. It's good to speak to you. [00:00:59][2.2]

Fez: [00:00:59] So, first of all, the Ouija board movie came out in October, I believe, of last year. And I don't know if, I think it might have been popular, I don't know what it got on Rotten Tomatoes, but I know people went to see it. Do you think that the makers of them were using it to entice people to try out the Ouija board, or do you think it was used more, more as a way to say, no, this is not what you should be doing? [00:01:37]/[37.1]

Nicole: [00:01:38] Well, it kind of depends on your views of Hollywood as a whole, but my guess, my belief would be, actually, now that you've asked the question, is to absolutely entice people into doing it, but they're kind of positioning it in a way that is pretty harmless unless you do, you know, there's kind of do's and don'ts weaved into the story. And I've only kind of watched the trailer and I literally only found out about the film a few weeks ago. So, I don't know where people are in the US of it, but I literally found out by accident, and that's what motivated me to start telling my story. [00:02:18]/[39.9]

Fez: [00:02:19] Now, we should mention that you're calling in from England. [00:02:21]/[2.0]

Nicole: [00:02:22] Yes, From London. [00:02:23]/[0.6]

Fez: [00:02:25] Amazing. The wonders of the Internet. So, the Ouija board movie. Of course, I didn't see it myself. I'm just wondering. You actually e-mailed me. I think we should say this. You e-mailed me saying that your story had to do with the Ouija board and you were very concerned about the movie that just came out. And you were wondering, were there many young people watching this movie and then going to buy a Ouija board in the store and try this out

and expose themselves to occult and demonic experiences as a result? And you were very concerned. [00:03:00]/[34.3]

Nicole: [00:03:01] I was and I am very concerned as a whole because if you go onto YouTube and you look at, well, any clip really, back to the trailer, and if you go in the back of the clips, you can actually look at the statistics of YouTube. So, the viewing rates for that month and if you look at their trailer, the film was released in October and the views around that time on Ouija board related videos, there's a massive spike from October onwards and lots of kids talking about it and lots of kids posting on the trailer website. And it just tells me that it has absolutely caught the imagination of a new generation. And it might have captured young people who'd never heard of the board before the film came out. [00:03:52]/[50.8]

Fez: [00:03:52] Right, but there are different types of videos on YouTube for the Ouija board. I happened to search 'Ouija board' and I saw certain videos like Top five Scariest Ouija board Experiences Gone Wrong type videos. So, I saw those and I thought those were good. And I went in the comments section and I saw a lot of Christians and others saying, don't do this because this will allow demonic things. I was very happy to see that there are people warning others out there about the Ouija board, but I guess there are other videos and such that do the opposite. [00:04:27]/[34.7]

Nicole: [00:04:28] Yeah. Yeah. I mean, it's a real mixed bag, but there are lot of paranormal investigators or ghost hunters, whatever you want to call them, who are kind of making a bit of a career out of what they're doing and are, kind of, using YouTube as a channel and a platform to to

show their wares and kind of boast and engage people. So, on those ones, well, this is where I started posting and just kind of sharing my views, but trying to do it in a sensitive way. You know, being a Christian, you want to do everything out of love. But, those places on those pages, particularly where you're going to get the, you know, the very extreme atheists or the curious or the people who are you've got the trolls, obviously. But then those people who are looking for conflict on there and like a quite heated debate about the subject and they're probably the most useful places to actually reach people and just sow the seeds really. [00:05:29]/[60.5]

Fez: [00:05:29] Yeah, I think that you get all kinds. I like the debate myself. I enjoy it because you get to talk to people who you have no idea who they are. You just know that you have this common interest and you can reach people. I also happened to see on the Nerdist podcast, there was an article about the Ouija board being something that can be explained via science. What they were trying to say that when people hold the little triangle thing, I even know what it's called, and that moves on the board there. [00:06:01]/[31.6]

Nicole: [00:06:01] The planchette. [00:06:02]/[1.0]

Fez: [00:06:03] Yeah. Yeah. That it's something that you're doing with your mind and it has nothing to do with spiritism or anything like that. I mean, as somebody who did the Ouija board, what's your response to those types of people? [00:06:15]/[12.0]

Nicole: [00:06:17] Well, the ideomotor effect theory has been around for at least a couple of years, and I don't

know who started it, but I absolutely love it because they love to pitch us all as a crazy bunch who, you know, just don't have any better things to do with our time. And it's just another scientific label for something supernatural that we just can't explain or understand. And what you tend to find are these people who like the scientific explanation, are people that have never, ever seen anything supernatural, so I do understand with people. It's very difficult to get your head around if you've not seen anything outside the natural world view. But, at the end of the day, the ideomotor effect, or whatever you want to call it, is just another lie of the devil. It's just another thing that's planted in our minds to make us feel as if we can use our logic and reasoning to explain these things away. In one of the comments, I've responded to people if they do bring it up is, I tend to say, look, I can just tell you from experience, I've seen it moving on its own. So, that shows you there's a loophole in the theory. [00:07:36]/[78.9]

Fez: [00:07:37] And I was just going to say that the problem is this, the videos themselves, some of them that talk about the Ouija board, they seem like they're made by people who are just looking to get views. I think that they make it on purpose with scary music in the background and they do all these things to try to ramp up the horror movie effects of it, type of thing. And it makes it so that people distrust what they're seeing. Even if there's a video out there that has a great, great appropriate title, you know, beware of the Ouija board gone wrong type videos. They all have those types of aspects to it. So, I think what we should do right now, since, we have the great fortune and opportunity here to talk to you, Nicole King, about your experiences with

the Ouija board and to tell other people your exact experiences in detail as to what happened to you. So, when did this whole Ouija board start for you? [00:08:36]/[59.4]

Nicole: [00:08:38] Years ago, I was with a few friends on a weekend away and these were my kind of really well-educated, my posh friends, as I would call them. And one of them suggested doing it on one of the nights we were away at this cottage and nothing much happened, but I was kind of surprised that these sort of people, that those type of friends, would suggest something like that. So, the seed was planted in my mind that it was okay and it was safe. So, a couple of years later, I was away with my husband and a friend and her husband and we were just bored one night. We'd had a few drinks and I suggested it and straightaway they said, yeah, yeah, let's do it. Not one of us had any sort of caution about the whole thing. We just dived in and just made it, made the board up, just out of paper, and nothing happened for a while. [00:09:32]/[53.4]

Fez: [00:09:32] What did you just put like a yes or no on a piece of paper? [00:09:33]/[1.7]

Nicole: [00:09:34] Yes. [00:09:34]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:09:35] How did you make the little triangle thing? [00:09:36]/[1.3]

Nicole: [00:09:38] We just used the glass. [00:09:38]/[0.6]

Fez: [00:09:39] Okay. [00:09:39]/[0.0]

Nicole: [00:09:40] Upside down glass an um, yes, nothing happened for a while, but then something came through and said it was a Roman soldier. So, straightaway, that kind of caught our attention. And we just know, it was moving

on its own, you just know, you can feel the energy underneath it. And, you know, knowing what I know now, you know, looking back, I think they just want to, whatever they tell you in the beginning, it's going to be kind of glamorous or enticing or interesting because the aim is, they want you to do it again. So, they want that first experience to be, you know, it's just kind of making it a bit more interesting than actually what it really is. And so, we did. We did it again the following weekend and this went on for quite a few weeks. [00:10:32]/[51.4]

Fez: [00:10:33] And was it the same Roman soldier or something different now? [00:10:37]/[3.8]

Nicole: [00:10:37] He came through a couple of times and then another one came through stronger who was, who said he was a young guy who died in a motorbike accident when he was 19 or something and called himself John, or something, and he got quite attached to my friend. And I would say that my friend was probably the most enthusiastic out of the four of us, and something, it felt as if, that spirit I knew that kind of played on her enthusiasm, if you like, that knew she was the most spiritually open and kind of played up to her and complimented her and made her feel like she had the most power and that sort of thing. So, they kind of know your emotions and they'll work on it. And this particular one positioned himself as her spirit guide. So, it didn't take long for her to build on that and then use this spirit in her everyday life and kind of pray to him if she wants, you know, say, for example, she might go to a car park and want a car parking space. She'd pray to her spirit guide to make

something happen. And lo and behold, most of the time it did happen. [00:11:52]/[74.5]

Fez: [00:11:52] Really, give us another example. What do you mean? [00:11:54]/[2.2]

Nicole: [00:11:55] Well, she'd always get the car park space that she wanted or, not big things, but just a day to day life thing, you know, an appointment I want this week. I want that to happen. It would happen. And in the minds of, you know, in our naivete, when things are kind of pleasant and fun and things are going your way, it would never occur to you that what you're doing is wrong. Now, we were all brought up in non-Christian households. My mum, years ago, I remember she went to, there was a little spiritualist church at the end of our road. And I remember going there once or twice, and I went with her. These were the type of small, cute little spiritualist church where there was a platform and you'd get a medium. I don't know what they called them then, up on the stage, and they would speak to the audience and pick people out and give them messages. So, that seed was already planted in my mind as well. [00:12:52]/[57.3]

Fez: [00:12:53] So, you had gone to those years before, it was a pretty common thing for you? [00:12:56]/[3.3]

Nicole: [00:12:57] That was, you know, I'd been there with my mum and I think my sister or a friend, and it was all kind of, you know, nice and sweet. And I even remember, you know, they talked about God. And don't ask me why, but, you know, if you don't know any different, I grew up thinking that spiritualism and the church were two separate thing or supernatural and spiritualism and the church were

things, but they kind of all worked alongside each other. And so, once those things are weaved into a very young age, it kind of feels safe. So our early experiences of using the board were just quite fun, really and light-hearted. We'd get, after a couple of weekends and spirits coming through and they'd kind of try and have a bit of fun and pretend they were someone famous. Like we had one pretend to be Marilyn Monroe and wanting to sing one of the songs she sang in one of the films that she was in, or they might predict a song that was about to come on the radio. That sort of trick. [00:14:11][74.0]

Fez: [00:14:13] So, they were doing nice things, things that you might not think were dangerous. They were pleasant. And you didn't have any negative feelings or thoughts. Did you have any warning signs? Kind of like propping up early on during this time? Or absolutely zero warning signs. [00:14:30][17.8]

Nicole: [00:14:31] No, nothing. So, what they would do is pretend to be guides. They would warn us of situations that might occur. So, I mean, this is one of the crazier ones, but one of the warnings was there was going to be a terror attack where we worked. All three of us worked in the same building, the same tower. And it was quite, quite a lot detail went into this supposed terrorist attack. Living and working in London, you kind of expect that kind of thing. So, it wasn't too out there, but the problem is, when you start being told these things through the spirit realm and you start believing what they're telling you, you go off and you start talking to each other about it, or you might speak to a friend. And then what you don't realize is you're actually building

more power. You're giving them more power to affect and influence your life and and unfortunately, your mind as well, perpetuating it. [00:15:28]/[57.1]

Fez: [00:15:29] This is all communicated to you via the Ouija board, right? [00:15:34]/[5.1]

Nicole: [00:15:35] Yeah. And really, you know, we're humans. We have a thirst for knowledge and the lure of the occult is almost always based on us acquiring knowledge of some sort. Knowledge gives you power. It makes you feel in control of your destiny. This is a, sort of, God given desire. But, Satan knows that. So, he counterfeits God's knowledge and power as the real thing, and he'll feed your thirst for knowledge. [00:16:04]/[29.5]

Fez: [00:16:06] But, not the right kind, of course. [00:16:08]/[1.2]

Nicole: [00:16:08] No, exactly, so as I say, when things are going okay and you're having a bit of fun, there's no concerns about what you're doing. But we got to a point where, I remember, there was a spirit coming through and he started, he or she or it, started to feed us information about what we were or what we were doing in a former life. And in this scenario, the two guys were pitched against each other. They were friends, but then they became arch enemies. And then there was a storyline for us girls as well. And it was just something about that whole scenario that just made me feel really uneasy. Particularly the part about the guys turning against each other. [00:16:56]/[48.1]

Fez: [00:16:58] Mm hmm. [00:16:58]/[0.1]

Nicole: [00:16:59] And that was really where things started to turn. And then the next thing that was concerning

me was the spirit that was coming through that was attaching itself to my friend, was turning against my husband by, you know, abusing him through foul language. I mean, pretty foul language as well. I mean, this was, you know, quite strong, quite strong language that was coming through that that really all four of us thought, no, this is not right. When we don't want to continue. [00:17:31]/[32.1]

Fez: [00:17:32] I don't understand how it could direct that language toward her husband just by the Ouija board. How did he do that? [00:17:38]/[6.3]

Nicole: [00:17:40] Well, he would spell his name right and then spell out expletives towards him. [00:17:46]/[5.8]

Fez: [00:17:53] *I see.* And what did he do in response? I mean, was he uneasy about it? [00:17:58]/[5.1]

Nicole: [00:18:00] I got to explain something about him. When we did it a few times, he would go into like a trance-like state. And at first, I thought it was because we'd had a few drinks and we laughed about it and we called him the gate. But actually, there was something. Something was kind of taking him over. And we just didn't realize. We just didn't know what was happening, really. But as I say, when the spirits started getting a bit abusive, that's when we decided to stop. And actually, he was the one who said, that's it. Now, I don't want to do it again. And I was glad really, I was kind of relieved. I didn't want to do it anymore. And it just took for someone to say, so we didn't continue. But, that wasn't obviously the end of it. It was when we decided to turn away from it is when the problem started. [00:18:48]/[48.4]

Fez: [00:18:50] Okay. [00:18:50]/[0.0]

Nicole: [00:18:51] The first thing that happened was there was a family rift. Now, if you know my family, this is really unusual because we were all so close. But, this problem came out of nowhere and it was just a silly, throwaway comment. It caused a misunderstanding. It was all very, very confusing. And that led to me, my two sisters. And there was a bit of a rift between my older sister and me. And we didn't see each other probably for about five years after that. And so, that affected my friends as well. [00:19:29]/[37.4]

Fez: [00:19:29] So, you attribute that directly to the Ouija board experiences? [00:19:32]/[3.0]

Nicole: [00:19:34] Yeah, because everything kind of happened at the same time to begin with. And just to explain, sort of, our background, I mean, we always had really good jobs. We were in our early thirties at the time. My husband, my friend's husband had a really good, thriving business and we were all really healthy, we were all, kind of, fitness fanatics. We had great holidays, we were well traveled and, you know, nice gym membership, nice cars, nice homes, you know, we were just generally doing well in life. And I would say, after this experience, just everything did a massive U-turn. I mean, my friend's husband's business, his clients and his purchases and business just dried up overnight. Literally dried up overnight. And he found himself just a few months later sort of scratching around for work, scratching around for an income. And my husband lost his job just suddenly. He was running into conflict at work, which was really unusual. And management started turning against him and just things that were totally out of character for people around you. The biggest, the most profound one, I think,

to start with was when I spoke about the scenario that the spirits were talking about in a former life you were this and talking about the guys pitted against each other. As the story goes, my friend was a prostitute in a former life and she come from a very poor family. So, apparently she had to sell her body to, you know, have an income for her family and because they were so poor and because they didn't have very good diet and a very good lifestyle, she actually contracted pleurisy. And she thought it was a bit amusing at the time. [00:21:35][121.4]

Fez: [00:21:36] Wait a minute. I'm lost a little bit. So you're saying this is what they were telling you in a past life, this is what the spirit was telling you your friend experienced? [00:21:45][9.5]

Nicole: [00:21:46] Yeah, so hundred years ago, she was in poverty and she was trying to support her family and to enable her to support her family, she was a prostitute. [00:21:57][10.4]

Fez: [00:21:58] Okay. [00:21:58][0.0]

Nicole: [00:21:59] So, she was prostituting herself and she wasn't looking after herself. She wasn't eating very well. And apparently she got pleurisy, which is, I'd never heard of pleurisy, but apparently it's something to do with the lungs. [00:22:13][13.7]

Fez: [00:22:14] I've never heard the word myself. I'm glad to be educated about that. [00:22:18][4.4]

Nicole: [00:22:19] I think it's something like a flu, a very serious flu, like pneumonia, but it's fluid on the lungs. Anyway, none of us had ever heard of it, so we didn't really

give it a second thought. And about three or four months later, she got pleurisy. [00:22:33]/[14.2]

Fez: [00:22:35] What? Really? That's kind of spooky right there. [00:22:42]/[7.7]

Nicole: [00:22:43] Oh, yeah. [00:22:43]/[0.2]

Fez: [00:22:43] That's the first time something you said seemed spooky. [00:22:48]/[4.8]

Nicole: [00:22:49] Well, you know, it is easy for other people out and there's going to be so many people listening to some of these facts and thinking, well, you know, people lose their jobs and businesses dry up and you can put that down to life being very challenging at times. But, you know, I'm just telling you the tip of the iceberg. But, the only thing was probably, as I say, the most profound, because we'd never heard of the illness, it's very uncommon these days. And to actually contract, a very healthy woman, in the middle of summer to contract something that we'd never heard of, that had kind of been predicted was, you know, it's like, wow, this is serious. [00:23:30]/[41.2]

Fez: [00:23:31] That does sound serious. And I was going to say, the spiritual repercussions of what was going on at the time. We can really speculate about what those were, but we know that, um, there is a spirit realm and these things can be, uh, I guess you could say, transmitted, I don't even know what this is, this stuff is like very, very spiritual stuff. But, I think it is real, so. [00:23:58]/[27.3]

Nicole: [00:23:59] And the end of that particular section is about three months later, her daughter got pleurisy as well. So, and they say that, you know, spiritually you can transfer spirits from one to another. And, you know, we

thought it was crazy at the time. But, you know, knowing what I've learned about the spiritual realm and, you know, demonic spirits moving from one person to another, it kind of explains what happened there. [00:24:26]/[26.3]

Fez: [00:24:26] It's also generational sin type of thing, it sounds like. It's down the family line type of thing, you know, sins of the father passed down from generation to generation. And also, I was going to say, um, if you speak this over yourself, if you have the thought that, yes, I have such and such disease and you speak that out loud, even in your mind, I think you do allow some door to crack open in your life. [00:24:53]/[26.3]

Nicole: [00:24:54] Yes. [00:24:54]/[0.5]

Fez: [00:24:55] But, anyway. [00:24:56]/[0.4]

Nicole: [00:24:57] So, the marriage problems started. There were sort of cracks in our marriages that we didn't have before. There were, a sort of, conflict rising up where there wasn't any before. It was just unexplainable and, you know, things that were happening that just you couldn't explain. They would rise out of nowhere and you'd kind of you just kind of know when you're under oppression. You just know, it's just everything feels different and it feels like you have this sort of sense of impending doom about everything. So, no matter what opportunities come your way, be it chance of a new job or the house that you wanted or a chance to make, you know, get a pay increase, you just know it's not going to happen. And we were already positive people before. So, it's not a kind of an attitude or thing. It's just that sense of anxiety and fear that nothing's going right. Nothing will go right. You know, what's going on and everything is very stressful.

You can't relax. You, your sleep patterns start to get affected and then these, kind of, relationship problems. I mean, you had the saying divide and conquer. Well, never were truer words said. When you're under spiritual oppression because that's really demonic spirits, it's one of their biggest strategies is to cause conflict within relationships within marriages and within family units, particularly. The financial problems start. And obviously that causes stress as well. I mean, finances just started ebbing away, you know, for one reason or another. We were used to having two incomes and partly because I was on maternity with a new baby, I was then off work anyway, but my partner lost his job and just couldn't get his career back on track. So, we were in a situation where we didn't have any income, a new baby and a huge mortgage. And you know, the stress that comes with that is just, you know, it's just incredible. [00:27:10]/[132.7]

Fez: [00:27:10] That's phenomenal stress, yeah. [00:27:11]/[0.9]

Nicole: [00:27:13] And there was a situation where my friend and her husband, they'd had like this ten year dream to move down to the coast and they were thinking about doing it when they were older. But they, they said to us, look, we've decided to bring that forward and we're going to put the house up for sale. We're going to move down to the coast and just do it a bit earlier than we expected to do. But we're going to take a week away and start planning everything when we come back. So they went on a week's holiday and the day they came back, they tried to open the front door and the front door was just stuck. They couldn't move it. They couldn't work out what was going on. Eventually,

they got a surveyor around that had a look at the house and the house had subsided on one side. And obviously, one of the first things he said is you can't put this house up for sale. [00:28:03][50.1]

Fez: [00:28:05] You mean it was sinking down on one side? [00:28:07][2.3]

Nicole: [00:28:08] Yeah, completely sunk on the left hand side. So, that means you've got to go back to the insurance company and try and work out your policy and kind of find a solution to it. Obviously, the first obstacle was you can't put your house up for sale. So, it's like the conversation that they'd had the week previous. This big plan all kind of rested on them selling this house. And yeah, a week later they find that actually they're stuck with a major problem. And if anyone's suffered with a subsidence, you know that that problem goes on for years before it gets resolved. [00:28:41][33.0]

Fez: [00:28:42] Wow, that's pretty serious. [00:28:42][0.3]

Nicole: [00:28:43] So, they never did move down to the coast. [00:28:44][1.5]

Fez: [00:28:45] Wow. And, um, did they realize that? At any point during this time, did they think or you think that it was related to the Ouija board? [00:28:57][12.1]

Nicole: [00:28:58] I started getting concerned about it. And at first I was saying, oh, you know, they were saying don't be silly. But then, spiritual things started happening, like the doorbell kept ringing randomly. I mean, they just thought it was a joke after a while. You'd open the front door and there'd be no one there. The dog started behaving really

erratically. This dog would just go crazy for no reason, as if something was tormenting it. [00:29:25]/[26.6]

Fez: [00:29:26] Yeah. Yeah. Those dogs, they have a sense that we don't have dogs. But, anyway. [00:29:30]/[4.6]

Nicole: [00:29:31] But, they had a King Charles spaniel and they're, kind of, small dogs with small brains and yeah, they're young small dogs and they're known for their, for their madness. You know, everyone had an explanation for everything. But, she took him to the doctor, the vet, not the doctor, the vet. And the vets in the end diagnosed him with the dog version of bipolar disorder and had to give him sedatives to calm him down. [00:30:01]/[30.1]

Fez: [00:30:01] Are you kidding me? Oh, boy. I don't trust any doctors or vets because everything is psychological. That's crazy. But, anyway. [00:30:10]/[8.8]

Nicole: [00:30:12] You know, there were car accidents. You know, my friend's husband was going down one of the lanes that we're very familiar with and his truck just suddenly spun out of control. And there was no other car on the road. And he was lucky. He just escaped with a sprained wrist. But, you know, he was just like, what is going on? And once you get this kind of chain of events, just one thing after another, after another after another, and this kind of this sense of darkness comes over your life, I can't explain it. Say, I was the first one to pick up on it, I think. And then and then I, you know, very slowly they came on board and said, yeah, I think we need to get some help. [00:30:55]/[43.1]

Fez: [00:30:57] Wow. So they realized it as well. And you did. And how long after that from the time you started

playing with that Ouija board until all this stuff started happening? [00:31:09][11.9]

Nicole: [00:31:10] Until the activity starts happening? [00:31:12][1.9]

Fez: [00:31:13] Right. Until all this terrible series of unfortunate events here. [00:31:16][3.5]

Nicole: [00:31:17] Oh, yeah. So that all started sort of weeks after we stopped doing it. And then it was probably another six months before I said, okay, I'm going to go to a church. I had a lovely local church, and just thought, well, I didn't even know what I was going to do or say, but I just thought I'd go along there and just see if there was anyone I could speak to. So me and my husband did that and when I got there, there was a woman there and she said to me, Oh, you know, when you first come into a church, nobody knows you. They kind of want to know your background, where you come from and you know what motivated you to go. And so, I had a chat with this woman, and under her arm was a book by Derek Prince called Spiritual Warfare. And she said, I think you're going to need this. So, that was a God incidence, I think, because that book, I got it home. Once I started reading it, I thought, oh, wow, there's something in this. But, I got four or five pages into the book and I just fell asleep. And this is in the middle of the day. [00:32:24][67.3]

Fez: [00:32:25] Wow, you know what? Before you go any further, I know what you mean, because I have had the same thing happen. And this was back like a couple of years ago when I was still involved in all the problems that I was involved in. Whenever I would try to pray, the moment I

would try to pray and stuff, I would get all of a sudden super sleepy and I would actually conk out. [00:32:47]/[21.6]

Nicole: [00:32:48] Yeah, I felt like I'd been drugged. [00:32:49]/[1.3]

Fez: [00:32:50] Yeah. And I think that's exactly it's, um, spiritual. I mean, of course, you know, now that we know what we know, what we understand what it is, but it's just crazy to think that, um, you know, people understand that that stuff is real. [00:33:03]/[13.0]

Nicole: [00:33:04] Well, I mean, I've never been a person to sleep in the day, so I thought it was strange. I didn't, sorry. I didn't think it was strange the first time. But, the second time I did. And then the third day when it happened again, I thought, hang on a minute. I mean, this book is only about 200 pages long. And I'm you know, I'm not a fast reader, but it was getting ridiculous. I couldn't get anywhere with this book. And then I put it on the sofa and I just thought, I'm going to leave it for a moment and I'll come back to it tomorrow. I didn't go back to it the next day. I went back to it a couple of days later and the book completely disappeared. And to this day, I don't know where it is. [00:33:40]/[36.2]

Fez: [00:33:41] They hid it on you. [00:33:42]/[1.0]

Nicole: [00:33:44] So, I had to go on Amazon, order another one. And you know, by then I'm thinking, right, I'm so determined to read this book. This is obviously, you know, something in there. And, you know, just when I read it, everything made sense, just the relief, you know, I'm not going completely crazy. [00:34:07]/[22.6]

Fez: [00:34:09] It made sense, in other words, everything you were reading and I was going to say, it's not you

said not going crazy. Could you imagine how many people who are in insane asylums who believed who believed that all this stuff was actually their brain, whatever, And there's so many people who are demonically, um, I guess you could say oppressed who are in insane asylums. But anyway, that's a side-track. [00:34:33]/[24.0]

Nicole: [00:34:33] Gets you thinking, doesn't it? So, yeah, I managed to get to the end of this book, this, this church that I went to, and I just, I just asked the vicar to come round. So she said, Yeah, yeah, I'll, I'll come and see you. I asked the other three and they came and they were really keen. Obviously my husband was, was on board at the time and she came over, but I didn't, she was very kind of approachable and nice and sweet, but I didn't learn anything from her. She didn't ask us anything about our faith. She didn't talk to us about God. She didn't talk to us about, you know, if we had a relationship with God and she didn't she certainly didn't talk to us about Jesus. She was really more inclined to talk about really what was going on in the village and and just have a bit of a gossip. And then before she left, she said, I'll pray for you. And she said, tonight you'll you'll all sleep like babies. And she said, I'll just go round the house and bless the house with some salt water. Have you got a bowl? Have you got some water? And have you got some salts? I mean, we're all kind of looking at each other like, oh, what is going on? And she did the ceremonial thing around the house. And then she said, I've got some left. I need to throw it onto nature. And I said, I'm sorry, what? And she said, I need to throw it onto nature. So to you and me, that's outside the back door into the garden. [00:35:54]/[80.8]

Fez: [00:35:55] Okay. [00:35:55]/[0.0]

Nicole: [00:35:56] But, I don't know what that was all about. But, funny enough, we did all sleep like babies, so we all checked with each other the next day. And so we thought that was a done deal, because, you know, what she said would happen, happened. And we thought it would be as simple as that. But, of course, you know, you probably know as well as I do, it didn't have any effect because none of us had any faith and none of us had committed ourselves to the Lord. [00:36:25]/[29.3]

Fez: [00:36:26] You didn't get right with God yet. [00:36:31]/[5.2]

Nicole: [00:36:32] And get right with God. No. I mean, I started praying, but I didn't actually realize. [00:36:36]/[4.2]

Fez: [00:36:37] You didn't realize that you were doing anything wrong, right? [00:36:39]/[1.9]

Nicole: [00:36:40] No. You know, I carried on with my lifestyle. And although I'd read that book, I'd said the prayer in the book. But, you know, that book is particularly about spiritual warfare. It doesn't really, from memory, it doesn't give you chapter and verse about how you should be living your life as a Christian and, you know, walking the Christian life. [00:37:05]/[25.7]

Fez: [00:37:06] Right, Right. [00:37:06]/[0.6]

Nicole: [00:37:07] Okay. So, that was something I was to learn later on. So I carried on with my life and saying these prayers every now and then. And I found the armor of God and I liked that one. And, just occasionally went to church. And things just carried on. In fact, things got more chaotic.

So, I asked the vicar to come back, but every time she made a plan with me, she would let me down and she'd send me a message to say, oh, something's holding me back or something stopping me from getting to you. So she never came back and. [00:37:44]/[36.6]

Fez: [00:37:44] Never came back. Not one more time? [00:37:46]/[1.4]

Nicole: [00:37:47] No, she never came back. Something strange was going on there. I think she had problems of her own. So, a year or two went by, and just things got worse and worse. And my other half sort of sunk into a really severe depression, which was very difficult. By the time I went back to the church, a male vicar had taken over, and I had a chat with him on the phone and I just said, look, you know, would you come and see me? And he said, Why? So, I explained to him the background and why I was a bit concerned. And he said to me, have you been to the doctor lately? [00:38:25]/[37.9]

Fez: [00:38:25] No, no, that's not what you want to hear. Oh, man. And this guy's a vicar? Yes. What denomination? [00:38:32]/[7.2]

Nicole: [00:38:34] Church of England. [00:38:35]/[0.4]

Fez: [00:38:35] Okay, so Anglican. [00:38:36]/[0.5]

Nicole: [00:38:37] Anglican, but this particular church love their robes. You know, the whole kind of ceremony robe thing. Like Catholics and they had the whole ceremonial thing that Catholics had. And it confused me because, at the time, I didn't know the difference between a Methodist, Anglican or a whatever, whatever. And yeah. So, after that

phone conversation, I realized I was pretty much on my own with this. And by that time, the other three had kind of lost interest in my musings about what the chaos was and why it was happening. [00:39:11]/[33.8]

Fez: [00:39:12] When you reported to them that you were having success and you slept like babies, they didn't want to try it themselves. [00:39:19]/[7.3]

Nicole: [00:39:20] We slept like babies that particular night. But that, you know, our problems just continued and got worse for all four of us. [00:39:28]/[8.0]

Fez: [00:39:29] Really? [00:39:29]/[0.7]

Nicole: [00:39:31] I mean, there was the relationship thing that was the most profound and that was, that was kind of becoming more and more evident in both couples and eventually I remember in that book and how much I liked the book, I went online and I'm talking about sort of three or maybe four years ago, and I couldn't find the right the other people. In my experience, like, you've got a problem, you've got a spiritual problem, you go into Google, you don't know what to Google. You know, I'm under a curse or prayers to break a curse. Or, is there anyone in London that does exorcism? You know, it's just finding that right sort of search string to find help. [00:40:18]/[47.7]

Fez: [00:40:19] Mm hmm. [00:40:19]/[0.2]

Nicole: [00:40:20] And I'm thinking you're the only one doing it. Had I actually realized the word or thought of the word deliverance. Perhaps we would have got somewhere. But, I think even four years ago, I don't think there was much. There wasn't enough online. But, I did find some really good Derek Prince interviews and, you know, his

teaching. So, I started listening to his sermons. And eventually, I thought, well, I wonder if he's got a website. So, I found the Derek Prince Institute website, and I phoned up, and they've got a lovely panel of people there that just speak to you and give you advice. And they explain that they don't actually send people out to do ministry because they don't have the resources. But, I did speak to a young lady for a couple of hours and she was brilliant. She really put my mind at rest and she said, you know, you are going to struggle to get help from churches. You definitely won't get help from the Catholics. You probably won't get help from the Anglicans, or the Methodists and not the Baptists. And she said, I would just keep knocking on doors until you get someone who understands what you're going through. So that's what I did. [00:41:28]/[68.3]

Fez: [00:41:29] That sounds bleak when you hear something like that. This is 2004, you said? [00:41:34]/[5.4]

Nicole: [00:41:36] No, this is about four or five years ago. [00:41:38]/[2.2]

Fez: [00:41:38] Oh, you said four or five years ago. [00:41:38]/[0.4]

Nicole: [00:41:39] Yeah. [00:41:39]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:41:39] This information has been slowly increasing. And I understand what you're saying about the key words. I mean, you have to know the right keyword combination because this stuff, I mean, we have to like be out there from the perspective of someone who is going through it the first time, because that's going to really help those people to come to know what they should do. But, anyway, I think it's increasing for sure. [00:42:06]/[26.2]

Nicole: [00:42:07] Oh, absolutely. I mean, I've been, obviously, since that time, been looking at stuff online ever since. And I think especially in the last year, there's been an explosion of people using the internet, using YouTube, particularly as a platform to minister to people directly. I mean, who would have thought someone can minister to you through your computer? [00:42:31]/[24.7]

Fez: [00:42:32] It's amazing. It's a blessing. [00:42:33]/[0.9]

Nicole: [00:42:34] Yeah, and Skype, obviously, skype's really powerful. But, unless you know what's happening to you and how you set that apart from your everyday life and work out, actually this is a spiritual problem. It's not an everyday bad luck problem. I mean, it took me a while to actually realize, to actually learn the biggest bombshell for me was that all New age, all New age and occult is of the enemy. So, we either yield to God or we yield to Satan. And there's no in between. [00:43:13]/[38.6]

Fez: [00:43:14] Yeah, I agree. [00:43:15]/[0.6]

Nicole: [00:43:16] And when you think, well, when I particularly thought about, all the times I'd exposed myself to acupuncture, reiki, yoga, meditation over the years, you know, exploring, looking for God. I always believed in God, but exploring different methods of kind of reaching your inner self, your spiritual self, or the higher power or whatever that might be. And when you learn about spiritual warfare, everything fits into place. [00:43:43]/[27.8]

Fez: [00:43:45] Yeah, it does. You're in London, specifically, is it popular to, um, to do yoga? In America, it's extremely popular. Is it popular to do reiki? There's a magazine

out here, Natural Awakenings magazine, and it's a hub for people who do alternative health treatments and they include reiki in there and all the occult stuff. They dress it up like it's very, very innocent. And it's just taking off here. I mean, I can't imagine how many people are getting into that. [00:44:21]/[35.5]

Nicole: [00:44:22] I think, and the interesting thing is, it's more profound when you are around, say, we're working in London, you know, and you've got our careers that we had career in in and it's, you know, in the kind of the professional circles, it's more prevalent. It's that kind of, I'm going off to my gym and then we're going to do some Ashtanga yoga, and then I'm going to go off to see my alternative therapist. I'm going to get some acupuncture. And then the weekend I'm going to go see a life coach, counselor or whatever. You know, we're in a society now where all of that is pretty normal or supposedly normal. It's a normal way of life, right? [00:45:05]/[43.0]

Fez: [00:45:06] Yeah, unfortunately. [00:45:06]/[0.0]

Nicole: [00:45:07] And it's all really a strategy of the enemy to draw us away from God. And once I'd got that kind of I've got that kind of firmly and I understood it, and then it was just a case of, right, well, I just need to find, I just need to be around the right people. And I found a really lovely church who, when I met with the pastor, he just understood straight away. And what they gave me was fellowship and some really solid basic teaching. And they gave me prayer covering. And, you know, it wasn't kind of any big experience or anything, but, you know, the one thing I needed

was prayer covering and support, and that's what they gave me. [00:45:52][46.0]

Fez: [00:45:53] That's huge. That's very important. [00:45:54][1.2]

Nicole: [00:45:55] Yeah. [00:45:55][0.0]

Fez: [00:45:56] People don't understand. So, what kind of church was this? [00:45:59][3.0]

Speaker 3: [00:46:00] It's a community church. So, they're a charismatic community church, very free, but just very approachable, lovely, lovely group of people. There's only 40 people in the congregation. [00:46:13][12.8]

Fez: [00:46:14] Yeah. Smaller churches tend to be tongues. Tongues speaking. [00:46:17][2.6]

Nicole: [00:46:18] Yep. Yeah, absolutely. [00:46:18][0.8]

Fez: [00:46:19] I love my tongue speaking Christians. [00:46:20][1.1]

Speaker 3: [00:46:22] And then after about six months, I asked my pastor if I could be baptized and he agreed. I got very interested in deliverance and I got interested into started learning about spiritual warfare. And I think that's only natural for people that have been on that on the other side and seen kind of since the, really, Satan is real, you know, that evil is there. Okay, so we've got that. So there must be a God and you piece it all together. And then you realize, Oh, there's two kingdoms. Okay, so you start taking it seriously. And you know, I'd start, I had a thirst for knowledge, so obviously I was reading God's Word, but I had a time where I was interested in, you know, how people get delivered. And I thought, well, perhaps, you know, at some point, hopefully I

can find someone who can give me some deliverance or pray over me. And then I, I met a friend who's an ex pastor who was an expert or had spent a lot of years in deliverance ministry. And I learned a lot from his stories and talking to him. And about a week before I was baptized, I've got a young son and he took me aside and said that he'd started seeing spirits and that they were entering his body. [00:47:43][80.6]

Fez: [00:47:44] Really? How old was your son at the time? [00:47:47][2.9]

Nicole: [00:47:48] He was seven at the time. [00:47:50][1.8]

Fez: [00:47:51] Wow. And did you think he was scared? [00:47:52][1.6]

Fez: [00:47:54] He was obviously very concerned about it. He wasn't scared, but he was just concerned because he didn't understand that, I think, at the time, meeting that friend and talking about, you know, more deeper issues of the spiritual realm and and the issues of people being oppressed or possessed, you know, that whole kind of deliverance thing, gave me some groundwork for dealing with the situation that was upcoming with my son, me thinking I'm the one he's kind of going to need some ministry. And so, I had this revelation from my son that he was experiencing these spiritual attacks. I just sat him down, quickly, led him through salvation prayer, and tried to explain to him as best I could what was going on. And I just told him to command them to go in Jesus name. [00:48:46][52.5]

Fez: [00:48:48] There you go. [00:48:48][0.3]

Nicole: [00:48:49] And he did. He did. It went on for a couple of months after that. It was a bit of a crazy time. It was

a bit of a battle between them and us. And they would enter his body to start with, even after he said the salvation Prayer, they were able to enter his body for a time. And their main aim really was to torment me. But, they wanted to obviously rattle him as well, because obviously they would affect me by harming him, of course. [00:49:22]/[32.7]

Fez: [00:49:24] Well, I just want to say there is that time. In my case, it was the same, one I started to realize these things. There's like a learning curve time where it's like high intensity spiritual warfare for a few months right after that, and then it dies off a little bit. [00:49:41]/[16.7]

Nicole: [00:49:41] Yes. [00:49:41]/[0.0]

Fez: [00:49:42] And so I think that's pretty common. [00:49:43]/[1.6]

Nicole: [00:49:45] Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I don't want to give him too much glory out of this, but yeah, that's exactly what happened. It was really intense. And there was times when I was praying with him and he was, I couldn't see what he could see, but whatever I was saying, he was telling me what effect it was having on the spirit, so he could see what was happening. And then he would tell me. And then, when it was quite intense, I commanded to tell it to go sometimes wouldn't be enough. And maybe that was because I hadn't built up enough faith. And so, I got to learn certain commands that worked. I had to learn some scripture really quickly and certain scripture I would say he would tell me that that was tormenting it or, it would, you know, something like Revelation 20 was particularly effective. And things like, he would try and pull away from me so that I couldn't look into his eyes like he would go and grab a pair

of sunglasses or something. Because if I looked into his eyes for too long, the spirit couldn't stay for very long. It couldn't. It wasn't able to sustain it. [00:50:54][69.6]

Fez: [00:50:56] Okay. Wow. And the Bible talks about how the eyes are the window of the soul and. And, um, you know, your eye, I think, verses something like if there's darkness inside you, how great is that darkness? Something like that. [00:51:09][13.8]

Nicole: [00:51:10] Yeah. And there were, you know, other crazy things that happened. But, it was just because it was my son. I didn't know. Not because it was my son. Partly because my son. But I do believe that God was giving me plenty of covering because I didn't have any fear at all. And I actually said to it one day, I'm not scared of you. And he said, I know. And that was the beginning of the end. You know, it started to taper off after that. So, it got to a point where they couldn't enter his body, but they could just come and talk to him. Then after a while, they couldn't come to talk to him very close. They could talk to him from a distance. And then, until eventually, they were trying to send him messages, but they couldn't come near him. You know, it was interesting. [00:51:59][48.8]

Fez: [00:52:00] That is interesting. That's very interesting. And does he recall or remember any of this now? [00:52:05][5.2]

Nicole: [00:52:05] Oh, yeah, yeah, Yeah, he does. Yeah. Those would be interesting conversations when he's older. But, you know, we try not to talk about it now, but it was just a case of him building his own faith and knowing the power of the name of Jesus Christ. Because once he understood it

and once he believed it, those things didn't they didn't stand a chance. [00:52:27][21.2]

Fez: [00:52:28] Yeah and we should say that fear is a spirit. I think people don't get that. Fear is a spirit. It's not of God. It's we're not meant to, it says it right in the Bible, it says power, sound, love, mind. That's all that God gives us and not the spirit of fear. Um, yeah. So. [00:52:44][16.8]

Nicole: [00:52:45] *Yeah.* Once he told it, it was very powerful. It was more powerful him saying it than me. And they say the, you know, the heart and faith of a child is, is so pure. And he called me one day from his grandparents and said, he's here. And he was very calm. And I said, well, tell him to go then. And he said, okay. And I heard him say, I command you to leave in the name of Jesus Christ. And then he got back on the phone and said, okay, he's gone now. [00:53:15][29.8]

Fez: [00:53:18] That's great. The power in the name of Jesus is so real and so amazing. [00:53:21][3.4]

Nicole: [00:53:22] Yeah. I mean, and also the strategy was to rattle us and intimidate us. You know, the opposite happened. It just gave our faith a really big boost. You know? You know, when you are an early Christian for such a short time and you experience all these things, it's going to have a profound effect on you. And that made me realize I understood then when people were saying, you know. Satan's biggest, most successful lie is to deceive you into thinking he doesn't exist. I didn't understand that, but now I do. Obviously, if you come face to face with Satan, what are you going to do? You're going to go running straight into the nearest church. [00:54:04][41.5]

Fez: [00:54:05] Right, yeah. [00:54:06]/[0.4]

Nicole: [00:54:06] So he doesn't want you to know he exists. [00:54:08]/[1.6]

Fez: [00:54:09] That's true. That's a good point. Yeah. He uses all these different facades, fronts to try to convince us that it's spirit guides or whatever or what have you. So, with the Ouija board situation, um, and you were getting deliverance yourself and your son was going through these things. Um, what was going on with you? Did you start to see or feel a decreasing amount of these types of negative, demonic, dark experiences? [00:54:46]/[37.1]

Nicole: [00:54:47] Yes. Yeah. Our home started to feel much brighter and just peaceful everyday, you know, just. It takes time. But, um, I didn't. I mean, I'm lucky. I think. I never really had any sort of, uh, regular sense there was something around me, you know. I never saw anything myself. But the important thing to me was that our home was peaceful and a safe haven. And I just felt that, over the months that it felt just warm and welcoming and just, you know, just peaceful, really. [00:55:23]/[36.0]

Fez: [00:55:25] Wow. [00:55:25]/[0.0]

Nicole: [00:55:26] And I just felt more peace in myself. And even though I was certainly not out of the woods and I'm still not out of the woods now, but I just had a better perspective on life that, you know, God's got his hand on us and we're going to be fine. You know, whatever happens, he's there and he'll protect us. [00:55:43]/[16.9]

Fez: [00:55:44] What do you mean by you're not out of the woods yet? [00:55:45]/[0.6]

Nicole: [00:55:48] Um, well, unfortunately, me and my partner split up me and my husband split up, and I found out I wasn't very well, but I've got quite an obscure sickness that I'm struggling to get help with. And it's meant that I had to leave my job. So, not being able to support my son properly. You know, this is just everything's kind of it's a continual sort of challenge. And it's already been quite a few years since we had that experience. But, you know, if we'd have found help earlier on, if we'd have found the right people and somebody who understood what we were going through, you know, we could have saved a lot of loss. You know, we both got divorced, both couples got divorced. And all four of us are now single and really haven't really got back on to a level anywhere near what we were before. [00:56:47][59.0]

Fez: [00:56:48] Wow. Isn't that something? [00:56:50][2.2]

Nicole: [00:56:51] Hmm. [00:56:51][0.0]

Fez: [00:56:52] Well, listeners out there, Nicole needs prayer. And, um, if you would be so good to give her those prayers and just to lift her up. And I'm going to be praying for you as well Nicole because we could all use more prayer. I mean, we all need prayer. I mean, those of us who know what we know, we do get, I think, targeted and I've talked about this. I think we do get targeted, um, specifically because I've had Christians come on the show and tell me that, you know, it's never that you don't have zero types of these types of things happening to you. It becomes like a spiritual warfare all the time. And, um, you know, that's why I talk about the need for self deliverance and the knowledge of these things in the church because I myself have experienced

more peace, thank God, than I've ever experienced in my life. Now that I have gone through these things that I've been through and now that I, that I do, and as a continual maintenance, all these things just I do the speaking in tongues. And I think that's been a huge, huge help. [00:58:01]/[69.1]

Nicole: [00:58:02] And I think it's a daily battle. It's something, we should never get complacent and think that we shouldn't go a day without praying about it. Well, I don't anyway. It's no to say people out there should be alarmed in any way. If there are people out there who have thought about doing a Ouija board, are curious or if you've done it already, you know, don't fear because, you know, God is all powerful and he will protect you. You just need to reach out to him. You know, he's always there. But, you just need to turn away from all of that, you know, completely turn away from New Age. It's not just the board. It's not just occult toys. It's everything. You know, meditation. Yoga. Alternative therapies. [00:58:51]/[49.5]

Fez: [00:58:53] That's right. There's so many deceptions out there. That's for sure. [00:58:56]/[2.9]

Nicole: [00:58:56] Yeah. I think you need to sort of think about the things you're viewing as well, online, in the movies, video games. I mean, there's a video game just about to be released this week, I think, in the U.K. called Weeja: Get out of hell. And in some shops, they're actually selling it with a free Ouija board. Isn't that crazy? [00:59:21]/[24.4]

Fez: [00:59:22] That is crazy. You might come to think. Hmm. What are they trying to do? What is going on here? I mean, there is a very, very clear spiritual battle going on, and it's becoming more clear by the day. [00:59:34]/[12.4]

Nicole: [00:59:36] Yeah, and have you seen, I don't know if any of your viewers have spoken to you about, or had a discussion about the Kesha video. [00:59:42][6.4]

Fez: [00:59:44] How? What? Which video? [00:59:45][1.6]

Nicole: [00:59:46] So, I overheard my son singing the chorus to her song the other day, which was we're going to party like we'll die when we're young or something. We're going to die young? We're going to die young. Yeah. [00:59:59][12.8]

Fez: [00:59:59] Yeah, something like that. [01:00:00][0.8]

Nicole: [01:00:00] I was like, what are you singing? And when he showed me the video, well, I nearly fell off my chair because it's. It's basically a satanic ritual. [01:00:10][9.4]

Fez: [01:00:11] Yes. [01:00:11][0.0]

Nicole: [01:00:12] With a massive pentagram at the back of the room. [01:00:14][1.9]

Fez: [01:00:14] Oh, yeah. It's. It's very clear. It's very obvious. And I think it's God's grace that showing us these things, information shall increase. That's what the Bible says. And it's increasing. We're seeing more. And, you know, you talk about YouTube sharing this information like gangbusters. It's really growing. And there's going to be a breaking point, I believe, where this goes mainstream and you start to see this information really get out. But, we haven't, I feel like we're almost getting there. [01:00:51][37.0]

Nicole: [01:00:52] Well, yes, it's, you know, a massive battle and more people are getting curious about trying the

occult, there's people like us fighting to get the knowledge out there, get the truth out there. So, it's just like a race. We're in a race, you know, and it's you got to act fast. And I, I kind of feel a bit guilty, actually. I should have started sharing my story earlier. But, you know, I think 2014 in particular, there was a massive shift in occultic activity in the media and entertainment. I don't know about you, but I just think that it just soared. [01:01:28]/[36.2]

Fez : [01:01:29] Yeah, I think so too. I started doing stuff in 2013, 2012, like late 2012. So, I mean, I've only been following stuff for a couple of years, but in that time, it's grown by leaps and bounds and there's more and more examples of it, especially in the music video, especially in pop culture and movies. *But*, Nicole King, thank you for sharing on the show. You have a Facebook page, Nicole King. [01:04:02]/[7.2]

Nicole: [01:04:03] Yes, I do. Yeah. I've just started. There's not much on there yet, but my aim is to just kind of kind of I've already connected with quite a few people like Laura maxwell, and I know people who've got connections in the community of, you know, knowing these experiences or having been involved in themselves and then found Christ and just sharing experiences, really. And I'm just going to see where it takes me. There's no major plan. But yeah, it's up there now. [01:04:32]/[29.0]

Fez: [01:04:34] Praise God, That's awesome. I mean, that's all you gotta' to do is just follow the Lord. We have the Lord and we know that the Lord is more powerful. But, Nicole King, thank you so much. By the way, before we close out, do you think you could pray for those out there who

maybe have gotten involved in the Ouija board or some other occult magic? [01:04:52]/[18.8]

Nicole: [01:04:54] Yes, sure. Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I want to reach out to all the listeners out there who might have been involved in any occult practices. And, Father, I just pray that you give them wisdom and your knowledge and send in your perfect laborers and, you know, just take their fears and anxieties away that show them that your glory and your power and might and just put your blessings out to these people and just draw them close. Father, you are all powerful and we just thank you for your grace and your mercy. And we just thank you for your enduring love. And we praise and honor you, Father, and give you all the glory in Jesus Holy name. [01:05:40]/[46.0]

Fez: [01:05:41] Amen and we pray, Lord Jesus, that Nicole just receives that vibrant health that she had before. And we pray that anything in her life that's trying to stop her from being where she needs to be, Lord God, just open those doors of opportunity for her and her family. We pray these things in Jesus name. [01:06:01]/[20.9]

Nicole: [01:06:02] Amen. [01:06:02]/[0.0]

About the Author

Fez Garcia Media / FezGarcia.com is a Christian podcast and blog focused on physical and spiritual fitness and other health-related news and topics.

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