

DISCERN & LEARN

GOD'S WAYS

**A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO DISCERNING
THE VOICE OF GOD**

BY FRANK E. HENRICH

PROLOGUE

**The purpose of this book is to help equip you to minister
in the Spirit of God through the guidance of God's voice.**

To start our conversation, let me tell you a true story about a friend of mine, Brian Ralston, who is a blind Christian teacher. In a Sunday sermon, he told us about the difficulty of learning to trust his guide dog, especially when walking at a normal speed. He said, "My dog will nudge me to move right or left to avoid poles and other dangers." Brian described an event when one day he decided not to move to the right as the dog urged but rather went to the left. Then wham, his forehead hit an overhanging tree branch.

Brian compared his blindness and inability to see danger, to the Christian believer, with God as his guide, failing to fend off the dangers that lie ahead unseen. The believer needs to take seriously the nudges of the Spirit in order to walk in the Spirit safely. Yes, we as believers need to trust the Holy Spirit, whom we cannot see, to guide us. This is not an easy task. First, we have to become aware of His nudges, of the dangers He warns us about. Second, we need to take action. The purpose of this book is to help equip you in this task, for the spiritual walk in God is not an easy path to follow.

When we have walked in the Holy Spirit for some time, it is easy to become conceited and feel we don't need nudges from God. We think we can walk, at least partly, in our own power. It is then that we fall and need to plead to God, "forgive us." The best way to handle this danger of becoming conceited is to always give God the praise for all things. Live in the shadow of His greatness and avoid spiritual pride.

I wish I could tell you that the spiritual life becomes easier with the passage of time, as each day, each year, each 20 years passes, but it has not been so for me. Even if the road were not easy, would I travel it again? Oh yes! Our human nature and Satan's efforts of trying to draw us away from God, remain with us. This is explained so well in the Scripture in Galatians 5:15-17 where Paul says:

"So say I, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions." (NLV)

We retain the free will that can choose evil or good, so let us choose to follow the Spirit's leading, his nudges, his inward voice - and walk in the spiritual walk that God has planned for us.

When we so walk, we live a transparent life that beams hope to others and brings peace to our souls.

TRANSPARENCY

By Frank E. Henrich March 11, 2007

Note: in this poem "Love" is God.

*Love says to me; "Be transparent for Me,
Live a life in My transparency
For with this style, you are My witness,
My glow will sparkle from you."*

*From me, "Oh! I wish I could,
But how could I survive?
Don't you see; my sins I must hide.
Let others see, Oh, No!
My human nature says: hide in my house,
Hide in my clothes and speech."*

Love says, "Know you not, on the cross before all,

**I was naked, whipped and left to die,
How transparent is that? Can you not be
As transparent as I?
Remember it is My spiritual nature that will glow,
Not your human nature."**

***From me, "Oh, show me the way to sparkle,
A transparent beacon for you to others."***

PREFACE

This book gives instruction on how to listen for God's still, inward voice, so you can be directed into a ministry for Him amidst lost or discouraged souls. This book consists of three parts. Part One acquaints you with the author. Part Two is a textual* approach to the subject. (**Biblical texts on the Topic.*) In Part Three, the subject is verified through examples drawn from my own life. Rest assured, this book would not find its way to your hands if God did not want you read it and gain from its insights. For I always try to follow God's wishes, as I am a servant of the most high through the redeeming power of His only Son, Jesus. God could have stopped me cold from writing this if He so desired. So let us praise Him and thank Him for his mercy to us. In preparing this manuscript my mind was flooded with so many memories. This book contains just a few of these golden moments in my life.

I understand that you seek a ministry where you are to be the hands, voice, and presence of God to your fellow man. You will need to obtain direction. This direction is obtained by discerning the voice of God. The intent of this book is to assist you to discern God's still, inward voice while you walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25. *"¹⁶I (Paul) say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."* NKJV

In the above Scripture, Paul instructs us to walk in the Spirit. In order to walk in the Spirit, we need to discern the Spirit of God, both in the Holy Bible and the everyday use

of the Holy Spirit gifts that empower and direct our ministries.

For me this book was a humbling experience, as the praising of God for His love and direction was created in me. This is expressed in the next poem:

THE PRAYER OF A CHRISTIAN WRITER

By Frank E. Henrich April 2, 2006

There are thousands of persons, who can write,
About God's wonders, better than I can,
But does the Holy Spirit,
Permeate their words?

It is not so much what they say
But when the Holy Spirit leaps
From the words to the spirit,
Yes, to the soul of another person
To prick, touch, smooth and heal
To awaken them to the realness of God.

**Oh Holy Spirit! My prayer is not
 That I write the finest manuscripts
 But that You permeate my words.
 Let them be a conduit of Your power.
 Help me to shape the word thoughts
 As you desire, so God will be glorified.**

**Visit www.poemsforchrist.com to read over 200 poems or articles.
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**Cover design by Meg Henrich Patterson with a photo of
 David Patterson, Thanks Dave and Meg, you're special.
 All Scripture is from NKJ version of the Bible unless marked
 otherwise.**

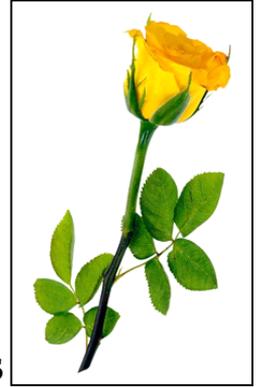
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PART ONE

CHAPTER 1

THE AUTHOR'S ANCHOR EXPERIENCES



To give you some background on my spiritual walk, I would like to insert two articles. Before the Yellow Rose Event, I had only hoped that the church was correct, that God would provide Heaven for me when I died. I followed the directions they provided while living my life with secular goals. Then came the Yellow Rose Event and I came to a new understanding. The back cover of the book will give the reader additional information on the life of the author.

THE YELLOW ROSE EVENT

It was a bright, sunny winter day in South San Gabriel, California, near Los Angeles, mid-afternoon in 1962 and not a happy day for me, as my father had died three months before. At thirty-one, I was an outside salesperson for a large manufacturer. That day business had not been good. Being the sole support for my wife and three children was stressful. What would my Dad have done in this situation? Who could I turn to now that he was gone? My business schedule brought me close to his cemetery, so I decided to visit his grave. I purchased an inexpensive bouquet from the small florist stand that was conveniently located across from the cemetery.

I had done this before and the florist always used a rubber band, twisting it many times around the stems so the flowers would hold together when placed in the metal holder at the gravesite. The metal container is buried in the ground over the grave. When the flowers are wilted, the caretakers empty the container.

As I approached the gravesite, I mourned his death and my inability to ever again to seek my father's wise counsel. Placing the bouquet on the bright green grass, I pulled the metal container out of the ground and walked over to the waterspout to fill the container with water.

Having placed the filled container back into the hole in the ground, I went over to pick up the bouquet. After picking up the bouquet from the grass, to my astonishment, I saw lying on the grass, under where the bouquet had lain, one beautiful yellow rose. The yellow color against the bright sunny, green grass, made it stand out and I knew it was not there when I set the bouquet on the grass, for I would have seen it. I could not believe what I was seeing. I looked at the bouquet, and the rubber band was still intact. I searched the bouquet but the rubber bands held the stems tight. No flower had come out of the bouquet and besides that, inexpensive bouquets do not contain roses.

I picked up the yellow rose. It was a bud, just slightly open. I felt it and it was real. I had taken no drugs and had not been drinking. I was of clear mind and thinking, but I could not rationally explain the rose's appearance. Suddenly a peace swept through me and the thought kept repeating in my mind, "Your father is well and happy, mourn for him no more." The Bible verse, "*Blessed are they that mourn for they will be comforted*" also came into my mind. (Matt. 5:4 NKJV). My sorrow had turned to awe! A sense of well being and peace filled my body, for I had lost my earthly father as my anchor but now realized I have a new anchor, in Jesus. Suddenly, I realized that when the church says, "God is spirit," they are right. God is real and he cares about me. He is alive and vibrant. A new dimension of life opened to me, and I wanted to know more about God. I wanted to take the rose home, but had no way to

put it in water, so I carefully laid it under the seat of the car. When I got home and reached down to get the rose, there was nothing there.

Whenever I have doubts about God and his love and care for me, I remember the Yellow Rose Experience and I have faith again.

(The second article).

THE PATH TO AN INTIMATE LIFE WITH JESUS

By Frank E. Henrich December 1973

Authors Note Jan. 2007. Recently, having reached the age of 75, I decided to read through the journals of my life, which I have kept since 1967. When I reached the journal for 1970 through 1974, I found the article below. Frankly, I had forgotten all about it. When reviewing my writings, I ask my wife, Barbara, to read them to me as I sit with closed eyes. After hearing this article, my first thought was, "if I were writing the article today, I would not change any thought expressed." The next thought was that after 33 years, the message I wrote to share with others then, is just as valid today. May the Holy Spirit inspire you, as you read this re-discovered article.

Seeking to be a Fisher? Fishers are disciples of God, who in their daily living seek, with prayer to God; opportunities to assist their neighbor's spiritual needs. Thus, a Fisher is a spiritual helper to our Eternal Father. For in what better way can we return God's love? God will bring to us the needy, and the Holy Spirit will guide us as we dare to face the consequences of teaching our faith, by doing God's will, not our own will.

This is not knocking on doors, because those in need will be brought to you in the reality of daily happenings. The hardest part is to remember to pray each day to be a fisher and then to forget the personal consequences of your action.

When a needy soul is led to you, by the Holy Spirit, you will feel the need to help that person by receiving a strong thought or desire. When you inspire the needy one by witness, prayer, sincere interest in their needs

and by encouraging their faith, a wonderful feeling of joy fills you, as you know you have been again chosen to be an instrument of God. St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians 2:13, *"It is God, for his own living purpose, who puts the will and the action into you."*

The path of a Fisher is not traveled easily. The virtues of humility, patience and service, combined with a deep faith that "God Is," and a turning over of ones' own will to God's will, are all milestones along this road. It's a beautiful road that overshadows the loss of false pride, as it fades away while humility moves in.

There really isn't a faster way to get out of tune with God, than to take credit for yourself. Even the air that you breathe is God-created. Be meek and humble at heart. Give God the credit and thank God for his many blessings. So stand strong, not weak, with confidence that the "Creator of all things" is your master. Have confidence in your God-given abilities to move forward in your spiritual, family, and social life. A true Christian is not a weak person, but instead a strong person, for he has the strength of his faith.

Two events happen along this first Mile of Humility. To place trust in God, you must first learn to pray in a positive way. You will need to search the gospels for strength in God's Word. Remember that Jesus teaches us to ask and it will be done in accordance with your faith.

The second happening on this Mile of Humility, is that your belief in "Positive Prayer" strengthens you, and you are able to give God more of your will. "Not by my will, but God's will, let it be done," is a prayer you will learn to say often. Our thoughts (desires) start to change like a cleansing action within the soul. We move from dependence (as a baby), to independence (our life as an adult), to inter-dependence, which in the Bible is called the "Walk in the Spirit."

During the last half of the Humility Mile, you will observe

a growing desire to return something to God, for all the love He gives you. Doing his work of helping others becomes more and more important. With some success in serving the Lord, we start down the second mile, called the Patience Mile.

The first lesson we learn on the Patience Mile is a simple one, but one that is hard for the ego to withstand. We feel that God won't mind if we take back some of that "I will," as long as we are helping others spiritually. So we go out and create situations where we push our beliefs on others, instead of waiting for God to bring them to us. The big difference is that when we seek our own way, the "I will," eliminates the "Walk in the Spirit." Without the leading of the Holy Spirit, the result is fruitless. There is no feeling of joy and thus, we soon learn patience. As we learn the lesson of patience, we realize that the road extends on and the next leg of the road is "Service." Where the road leads then is an individual matter, and this writer cannot advise.

Welcome to the road of the Fisher. May your fishing net hold the "God Given Saving Grace" for many of the spiritually needy!

Many start on this road, then get tired and try to rest along the way. A short rest, when needed, is good for us. But a long rest makes us weak, and we fall backward or, at best, hold our spot. We do not advance because we won't give up something like:

1. Failure to realize the necessity of positive prayer.
2. Pride.
3. We limit God's will in our lives.
4. Selfishness - Love for self being greater than love for your neighbor.

Ask the Father, in Jesus' name, then believe, and you will advance along the Road of the Fisher. If you are stalled, ask God why. Ask the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name, to

advise you on why you are stalled, so you can make the correction.

A recommended form for all positive prayers is "In the name and through the power and by the Word of Jesus Christ (*state the intention*) - Thank you Father, that it has been done." (Now believe that it has been done).

On this new trip for you, the devil and his workers will try to convince you that Jesus does not exist. If you encounter failure, they will try to convince you that you are not spirit-filled and that the Spirit will not guide you. Therefore, it is important that you say the prayer of protection when in need. The prayer is taken from chapter 6 of St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Read it in the Bible, for the devil cannot attack you if you are protected. It is as follows:

"In the name and through the power and by the Word of the living Christ, I put on the whole armor of God's light. On my head is the helmet of salvation. I wear the breastplate of righteousness; my feet are shod with peace, and my loins are girded with truth. In my left hand I hold the shield of faith and in my right is the sword of the spirit: the word of God. The Word of God is unassailable and no evil can come nigh my habitation. Thus clad I stand, joyfully expectant, ready to do the will of God."

Welcome to the Road of the Fisher, and may God bless you with the gift of the Holy Spirit; this I ask in the name of Jesus Christ.

Now comes the time for us to turn to the main subject of this book, how to discern God's still, inward voice.

CHAPTER 2

DISCERNMENT IS NEEDED BECAUSE OUR VIEW IS LIMITED

As we move through lives in the physical plane, our mind often does not see the events waiting in the shadows to enter and change our lives, or where their residue goes. This makes discernment even more important, both in the physical and spiritual planes. The next poem explains this dilemma.

LIFE'S PASSING PARADE

Moving around in a changing life
Is like going to a parade
Seeing with difficulty only
The parade view now passing.

I am surrounded by people
As I stand there straining to see
The crowd keeps stirring, I adjust,
Touching a tall person blocking the view.

So, I cannot see what is coming,
Nor where the parade is going,
But then there is the announcer
Perched above the crowd, speaking.

He tells me what is coming next
And where it is all going later,
I still would prefer to see for myself
By climbing up to that perch.

In the real world we see little,
But the present around us,
We would like to see it coming,
Like to know what our acts create.

But there is no announcer speaking,
Oh, when is the announcer coming?

Will he speak loudly and clearly?
So we go searching for a visionary.

A person who can see beyond today
But after a great deal of trying
We find there is only one such person,
You say, Who is he, so I can meet him?

It is God who can see all the events,
They're coming and the result at their going.
You say, yes, but I can't hear Him,
I say yes you can hear Him well.

He does not advise you with voice,
He guides you through circumstances,
And to receive this advice is expensive,
It means that you must trust Him.

Yes His advice is costly to your life,
For it requires that you live a life
According to his commandments
And trust in his love and guidance.

Trust and Obey is necessary, for us
To have peace and hope while jostled,
When things happen which we do not want.
When things happen, we wonder why.

We have to remember that God's vision
Is like the announcer on the high post,
He sees it all from the first to the last.
He loves us and will carry us forward.

People try to get to the announcer perch
By declaring themselves god and able
To see the parade from first to last.
The fruit of their work is like rotten fruit.

So put away the ladders, for there is no way
Out of the jostled crowd of life,
Things will happen to you that you hate,

But submit and trust and obey a loving God.

Poem by Frank E. Henrich. *The theme of this poem came from a sermon by Pastor Bob Collins November 7, 2010 Centenary Methodist Church - Modesto, CA*

The above poem speaks of the physical plane of life and understanding our role. We add to this the spiritual world of God and then we realize that we need discernment to be effective in God's ministries. Now comes the time for us to focus on the main subject of this book, which is how to discern God's still, inward voice so that we may have a directional light on our path.

PART TWO - DISCERNMENT

CHAPTER 3 DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD

We need to learn to distinguish the source of the thoughts that come to our minds. We can have thoughts from God, thoughts created by our own minds or thoughts given to us by Satan or his helpers, called familiar spirits, to lead us away from God. This book will address this subject.

First we need to define Spiritual Discernment. It is a discerning of directions from God to perform an action for Him, or it is the receiving of spiritual understanding about a situation or the condition of a person. How do we receive this information? This information is received by thought-transfer from God to us.

If you do not believe God is alive and is Spirit, then you cannot accept any thoughts as being from God. However, when you know that God is real and is Spirit, you will need to make the determination of the source of your thought before taking action. Learning to sift these thoughts so that you know which are from God, is a process all workers for Christ must develop if they are to be effective in their ministry, whether they be ordained or lay workers. Godly direction for your work must be sought by you and will be needed for success.

The gift of discernment needed to do the work that God has assigned to you, does not become important until you become an earnest Christian. Yet even the newest Christian receives spiritual discernment thoughts from God when they approach an occasion of sin in their lives. Most Christians fail to give God credit for the inner warnings, in thoughts, that they receive. Warnings can come when you suddenly find yourself in a location or type of event where you have sinned many times before. This chapter will not discuss the danger of sin involving events, but rather the deeper gift of discernment that permits you to be the fingers, voice and hands of God with your fellow man.

In spiritual situations, we learn to recognize the source calling us to action when we have begun to learn spiritual discernment. One of the first mistakes made, by newly earnest Christians, is a misuse of discernment, when they do not wait for God to direct His Godly work. These thoughts from God are often called "Knowings." Your soul informs your mind of a new direction for your life from God. The poem below explains this further:

UNDERSTANDING KNOWINGS OF THE SPIRIT

A knowing travels a bridge between
The eternal spirit world and earthly realm.
A knowing of the Spirit can be understood
In the mind of an earthly person.
They are speechless utterances
That form a bit of unexpected wisdom
That God would impart to you freely
And often at times when the mind
Is stilled by tiredness or in prayer.



A knowing travels a bridge between
The eternal spirit world and earthly realm.
When they come our spirit relays
Them to our minds with bullet speed.
When they come I immediately find paper
Not trusting my mind to capture and hold
The full import of received wisdom.
Does Satan send thoughts to his workers?
I don't know because Jesus is my Lord.

A knowing travels a bridge between
The eternal spirit world and earthly realm.
The spirit world contains God our creator
And His fallen angels led by Satan.
So be right with God and he will lead you
With knowings and circumstances.

**The spirit world talks with our realm
Through thoughts and circumstances.
Make sure your life is switched on to God.**

By Frank E. Henrich May 15, 2012

**It is through discernment that we obtain this direction
and it is discussed in the next chapter.**

CHAPTER 4

HOW DOES DISCERNMENT DIFFER FROM WISDOM AND THE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE WE POSSESS?

I have found my own way of understanding of the title's question. In it, we have wisdom and knowledge, with different meanings. Wisdom takes our knowledge and then assists us in decision-making. To me, wisdom is not discernment, but rather it is like the water in a great ocean. The ocean bed is made up of knowledge discovered by us and acknowledged by us as truth. This knowledge has been fed there over the years by our families, educators, and circumstances.

The water of a great ocean is like wisdom. The lake bed is where the knowledge we have stored up is kept. The waves flows back and forth, searching through the knowledge stored ocean bed. We move forward using the information from this great ocean of knowledge and wisdom. We then seek discernment from this effort.

We move in discretion, having learned, from past mistakes, to move with carefulness. When a situation envelopes us, we try to discern the reaction of the persons involved before we act.

This is what we do here on the earthly plane. To discern, according to Webster's dictionary, is defined as, "The quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure." In the earthly plane of daily living we use our minds and its rational power to assist us.

But when we switch away from the earthly plane to the spiritual plane, we enter into a world where we cannot follow the earthly plane's framework. The holy insights that come to us on the spiritual level, require from us a different set of judgments and actions. This book discusses these holy insights, which I prefer to call "knowings," and how they are used by active Christians in

their work for God. Gordon Lindsay agrees with me on this subject. In his book *The Gift of Discerning of Spirits*, where he speaks of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, says on page 7 “Wisdom and knowledge and discernment work together.”

Knowings, or insights, never come at our beckoning, but at the most unexpected times. When they come, they give us an inward knowing that they are spiritual. To the earnest Christian, this booklet will be a wonderful world of ponderings. Are you excited to read the book? Praise God for allowing me to write this book for you. God guards His workings and does not give them to His servants without with a purpose that fulfills His will.

This is a Christian spiritual book. The author holds the whole Bible to be the Word of God and to be our guide to living a pleasing life for God. I accept, as truth from God, the entire Bible as God-inspired. I hold that Jesus is the Son of God who came down and died for our sins and therefore is our redeemer, and the only way to Heaven.

CHAPTER 5 DISCERNING OF SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

God intervenes in our lives through circumstances and thoughts, giving us desires. Many times God blesses our lives through circumstances and we do not see His hand at work, while thought direction is a more rare form of God’s revelation to man. The Holy Spirit trains us to receive his guidance so that we can perform the work of His ministry. It is so beautifully described for us in the Bible in 1 Kings, chapter 19, verses 11-15:

“Then God said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great

and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus." NKJV

Please note that the voice Elijah heard was not a voice audible to the human ear, but a still small voice. This inward voice comes to us through a thought implanted in our minds by God. Yes, God-inspired thought!

When a Christian receives a full understanding that God is Spirit, then God can instruct and give His confidence to that person. A Christian is also open to receiving thought-messages that come from three sources:

- 1. From God**
- 2. From your own mind**
- 3. From satanic spirits.**

When a Christian receives an insight, in thought, that he believes is from God and requires action on his part that will affect other people, the Bible instructs us to test the

spirits. In the maturing of a Christian there comes a time when he seeks to do the work of the Lord. In doing this work, he needs direction and may be called upon to act for God in various new special situations.

As this person seeks more and more to be God's servant, he recognizes the need to have faithful directions. It is then that God gives him thoughts that he instinctively knows are not from his mind. So he wonders about its source. For me, I found this period of thought-source training covered three years. I like to refer to this training from God as coming from the College of the Holy Spirit. I went through the training forty-four years ago where I learned about the three tests of such thoughts.

These three tests are:

1. If the thought does not result in God being glorified by someone, or yourself, discard it;
2. If it requires an action by you that is contrary to Biblical teachings, then discard it; or
3. If it requires an action that affects more than two people in an adverse way and is of a major nature, have it tested by asking for a prayer conformation from God through at least two other Christians who have the gift of spiritual discernment.

CHAPTER 6

THE SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR TESTING

1 John 4:1-2. " Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God." NKJV

In order to follow this Scriptural admonition, I seek out prayerful spiritual discernment from fellow Christians who have been given the gift of discernment by the Holy Spirit. The problem can become; who are those persons who have this gift? Recently, I needed to find some of those who have this gift of discernment and it was hard to find them. But then, it is up to God to lead me to these people, if indeed He desires that some insightful thought material be tested. So I wait to see if God provides them. If not, I aim to proceed without their discernment.

Brian Ralston, a man of God, who is a Christian teacher and minister whom I highly respect, wrote the following: "Discernment is a gift that God gives to some, but not all. Discernment is also a rare gift, which I think can be granted if one seeks it from the Lord. I agree with you that it is tough to find, as some who have it are concerned about being thought "prideful" about it, and thus, are a bit hidden. Others may have it, but not realize it."

So what have we learned? We have discussed how God intervenes in our lives through thoughts, how to evaluate these thoughts and when it is necessary to test them. I encourage you to seek the gift of discernment, for without it your servanthood for God will be limited. Trust in God for He will never lead you astray.

CHAPTER 7

SEEK TO SERVE GOD

SEEKING TO SERVE

**Oh Lord, You know I love You
That I want to serve You,
Help me to find Your path
Of ministry to the lost.**

**I know that work, must have
Your blessing to bear fruit,
Oh look in my heart and
You will see an eager soul.**

**Oh Jesus, great Shepherd
My great sweet Redeemer,
Prepare me for this work
Let me be a shepherd too.**

**I know You do not bless
Just any project I create,
So I wait for Your move
In that ministry for me.**

By Frank Henrich August 6, 2011

I believe that for you to be a minister for God to the marketplace, you need discernment. So pray for it. But while we are being instructed by the Holy Spirit in the College of the Holy Spirit, we become impatient.

For new lay ministers for God (that's you and me), this is the first stumbling block we reach. The gift of discernment comes

after praying for it earnestly, and with its search we learn patience and obedience.

YOUR ROLE AS A MINISTER TO PERSONS IN YOUR WORKPLACE AREA IS PASSIVE.

You will see someone and say to yourself, "Now there is a person I will tell about Jesus." Your eagerness to step out in your own power, without a directional knowing from God, will be fruitless, leading you to realize that you need to learn how to wait for God's call into action.

To answer this challenge let us read the poem below:

WORKERS FOR GOD NEED SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

By Frank E. Henrich Thanksgiving 2013

If I asked you what is spiritual discernment?
You would stare at me wondering where my mind is.
Could I have lost my way searching such a subject? After a
bit your response might be, "That's deep!"

Yet to a Christian worker, as he searches
To serve God, there is a sustained searching force,
Always trying to find direction in his life,
In his attempt to be God's voice, hands and feet.

When I only hoped God was real my ego
Sought to obtain the prized earthly treasures,
But so suddenly, God touched my life and goals,
Then my life searched for a new spiritual way.

As the years passed and my desire to serve grew,
I became frustrated on knowing how to serve,

I searched in the Bible and asked fellow Christians
But no assurance came forth to direct me.

Then thinking, if God will not direct my way
I will look for situations that I would think
Would please God, you know, good things done in His
name,
Soon learned, God needed to empower my work.

Unless the Holy Spirit anoints my work
My conjuring up events was destructive,
So a feeling of helplessness filled my being
I learned to hold myself back until God sent.

This required a knowing, when I was being used,
A knowing when to act and what to then speak,
A spiritual discernment of direction
From my God and not from my mind or Satan.

There was a period of three years where I learned
To know His voice, yes, Satan tried to trick me!
But our Lord Jesus said, we will know His voice
When our Shepherd Jesus calls us to act.

Remember this poem started with a real question
Can you define spiritual discernment?
A spiritual discernment can be warning
Of Satan's workers or a call to action.

This spiritual discernment of softly knowing
Comes silently into your mind filling you
With desires and the spiritual wisdom
Of knowing that comes from our precious God.

Spiritual discernment is a gift from God
Given to those workers who need it serving Him,
So ask Him to give this power in your ministry,
And the spiritual knowing of how to serve.

My prayer for you, who are workers for God,
That God will provide you spiritual wisdom
To stay clear of evil and be strong workers
For God, as we are His hands and voice on Earth.

CHAPTER 8 THE "AHA" MOMENTS

When friends see us in a distraught condition, they will often come over and give us a big hug, hold our hands and speak soothing words. So for the moment, we are assured of their love and concern. It is hard to walk through life without an occasional assurance that we are on the right path. So it is with the spiritual walk with God.

In this walk with God, a person can become an introvert. Even the most talkative person can develop into a quiet, thoughtful person because of the wonderful peace that fills the soul of a warrior for God. They no longer need the earthly accolades informing them that they are ok. Do they still need pats on the back? Yes, indeed! From whom do they receive these assurances that they have chosen a right path? Well, they are from God of course, in the form of "Aha" moments.

Since God is Spirit, we cannot talk with God and expect an immediate reply or conversation. Since we await the action of God's still small voice, or nudges, we can slowly form a detachment from our physical lives. We wonder, "Do others think as I do? Am I a lone ranger? Have I lost contact with reality?" It is then that God sends us an

“Aha” moment. An aha moment is when we observe the actions of others, or read the words of others, that state they have passed through that same point on their spiritual walk with God. They have discovered the same spiritual insights in their lives that we also, quite separately, have learned. Suddenly, we feel reassured. It is like a big hug from God, whom I prefer to address as “Old Friend.” It is okay if you call Him that name also, as I’m sure He won’t mind. It is easier to call Him a friend than Creator, although He is both.

I have received so many Aha moments, that I could not even count them. Praise God! Some were small and others most memorable. One of the strongest Aha moments for me was the reading of the story *Benjamin Minor* written in 1079 AD by a monk, Richard of Saint Victor, in a monastery near Paris, France. I will not describe the joy I experienced as I read, but I do recommend you find a copy and read it. The early manuscript was modified by the Cloud of Unknowing writers of the fourteenth century in England. One of these fourteenth English authors wrote a small article titled *The Discerning of Spirits*, which also covers the subject of this book. Yes, here is a manuscript written between 1350-1399 AD. It describes the discovery and use of many of the spiritual truths that God had also shown me before I read the article. This chapter is not to show you my Aha moments, but rather to alert you to the fact that you will be receiving hugs from God in the form of Aha moments.

There is an observation that I would share with you. It is true that in the scientific world God has been, and is continuing to, increase the knowledge of mankind and the world. Many educators think that this is also true with spiritual insights. But this is not necessarily true regarding spiritual things, for I have discovered that insights given to souls who search for them, are not new to the body of Christ. These insights are here now, just ready to be discovered by eager souls, as one generation replaces

another. The Gospel of Jesus Christ saves even the most immature . But God does expect adults to seek him and be used as His arms, legs and voice proclaiming salvation through the death of Jesus on the cross. To be God's servant requires gaining these insights so that God's power can flow through us.

(The articles discussed in this chapter can be found in book *A Study of Wisdom* SLG Press, Fairacres, Oxford, England)

CHAPTER 9

DISCERNMENT CAN CALL FOR DIFFERENT ACTIONS

I am going to describe the circumstances around eleven different ways that God can speak to us, providing examples from my life as testimonies.

First – A dream that enhanced my spiritual life.

Second – This is an event that gave me knowledge, but did not require a physical act on my part. I titled this *The Black Inner Soul*.

Third – Is an event in my life called the *Dunsmuir*. I was in discernment training.

Fourth – Was an event called *Communion Time*. *An event that was very special*.

Fifth– In this event, I had fasted from food for three days asking God to spiritually touch a person and his ministry for God. This discernment, along with a Word of Knowledge I received, required me to perform a bold physical act. I call this event *The Three Day Fast*."

Sixth – This is an event of a special visitation in Kansas City, Mo. It is called *The Kansas City Business Conference*. *This happening is about being visited by a very special person*.

Seventh – This event differs from the second story, as in this case an immediate action was required, along with discernment of thought. This event is titled *The Man At The Lunch Counter*.

Eighth - A call to live a life close to God as shown in a vision, *Give Me a Full Cup*.

Ninth – An event where I needed God’s help faster than my mind could pray in the miracle of *God’s Strong Arm*.

Tenth – A vision called *The Crying Victor*, which calls us to do God’s work here on Earth.

Eleventh – I call this event, *Story of the Red Tomatoes*. It is of an event that was special to me in understanding Christian work and how God uses His servants.

There are so many more things that I would love to describe to you but alas, time is a restrictor. Here is the first of the testimonies.

CHAPTER 10

GOD CAN GIVE US DIRECTIONS THROUGH DREAMS

Over the years, I have studied in a limited way, the interpretation of dreams. For Christians, the problems with many dreams are twofold. First, dreams are full of symbols that could carry many meanings, secondly, we foolishly try to understand them with our rational mind. If God has a meaning to impart to you about a dream, He is very capable of doing so. I can recall only two dreams I have had that proved important to me. I will tell you about one of these:

This dream occurred in 1967 when I was seeking to know God better, having had the wakeup experience of the Yellow Rose Event in 1962, (*already described*). In the 1967 dream, I was standing before Jesus. It was as if He was standing in a mist. The form of a body was there, as if out of focus. I could not see him clearly. Yet in my mind, I just knew it was Jesus. He said to me, "Francis, how much education do you have?" The question surprised me, for Francis is my baptismal first name, but I am known as Frank. Overcoming the surprise of the name used, my thinking responded with, "God knows all things. Why is He asking me for information He already knows?" His voice was firm with no emotion, like a teacher asking a pupil a question. In the dream, there was a silence. I broke the silence by spurting out, "Well, I went to grade school, high school, and graduated from the university. Plus I have taken some advanced courses since then." His response back was in the same tone as a teacher but with a nuance of sadness, when He said, "And you never took time to read My book?"

I knew immediately that he was referring to the Bible. I did not need to ponder over the dream when I awoke, as it was so clearly in my mind, with all its details. The church I belonged to believed that only the church was prepared to

teach Biblical interpretation; for the laity could misinterpret the Bible if they studied it. I had tried to read the Bible, but it was so confusing. But now I had a command to get my lazy mind working, while trusting the Holy Spirit to guide me as I read. Within one year, I had read the Bible from the beginning to the end. This led me to taking Biblical courses from the Moody Institute of Chicago. Yes, God used a dream to motivate me - and He may do the same with you. But remember, if you have to refer to the rational mind, or books on dreams for the meaning of a dream, you would do best to discard and forget that dream. 1 Corinthians 14:13 *"For our God is not an author of confusion but of peace."*

Let us move on to the next important discernment, that of evil in our midst.

CHAPTER 11

THE EVIL SOUL – THE SECOND TESTIMONY

By Frank E. Henrich

This is a testimony about detecting a worker for Satan.

When I was 43 years old, the church that I attended scheduled an evening meeting where a minister from my denomination headquarters was coming to speak on some forthcoming major changes to the church service. I had become an on-fire Christian three years before. When I went to the meeting I knew I did not agree with these changes being forced upon us from headquarters. Still, I felt I could go to hear what he had to say.

The minister stood on a slightly elevated platform with an air of aloofness and body language that said, this meeting should not be needed; but that we should just follow his instructions blindly. He claimed that things should be continued as they were based only on the argument that we had done things this way for centuries and therefore should continue on. He said that to be good members, we had to hold blindly to their decisions. I sat there, knowing I did not agree. So I asked myself, Am I so wise to think I know better?

I hate to follow someone blindly or accept an argument that goes contrary to what I feel to be true. I had always held my denomination in high regard as a wise teacher to me. Had I lost that confidence? I was confused. How could I clear this up? So as he talked on, I prayed, "God, I don't agree with him. But if he is right, give me the ability to accept his position." It was then that, as I looked at the speaker, he turned into a grotesque, very black figure before me. Then slowly in my eyes, he turned back to his normal appearance.

I knew that my prayer had been answered. I prayed for discernment and was shown the ugly evil soul of the speaker as his appearance changed before my eyes. I knew I have seen the condition of his soul. Then as he turned back to his regular appearance, a peace came over me. I knew I could discard what he was saying. My eyes were dazzled with the truth. Praise God for the gift of discernment. Such a gift is never automatic. God recognizes a trusting soul who is seeking help; He provides discernment only when He thinks it is necessary and He desires to answer a humble prayer.

Well, Reader, you say to me, "That happened to you but it does not happen to me!" I would like to remind you, Reader, of gifts of discernment you have received many times. Remember the Our Father Prayer. It ends with the words, "Keep us from evil, Amen." When we pray these words we are asking for discernment to see or know evil so that we can be kept from it.

We all have sin weaknesses. Yes, we all have weaknesses and generally know what they are. When we place ourselves in circumstances where we often sin, or find ourselves surprisingly there, inside us, God gives a warning; a danger bell rings in us. He is giving us a gift of discernment. We may think ourselves so strong that we can pass through the circumstances sinless, but then it often happens that we return to sin. The longer we walk with God, seeking to be at peace with Him, the more we realize we cannot combat sin in our lives with our own power. We need God's power in the form of grace that will turn us away from these occasions of sin immediately. So you see, you have often been given discernment, haven't you?

If we do not heed the warning bell from God that an occasion for sin lies ahead, it will be because we have let habitual sin rule our lives. If we persist in habitual sin, the heart has been hardened so you no longer hear the

warning. Read Romans, chapter one, for a clear understanding of this numbing of your spirit to the warning of sin. We do not need to be trapped in this condition. This could be a good time to seek help from your minister or a Christian whom you highly regard. I like the prayer known as the Act of Contrition. Perhaps if habitual sin is troubling you, you will say the prayer printed next, or something similar.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend to sin no more. Amen.

From this true story and then the discussion of how we obtain discernment, we have learned that this gift is not so vague as it seems. Rather it is a daily gift for us from God when we accidentally step into an arena where our sin weakness would lead us to sin. Now let us pray for discernment.

As we pray for increased discernment, first read some Scriptures in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 12

IT IS TIME TO REVIEW THE SCRIPTURES ON DISCERNING WISDOM

King David had died and his son Solomon had just been crowned king. 1 Kings 3:4-28

"⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

⁶ "And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. ⁷ Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

⁸ And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. ⁹ Therefore give to your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰ The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹ Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this

thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, ¹² behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you."

¹⁶ "Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him. ¹⁷ And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. ¹⁸ Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. ¹⁹ And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.

²⁰ So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. ²¹ And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne."

²² Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."

And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son."

Thus they spoke before the king.

²³ And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'"

²⁴ Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. ²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

²⁶ Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

²⁷ So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother." ²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice." NKJV

Lord, help me to discern between good and evil!



PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

By Frank E. Henrich May 26, 2008

Oh Lord, could I have a bit, just a bit,
Of that great discernment you gave
When Solomon cried out to you?
For I, like him, seek a culture of justice.

You say, it is not just enough
To wish to bring back the lost,
I must discern their foolishness
And turn them to a wise path.

Oh, Holy Spirit, Jesus promised,
You would come and guide us,
Set Satan running to catch his tail
And save the Christian culture.

Yes, we seek holy inspiration as this next poem discusses.

CHAPTER 13 HOLY INSPIRATION

As we grow in the Lord, we seek to draw near to God.
Listening to a sermon, when the preacher is anointed by
God and the words spark in our soul with His love and

teaching, is one of the many ways to receive God's inspiration in our lives. Below is a poem on this subject:

HOLY INSPIRATION

I was filled with the thrill of a new idea,
It was like a silent bolt of lightening
Coming suddenly from out of nowhere
Joyfully filling me with excitement,
Continuing on like a rolling drum ending
At the close of a Tchaikovsky symphony,
When the Holy Spirit sparks my spirit soul,
To inspire and equip me, to do God's work.

You ask," When does this happen to you?"
It has occurred while reading a book,
And then at times when hearing a sermon
Or when listening to a musical score,
It comes when needed and at God's calling,
Praise Him for filling me with a passion,
When the Holy Spirit sparks my spirit soul,
To inspire and equip me, to do God's work.

Is there such a thing as mass inspiration
Where hundreds are blessed at one time?
The blessing usually comes to a party of two,
The Holy Spirit, the source, and you or me
The Holy Spirit places His spiritual touch
On the giver's receptive receiving mind,
When the Holy Spirit sparks my spirit soul,
To inspire and equip me, to do God's work.

Oh how I long for this action of two
For I am willing and eager to serve,
When this directional guidance comes
It is so awesome that I sit quietly
Fearful that any distraction will destroy

**The wonder of the moment and the call,
When the Holy Spirit sparks my spirit soul,
To inspire and equip me, to do God's work.**

**You say, "Oh, how I would like to be so touched."
May I ask, do you have a sin pattern in your life
Especially habitual sin that troubles and rules you?
Ask God to give you the strength to stop them,
Ask God to help you live a life right with Him,
Then you will be ripe for His inspiration,
When the Holy Spirit sparks your spirit soul,
To inspire and equip you, to do God's work.**

By Frank E. Henrich January 21, 2012

**In your work for Jesus that touches on the spiritual side of
Christianity, you must be very careful not to lose your
focus on Jesus. The next chapter discusses this subject.**

CHAPER 14

ALWAYS REMAIN TIED TO THE ANCHOR OF JESUS

ALL SAILORS

KNOW WHEN A STORM COMES,
IF YOU CAN FIND SHALLOW WATER
WITHOUT LAND NEARBY, DROP YOUR
ANCHOR, AND RIDE THE STORM OUT.
SO IT IS WITH US, WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE
COME. TRUST JESUS AND RIDE
OUT THE WAVES THAT
IN TIME, WILL CALM.

I'm tied by faith to an anchor God provided,
The rope is securely knotted to it and here I am
Floating on the waves in my boat of life,
Though I cannot see my anchor, it is there.

My anchor is invisible to me, yet I know,
Yes, I can't see Jesus here from Earth,
But He touched me so now I know,
He is alive in Spirit and He loves me.

How did I find Jesus, the anchor of my faith?
And how did I know how to tie my rope?
Well the safety line of security that is so precious
Was not tied by me, but by a loving God.

It happened when He touched my life
In a way, that I had an inner knowing so sure,
That he is real, oh so real, not just a hopeful hope,
I cried out! Be my anchor, my Redeemer Jesus.

By faith I threw out my boat rope to Him,
Jesus took my boat line and made it secure,

I want to be Yours, for You died for my sins,
Redeeming me from death, so wonderful are You!

So when the storms of life make me shake with fear,
I remember I am tied to the anchor
Of my Lord Jesus and turn fear into trust,
For Jesus holds me with the anchor of life.

By Frank E. Henrich April 16, 2013

Hebrews 6:18-20

“¹⁸ So God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence.

¹⁹ This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God's inner sanctuary. ²⁰ Jesus has already gone in there for us. NLT

CHAPTER 15

THE DUNSMUIR EPISODE

Now it is time for the second testimony. A true event in my life during the training to discern the Voice of God

Three years had passed since the episode described as the Black Soul. I had moved to a church where I was used to teach a Bible study every Tuesday night to a group of 12.

Since I had become an on-fire Christian, I wanted to be a pastor. I have since learned that this is a mistake many new, earnest Christians make. God has a greater need for workers for him out in the secular world. I thought I had received a message from God, through thoughts, that I was to pastor a church in Dunsmuir, California, a city 300 miles north of where I lived. I knew no one in Dunsmuir, yet I was sure it was a calling from God.

Knowing the Scripture about testing such thoughts with other brothers in Christ, I went to see my pastor and told him I was sure that God wanted me to pastor a church in Dunsmuir. He prayed and said to me, "It is not from God, forget it." What do you think I did? Well, I did not listen to my pastor. I talked my wife into taking a weekend trip to Dunsmuir. The pastor was correct and I never moved there. I was in training by the Holy Spirit to prepare me for future work. I had to learn how to tell the difference between God and Satan. How long did this training last? As I recall it was around three years. During this time, I was still in training and not seasoned in discerning God's voice. Did that stop me from doing God's work? Being his finger, voice and hands to a needy world. Certainly not! Even today, thirty-five years later, if I am convinced that the spiritual thought is from God and it involves a major move or affects others greatly, I have it tested before acting. Sometimes there is not time to test. Here I trust God to always direct me when His inward voice calls for action or shows direction.

The problem I have found is that sometimes it is hard to find Christian brothers and sisters to help test the thoughts. May I suggest when God places you in connection with such a person, value your association with them dearly. Because of their meekness and humility, you need Godly discernment to find them. If you know none, go see your pastor.

God and His ways will always be a mystery to us; an unfolding precious story of His love and kindness to us. So it is often best to remember that we are like children to God. The next two poems will help you to find your way.

THE WAY OF THE LORD

I see a flower with all its loveliness
I see storm clouds with all their fury
I see a child run to the open arms of a dad
I sense the cool taste of water after a run.

I sense the yearning to know you, Lord Jesus
From a child this wish has been with me
Yet life with all its injustices drew me away
Bathe me now with Your presence so pure.

Let my spirit inwardly know of this union
Give me peace amidst the jostles of life
For only when this occurs am I at rest
And Your spirit permeates outward to others.

By Frank E. Henrich December 10, 2008



LET THE SON SHINE IN YOUR HEART

I remember the days I wandered
Through my daily chores with care,
For I was yet to discover
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart.

Then one day when I least expected,
Jesus came and touched my heart
And I was no longer alone,
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart.

I jumped with joy for I had a God
Who I knew loves me, little me,
And a God who I could count on,
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart.

Oh! My body, my mind, my soul
Were so full of the wonderment,
No longer facing the world alone.
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart

Praise you sweet Jesus for reaching
Yes, for touching my life with truth,
Now I know Heaven and hell are real,

Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in your heart.

Two ideas were born in my mind,
The first was I must tell everyone
Of this great reality of a loving God,
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart.

The second goal became a quest
To learn more about God's ways,
What information has He for me,
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart.

The word quest is the correct one,
Since that day 48 years ago
I still remain on the quest to learn,
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart.

As I matured in my Christian walk
A desire to become God's hands
And His voice called me to service,
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in my heart.

If Jesus has not touched you yet,
Get down on your knees praying,
Touch me as you touched Frank,
Oh what happiness
When the Son shines in your heart

Let the Son shine in your heart.

By Frank E. Henrich October 10, 2010

CHAPTER 16

HOW DO WE QUESTION A THOUGHT SOURCE?

By Frank Henrich August 30, 2012

I pray the prayer below and do not act on the thought unless it comes to me again.

ASK IN HIS NAME AND BE NOT AFRAID. If this is not Jesus who is speaking to me, begone in Jesus name. If you do come from Jesus, welcome.

The Bible tells us of Peter healing the lame man as Jesus instructed them to heal in His name. There is power when properly used. If we become convinced that God wants us to do something that will, by that action, affect others' lives and families; before taking action, ask for discernment from two other believers. When this happens, remember this Scripture: *1 John 4:1-2 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God."* NKJV Consult with one or two Christian friends about the situation. I prefer meeting with at least two when possible.

While God is training you to discern spiritual thoughts, it is best to have a spiritual advisor. For a time in my life my pastor served in this post. It was a three-year school of experience that happened in the world that surrounded me. It was not that those spiritual things happened even monthly, but when they did, I went to him for advice. God will provide you such a seasoned Christian friend. In the story you *just read called the In the Dunsmuir Experience*, I refused to believe my spiritual advisor. At times spiritual advisors are not pastors. With some, their Christianity may be intellectual and they may fear active spirituality.

However, what is important is that after you have passed thru this training, you come to a point where you recognize God's inward thoughts for what they are. Your spirit receives a knowing that the thought comes from God. If in any doubt, pray the prayer given above. If you call on the name of Jesus, Satan cannot stand and the thought will not return. Jesus said in Scripture that "my sheep will know my voice" and so we do. For it is a promise of God. To understand this Scripture, one needs to know that in the time the Bible was written, the sheep of many shepherds were driven into a large enclosure for protection. When one shepherd was ready to take his sheep out to pasture, he would gain permission to enter the enclosure and he would call his sheep to follow him. Only his own sheep recognized his voice and followed him out.

John 10:1-5 *"I Am the Good Shepherd"* *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."* NKJV

We belong to the Shepherd Jesus. He can hear his inward voice and know we are protected. His words to us, especially in the Bible, are like threads of gold to us but are worthless to the non-believer who cannot hear His voice. When it comes to protection for us to live in the world as Christians, I always feel reassured when I read Psalm 23.

Psalm 23 The Lord The Shepherd of His People A Psalm of David. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the

paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 'You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever."

CHAPTER 17

SPIRITUAL PITFALLS TO AVOID

However, I would be remiss if I did not inform you of some of the pitfalls that will destroy your work for God.

Here are some guidelines I learned to follow:

First, keep your Christianity Bible-centered and focused on the great truth that Jesus came down on Earth to redeem us. Hold to the entire Bible as the inspired Word of God. Do not be carried away by cults who claim greater spiritual knowledge. God provides a route of salvation for a baby to a college president, so by no special secret knowledge will you be saved. Do not add other conditions to salvation such as good works, worship or clothing regulations. Other Christians will void your work for Jesus by attacking these added requirements. Give them nothing to attack but wonderful Jesus, who can take care of Himself.

Second, After God touches your soul and you realize He truly exists and cares for you, your salvation shifts, from a hope that He is real, to the assurance of your salvation through faith. You recognize that He is Spirit, while also realizing that your knowledge of the spiritual world, now alive in you, is very limited, next to void. You will seek to learn more about God and this spiritual world as described in the next article. But, to your surprise, because you are a Christian to whom the spiritual is more open, there will be other Christian who will try to discourage you. Therefore give them no opportunity to smear you by keep your Christianity Bible-centered and simple.

Scripture to be bold: 2 Timothy 1:6-7 “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Third, you have learned that the spiritual world controls the physical world. While on earth you will never fully understand this spiritual world so don't try. I remember how my first attempts of understanding scared me. I evidently came to understand those who are of Jesus are protected by Him and should fear not. I wrote about this in the next article.

THE INVISIBLE DOOR

God touched me in 1962 in what I have called the Yellow Rose Event, and suddenly I knew what I had hoped to be true, is true. That God is real and Heaven is real. It happened in less than 2 minutes and my life was forever changed. For now I knew God is Spirit and He loves me. I realized I knew so little about God as Spirit and the spirit world. I came to realize God is Spirit and can dwell within me.

The words of Scripture:

“¹⁶Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” (1 Corinthians, chapter 3, verses 16-17 NKJV).

Suddenly I had a personal relationship with God, I was enthralled to learn more. Jesus' presence, I felt within me. It was as if I had been living in a very large room called the physical world. I knew where most things I needed or wanted were located and what I needed to do to

obtain them. But where did the spiritual world fit into my physical world? The physical world to me was like a large auditorium and then my eyes looked where there had been a blank outer wall. There I saw a door that had been invisible to me before and I was beckoned to walk over to it.

Yes, suddenly in the pale green blank wall a beautiful golden door appeared. The wall was transformed before me. It was as if it had been there all the time, but I had not been able to perceive it. The door opened slowly inward and I saw for the first time the wonders that awaited me. The room was very large, as I could not see its outer walls. There were people all over, everywhere gathered in groups at various mini structures while others moved back and forth. The brilliance of the color and variety dazzled my eyes. There I stood alone wondering if I should step forward. The old physical auditorium had represented the confines of my life. I had been seeking to know God better. The door was answered prayer. Jesus is so good to us.

When Jesus came to dwell with me, there was such a joy. A blinding joy and peace that I was like the rocks, I had to cry out, "Praise the Lord." There were areas for Christian conferences and Bible studies. There were inspiring books to read and Christian teachers teaching, whom I would

never have listened to before. Now I couldn't seem to get enough of their teachings. I had a new joy. Some may call this the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some may call it the mark or turning point of someone becoming an earnest Christian. Terms, when defined, limit one's viewpoint, so let us not define them. Call it what you might. All I know is that I was like a child again. I had found that my God loved me in a new and exciting way.

All these new ventures were like a room full of toys. I dashed from one to another, from a Christian conference to a Bible study to an inspiring book. You who call me unstable, you're right, but you can have your stability if your stability is based on a God, who dwells in your intellectual mind. Such a God is not really personal and it's a weak substitute - who wants a substitute when you can have the real thing?

After three years passed and I had examined the contents of the room, stability in my walk started to develop. I began to realize it was more important to concentrate on one or two areas than on all the activities of the room. I was learning the lessons of the importance of church membership for I also needed the fellowship of all Christians not just my own brand.

The next step came when I did not insist upon my own brand of Christianity, if by so doing, I could be of greater assistance to God. After a Christian has seen the invisible door, moving into a real personal relationship with God, I have noted the following observation: God can move the Christian from a lukewarm church into an enthusiastic church for three years of training and then to a moderate evangelical church where he can be "Spiritual Salt."

The event in 1962 when God touched me became my faith anchor when troubles filled my life. God did not promise us a rose garden, but that He would be with us through it all. We have to trust and obey, for that is the only way to have Jesus and eternal life.

Who really has the desire for a stable Christian walk? Is it the one who has never seen the invisible door? The Christian who still sees God intellectually? Or is it the earnest Christian who has passed through the invisible door a number of years ago? For those of you who have not discovered the invisible door, I must tell you, there is no shortcut. You can live your earthly life without ever seeing the invisible door and the joy and the peace that it brings. I must admit I feel sorry for you. For you will have missed so much. How do you find the invisible door? On your knees in supplication and prayer! Asking Jesus for the gift of the realization of His presence within you! For you see, Jesus is within us, whether we recognize His presence or not. Then, if I intellectualize His presence, wouldn't I be realizing it? No, to realize anything you must experience it. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to pray. Praise God! It is my prayer that you will pray the following prayer:
Oh Jesus, I pray that You will give me the realization of Your real presence within me. Show me that invisible door that opens to Your wonderful peace and joy. Amen.

By Frank Henrich September 25, 2011

Fourth, recognize that Satan will try to destroy your relationship with God, for you are no longer a lukewarm Christian driving in the neutral gear of life. Satan wants to stop you, so he will provide a false spirituality where

events happen that you cannot fathom. He will use your inquiring mind to urge you to become a Mormon, Jehovah Witness, join Unity of Kansas City or whatever might draw you into a “works salvation,” rejecting the great gift paid in full by Jesus on the cross. Satan will try to persuade you that you would be a fool to believe that the whole Bible is God inspired. I recommend you build up your faith by attending church services and Bible studies. It is okay and good to seek to know more about God. I recommend some good Bible studies.

Fifth, Do not make the mistake of seeking to know the future. It is a mistake made by many Christians now that a whole new spiritual world has opened to them. A live world they once knew little of, but now desire strongly to know more about. Study the Bible, God’s eternal Word. But to ask God questions and expect Him to directly answer you in thought, immediately, can only lead you to speaking with familiar spirits provided by Satan. They may answer your questions but they do not know the future and will be wrong. This is a very dangerous ground so it should be avoided at all costs.

In my experience, God does not, unless He desires, answer immediately my prayer inquiries. If you receive such an answer immediately, question the source. God will touch our lives in matters that will glorify Him and He never violates the teaching of His Bible. When He touches me it is always unexpected and rare and wonderful.

I have known a few Christians who have told me that in daily prayer they talk with God having long conversations. They are most likely speaking to familiar spirits controlled by Satan. Usually they will not take my counsel and they separate themselves from other Christians. Pray and fast for them.

Continuing on the subject of trying to learn the future,

likewise, do not seek to know the future by playing an ouija board, reading the daily astrology chart or consulting fortunetellers. Below are some Scriptures on this subject.

Deut 18:10-15 *"¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. ¹³ You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. ¹⁴ For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you. ¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren."* NKJV

Leviticus 19:31-32 *"³¹ Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God. ³² You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord."* NKJV

Leviticus 20:6-7 *"⁶ And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. ⁷ Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God."* NKJV

In the New Testament we find the following Scriptures.
Acts 13:6-12 *"⁶ Now when they (Apostle Paul and companions) had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ Then*

Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹²Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord."

Galatians 5:16-25 " ¹⁶I (Paul) say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

CHAPTER 18

WHAT IS MAGIC?

In the *Holy Bible Everyday Study Edition* New Century Version published by Word Publishing page 354, there is a commentary on Magic that says:

“The Bible’s understanding of God is quite different from the world’s view of magic.

1. The Bible never endows nature with divinity. There is no such thing as objects or activities that contain spiritual or psychic power by themselves. The physical environment is good and is to be preserved and valued, but God is the one who is to be worshipped, for all that there is depends on God for its nature and continued life.
2. God is not an unpredictable “force” to be appeased and humored by magical performances but a personal being made known especially through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Knowing God is about believing Jesus, not manipulating alien spiritual forces.
3. Magic depends on some people having secret knowledge which the majority does not possess. The Bible teaches that anyone can have direct access to God, and so there is nothing left for the magician to do. Indeed, by getting involved in magic, people can find themselves lining up not on God’s side but on the Devil’s.
4. The Bible condemns efforts to manipulate the details of our own life to exploit other people for our own benefit. It affirms that God is in sole control of this world, and can be trusted to do what is right.”

In summary of the fourth point, do not seek to learn your future from evil spiritual works, such as a fortuneteller, ouija boards, astrology and other devilish works. I like the Scripture in Deut. 29:29 *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."* Here we see God declaring that the secret things are His to know and we are to walk in faith. Seek not a life where you seek to know the future to replace the walk in faith that we are called upon to do.

"Fifth, most of God's ministers are lay people in millions of different projects. Although some are pastors, most are not. Pastors are to enable ministers to do the work for Jesus. So do not make the mistake that a pastor's ministry is superior to another form. I made that mistake, so don't you do the same."

Summary of these two chapters on pitfalls:

I know very little about the spirit world and have learned not to seek any further information from the many books written on the subject. I am a mortal and live a life on earth and I do not wish to step out into an unknown world. I have seen the problems of persons who have let themselves be deceived into thinking they have superior knowledge or know the source for it. But I do have one spiritual blessing to hold on to dearly. Thank God daily for giving me the ability to hear his voice, the voice of the Shepherd; not as a direct communications link, but for God to use when he wants to direct me in my work for Him. Praise God for this, for it is my desire to be his best servant. Jesus promised this when He said, *"My sheep will hear my voice"* as recorded earlier in this book. Pray to hear the voice of your shepherd Jesus. It comes in inward thoughts implanted in your mind, dreams and visions; and sometimes an angel in disguise carries a message. You will ask yourself the following question, *"So, with all these pitfalls, why do I not just hide under an*

intellectual brand of Christianity where they speak of the Spirit of God as some distant entity to avoid?" Certainly it would be an easier life, but for one thing. When God uses you in His work, yes, when you are the feet, hands, or voice of God to a needy world, a wonderful essence fills you and you do not falter, but seek to do more work for God. It is my road and may it be yours. Serve God to your fullest and He will not only protect you but will fill you with a heavenly bliss. Submit yourself as a humble and meek soul ready to be bold when God calls. I like the Scripture Isaiah 40:10-11 *"Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young."*

CHAPTER 19

COMMUNION TIME - THE THIRD TESTIMONEY

There have been times when God has answered my inquiry immediately, but they are very rare and have happened only when the answer was needed immediately and was of concern to God. I recall one such inquiry in my life that I call Communion Time.

This happened when my four children were between the ages of seven and twelve years old. My whole family drove to visit a family who had moved away to Ontario, CA. When Sunday came, our family joined their family at their church, the American Baptist Church of Ontario, CA. It was a large wooden church and we were fortunate to be all sitting on the first row of balcony seats. The minister announced that they would soon be serving Holy Communion. I saw the ushers passing out plates of crackers and wine in the church below. The denomination that we belonged to had a directive that its members were

not to take communion at any other church because only their ministers could bless the elements. What was I going to do? I was in a quandary. I closed my eyes and prayed for help and asked the question, "Jesus, are you in these elements?" I really didn't expect an answer, when suddenly the inward thought came into my mind and I had a knowing that it was from God. He said, "I Am, if you believe I Am." A great peace came over me as the ushers approached our area. I looked down at my wife and children and said, "We will receive Communion," and so we did. So you see, I cannot say God never answers our prayer in zip time. However, a constant flow of information from a spirit source, especially on non-religious subjects, is most likely a Satan-directed familiar spirit. Beware!

CHAPTER 20

LET US KNOW OUR PLACE IN GOD'S WORLD

The next poem talks about safe boundaries for us to walk in.

GOD'S WEAVING

By Frank Henrich November 12, 2013

I am a thread being woven
Into God's colorful carpet
Of enormous size, beyond description
A single thread of color, I am.

And I think my life should be
Center stage for all to see
Such ego, have I, when all I am
Is a single thread of, what color?

I don't even know the shade I bear
Me being a single thread I am
In this huge cloth weaved by God
Whose colors blend in and out.

And I ask God to what purpose
Does He want me to serve life?
As this carpet is constantly weaved
As if I were the star of the action.

Forgive me Lord for my spiritual ego
Thinking me more than I am
I shall wait and be weaved by You,
Wherever You place me is okay.

LET US FIND SAFE BOUNDRIES

SAFE BOUNDRIES POEM HISTORY

The below is a description of events that lead to the writing of the poem to follow:



the summer of 2006, my wife and I and another couple went on a trip driving across South Dakota. At Wall Drug Company in Wall, SD, we stopped to shop. I saw the first wall hanging and was taken with wanting to buy it. At first, I resisted the idea of spending money for it and thought, how foolish to purchase it, since I had no place to use it. But still, the desire to possess it grew stronger and at long last, I bought it. Back in the car, the wife of the other couple asked me why I purchased it. Without a moment of thought I said, "It symbolizes my active free life set alive between two safe boundaries." I myself did not know why it had been so appealing to me so my answer surprised me. But in reflection, I knew the reason, unknown to me previously, was right. We need to be able to feel safe; to live full lives; safely between the God-

defined boundaries that are firm, solid and trustworthy; especially as a Christian who is aware of the spiritual world that controls the physical world we call home. These two hangings are on my office wall.

What does the second wall hanging (*above*) symbolize? My wife and I went on a one-week trip to Arizona in February 2008. While shopping at a tourist stop, I saw the above hanging and it reminded me of the other cloth. So I purchased it. Then 2 days later I saw the pony pin and I knew where it should be placed. The spotted pony is actively between the two boundaries, but here there is a difference. Do you see that on the first one, the boundaries are horizontal and on the second one they are vertical? So what does a vertical boundary mean? To me it symbolizes an opening between Earth and Heaven, in my writings and in preparation for me to go there. What are these boundaries like to an active earnest Christian? Read the poem below and understand.

SAFE BOUNDRIES IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALKS!

By Frank E. Henrich Jr. August 2, 2008

Oh spirit world, you are so vast
And I am so unfamiliar,
For God is Spirit and controls
This physical world I call home.

I have just become aware,
Awakened to your reality,
No longer are you a maybe,
You're alive and I need to know you.

Who will guide me?
I am so gullible,
Jesus, will you help me?
Ok, show me the way.

I tried this and that,
Thinking it would help me,

**A whole new world opened
Before my eyes in wonderment!**

**Satan knew I was looking,
He tantalized my psyche
With ouija boards, fortunetellers,
Cults like Unity of Kansas City.**

I read about them and pondered,
They claimed to know
A better way than my church
And its orthodox Christian way.

The Bible says very clearly
By their fruit you will know them,
I found little fruit there,
And three years passed.

I had not lost my passion for Jesus
And sought to serve Him fully,
So God had pity and mercy on me,
Showing me how I had gone astray.

Disappointed I tried again,
In my eagerness I am an easy prey,
I needed a strong hand to lead me
Where would I find this leader?

It was then that I learned,
God takes his earnest down
A learning circumstance road,
Teaching discernment as needed.

Then Jesus, you gave me
The wonderful gift of discernment,
Filling me with a knowing
And a knowledge of evil.

It came when I cried out!
Lord is that person on the stage,
Doing Your work as he claims
Or does Satan guide him?

Then as I looked at the man
His countenance slowly turned

Into a black grotesque figure
My eyes saw the evil inside him.

Then the man's countenance
Slowly faded back to normal,
God showed me that he
Was being guided by Satan.

My question was answered
That I was not to listen to him
Praise God for hearing my plea,
But much more He touched my life.

Then I realized what had happened,
It was so dramatic and knowing,
That I will never forget
For the event is fixed in my mind.

Then I pondered is God
Giving me other advice?
I have been studying the Bible
I should lean on the Bible more.

Then I learned to value
The Bible as my guide,
For life in a spiritual world,
Yes, You gave us Your written path.

Thirdly, living a redeemed life
With Jesus within me,
Trusting Jesus to keep me safe,
Provided the third prong of discernment.

Your presence in me, the Bible and
And the supernatural gift
Of discernment when needed
To provide my boundaries.

**Do you have boundaries
In your Christian life? You're not sure!
As I did, pray and watch God respond,
For He wants to provide us a clear way.**

**Praise you God for hearing
Our prayers for a path
Thru the uncharted waters
Of the Godly spiritual world.**

**Let us find our boundaries and live
A full joyful life between them!**

I AM THE LORD'S RAINDROP

By Frank E. Henrich January 27, 2009

**I'm a raindrop trying my best
To nourish for You, Lord, hungry souls.
When I think of the vastness of Your power
I am lost in the failure to fathom Your awesomeness.**



**You know the minds of millions of persons,
You know their thoughts and actions,
You send Your love to each one,
You desire that each one seek to adore You.**

**How can I even imagine such a powerful love?
And then to add to this, You created us,
While all You want of us is to love You and serve You
While living a life of obedience to Your word.**

**Oh, how my mind goes into a whirl with all this,
And then You ask me to be a rain-drop**

**Nourishing souls with Your heavenly knowledge,
Drawing back to You the weary ones.**

**Humbled as I am, I ask, who me, Lord?
You want me to be a raindrop for You?
Then let Your grace of power ignite me
And show me where my raindrop is to fall.**

**Put a lake behind me to draw from
And let the drops fall, and fall, and fall.
Lord, please take me (insert your name), Your servant,
Give me the mission and power to be Your raindrop.**

CHAPTER 21 THE FOURTH TESTIMONY –THE THREE DAY FAST

Now let us discuss an event in my life where I fasted for a person for three days.

In this story of a true event in my life, the only things I have changed are the names of the persons, the city where the event took place, and the names of the churches.

My wife and I were attending a church. The pastor gave intellectual sermons rather than discourses anointed by the Holy Spirit. Perhaps that is a harsh judgment but it was true. Let me give you some background to explain. My wife and I were married in a denominational church in Florida in 1957. When I became an earnest Christian, I sought every method of learning more about God. Sermons were very important to me. While driving around in my car as a salesman, I listened to audio sermons from both Catholic and Protestant preachers. Some of these audio sermons sparked my soul so, that I wished they would never end. However, at my church, the sermons almost without exception, were intellectual talks that were not anointed. Yes, I found that I needed to hear sermons that fed and sparked my soul by the Holy Spirit. I prayed to God, are you there with my congregation? It was at communion that I felt his presence and when we sang the Gloria.

Well, time passed and I became a member of the Grace Church where the pastor's Sunday messages were anointed and I grew spiritually in the three years I was there. My wife preferred yet a different church which, for the sake of our discussion here, let us call it the Home Church. A split developed in the Grace Church and my faction was no longer welcome there. So I joined my wife in attending the Home Church. Again, I had a problem, as Pastor Bill's sermons were wonderful, planned intellectual-based sermons, void of anointing.

I thought, what can I do? And then the idea of a three-day fast came to me. So I fasted from all food for three days asking God to touch Bill and anoint his work. On the afternoon of the third day, I was praying alone in my office, when a still, small voice came to my thoughts saying, "Go to Bill, and tell him that if he comes to Me, I

will remove his shawl and give him a cape." I must tell you, when you receive a message from God, it so ignites you that you feel like you are in Heaven. I said, in thought, back, "A shawl, what is shawl?" The small voice spoke back, "With a shawl he has some power, but none in the holes. If he comes to me I will give Him a cape of power." I sat there pondering what had happened. I had fasted asking God to touch Bill's life supernaturally. I had no plans to go to Bill with a message. Perhaps, I was timid but at any rate, I started thinking that perhaps it was not God who had spoken to me. It could have been my own wishful mind or even Satan. Pastor Bill had indicated to me that perhaps I was more spiritual than he liked people to be. The only task I had at church was ushering. Was Satan trying to worsen things between Bill and me?

Well, I tell you what I did. I did nothing, hoping the whole event would pass away. Yet every time I went into deep prayer with God, the question was placed in my mind, "Why haven't you told Bill?"

I was living in a period of time where I was learning that God will speak and direct through thoughts and circumstances, while giving you a knowing that you are being used to do His work. For a period of time, in my case two years, you may struggle with your own mind and Satan's distractions while seeking ways to be of service to God. God will test you with messages and you have to learn to tell the thought-voices apart. You have to learn the voice of Jesus your Shepherd. Please recall the Scripture already quoted, that the sheep will know the voice of their shepherd, Jesus.

I was then that I turned to the Scripture that directs us to test the spirit thought-messages, which I have quoted before in this book. So I went to see two of my friends whom I respected. I asked them to exercise discernment regarding the message I had received. They both prayed, and when they were through, they both said, "The

message is from God." So I called Pastor Bill and made an appointment to see him.

From that day on, I had a wonderful peace concerning the matter. At the time of the appointment, I walked into his office. He was sitting behind a desk. You know desks serve as protective barriers when you do not know what is going to happen. I sat down in a chair facing him. I told him about my three-day fast, asking God to come and increase His anointing over him. I did not leave out one detail, even of the testing of the message. There was awkward silence as he immediately stood up and extended him hand. He shook my hand saying, "Thank you for coming."

As the weeks passed by, I felt a sense of peace, but Bill's sermons did not change at all from how they were before. God's message had fallen on deaf ears. I prayed to God, "Please let me talk with him again." But the still, small voice came in thought form, "No, he had his portal of time to respond. He will lose his pastorship but later in his life, I will give him a pastorship again and another portal to me."

Two or three months later I told Barbara, my wife, "I cannot stay any longer where I am not fed. You stay attending here if you want." She responded, "No, I will go with you."

Two years later, he left his pastorship, he and his wife divorced, and he was not a pastor again until twenty years later. In all those years, I have never talked to him. But I have a close friend who has remained a friend of his. Normally, when you are used of God you do not see the result. This time I did.

I tell this story to you for the many lessons I learned:

1. There are portals of time when God touches persons and they can respond positively or reject His leading.

2. That our prayers and fasting are honored by God, who may elect to exercise spiritual intervention.
3. When not sure if the message is from God, then test it.
4. Learned the concept of shawls and capes of God's power on His workers.
5. Learned to not be afraid to act when God so directs. I like the Scripture telling us to be bold, 2 Tim 1:6-8, *"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So you must never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord."* NLT

The next chapter speaks of a humble and meek walk.

CHAPTER 22

THE HUMBLE AND MEEK WALK FOR CHRIST IN HIS AWESOMENESS

Let us read some poems on this subject.

UNSUNG WORKER FOR CHRIST

By Frank Henrich July 1, 2011

I am an unsung worker of Christ
Because I do His work for Him
In a way that only He knows
And that is the way I want it.



To be a known worker for Christ
With press and citizen acclaim,
Is indeed a hard Christian walk
For humility and meekness sake.

So God was wise to give me now
A quiet, unsung job to perform
For pride & earthly fame have destroyed
The mission of many known doers.

So, fellow unknown Christ worker
Be content with your lot and mission
For God knows our strength levels
And will guide us to a mission field.

Then you can say:

I am an unsung worker of Christ
Because I do His work for Him
In a way that only He knows
And that is the way I want it.

My wife, when she read this poem
Wrote, "Me Too." What do you say?

Ponder the awesomeness of God for without it we cannot
serve God.

GOD IS AWESOME

By Frank Henrich 2006

When I start to ponder,
The awesome wonder of God.
Searching for the expressive words,
My voice falls silent.

From a single butterfly,
Who finds his food.
To decisions by the president,
That will affect millions.

To the formation of rocks,
Millions of miles of land.
Yet One who provides,
The smiles of happiness.

**One so awesome as all this,
Yet wants to live with me.
What can one say to Him,
But thank you with all my heart.**

Read scripture Psalm 89:5-8



PATH TO

May 23, 2006

By Frank E. Henrich

I have a story to tell you. It all started on August fourth at a Christian mountain retreat resort. The summer sun was bright, promising a pleasant day as a group of men made their way from the breakfast table to the conference room down the hall. There were twenty-four men of different ages, although none were under 18 and the average age was 45. They were a vigorous group of men in the prime of life, and spark plugs in their various churches.

The conference room was large and had no chairs in it, so the men stood waiting for whatever was to happen next. The coordinator called for silence and then told them the next conference meeting would follow in the Emmaus Hall, one mile up the camp trails. He then told them this

would give them some walking exercise, and the fresh air would sharpen their minds for the lecture at the hall. The topic was to be meekness, boldness and humility as used in their walk as a Christian in the secular world.

The coordinator, Ted, then restated the three subjects and said, "I want all of you who believe that boldness is the most important of these three attitudes to raise your hand. Good, now those who raised their hand go to the window on the far left. How many of you think that humbleness is the most important? If so raise your hand." Seeing many, he said, "Good, now you go to the window near the door to the garden. The rest of you come close to me for you are the third group."

Ted then said, "You will walk in groups of three to Emmaus. The men in the bold group, you go by the name of Bold, while the persons in the humble group are to be called Humble and the last group will have the name of Meek. Now, members of the bold group, I want each of you to select one person from the other two groups that you do not know and form a grouping of three. Remember, do not use your real names, for you have a special name for this project."

The groups started forming and the room was full of conversational noise. Ted spoke strongly, "Gentlemen! Gentlemen, let me have your attention. When you walk to Emmaus Hall, you will walk with your group. We will send you out in four-minute intervals, on the three different paths to the hall. Remember to be courteous to other retreat groups you see. Who wants to be the first group? Oh, yes, I see your hands," gesturing to a group by the coffee table saying, "You can start now."

The first group stepped out through the garden door into the sunshine and fresh air of the new day. Quickly they found the sign pointing to a right turn on the path to the hall. Bold stepped out in front of the other two as they entered the path. For a minute, there was silence. Bold

spoke first, "I do not know how you could have selected meekness or humility. How far would you get in business with those tags? Yes, it takes boldness to be victorious." Humility said, "That's what non-Christians do, one must be very humble." "Now, now," said Meek, "Arguing will not help us. Let meekness guard our tongues."

Just then they heard a voice behind them. They quickly turned to see a stranger on the path. The man said, "Will you step aside so I can go ahead of you?" He was a man in his mid-forties, walking alone. They stepped off the walkway so he could pass. When he was even with them, he stopped and looked them in their eyes and said, "I heard you argue. When in dispute, should we not turn to the Bible for the instruction?" Meek, startled by the stranger's remark said, "I am not sure what the Bible says about meekness." The stranger replied, "Oh, Meek, we make life so complex just trying to understand it. Let's start with humility. It is the recognition that what we have comes from God. The scripture Philippians 2:3-4 says, *'Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.'* And in 1 Corinthians 4:6-7, *'What makes you better than anyone else? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own?'* Humility is an attitude that guides our life into knowing that God will always be our provider."

Meek injected a thought saying, "That sounds like meekness to me." "Oh no," said the stranger. Meek, looking down the path, said, "Will you explain the difference? But we must keep walking for we have a class to attend." The stranger said, "That will be fine." The group commenced their walking again. The stranger continued his remarks in a slightly elevated tone to cover the sound of the feet walking on the path. The path had

turned into a hard-packed dirt surface that curved under and around the tall pine trees that smelled so fresh. The sun touched the top of the trees but the path was in shade. The stranger continued, "Meekness is based on the recognition that God is in command and in control of our lives. The scripture speak of meekness in Matthew 11:29-30, "²⁹*Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for you souls.* ³⁰*For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light.*" And again in Matthew 6:26-30, "²⁶*Look at the birds. They do not need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are.* ²⁷*Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not,* ²⁸*And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow, they don't work or make their clothing,* ²⁹*yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.* ³⁰*And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith!"*

The stranger stopped and turned to face them peering gently into their eyes and then continued, "Yes, it is hard to live a meek life. Harder than to live a humble life! A devoted follower of Jesus learns over many years, how to build up his walk in meekness.

The stranger threw his arms out wide in a sweeping action and then said, "I am sure you have sat on a three-legged stool sometime in your past. You all know a chair of this type requires perfect balancing." They all nodded that they understood him. He continued, "Let me use this figure to explain. Let us call one leg humility, the second leg meekness and third leg boldness."

Bold broke into the conversation saying, "It is about time we talked about not being a softie." "Right on," said the stranger, "The words, *'good courage,'* affirming boldness are found twenty times in the Bible along with phases to

not be afraid. My favorite is Joshua 1:9, *"I command you, be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* And in Hebrews 13:6 *"So that with good courage we say, the Lord is my helper; I will not fear; What shall man do unto me?"* and finally in 2 Timothy 1:6-7, *"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."* So you see, as soldiers for Jesus we need the stability of a three-legged stool." The stranger continued, "We need meekness, humility and boldness all wrapped in one and correctly balanced."

Humble spoke, after a period of silence, "Well, that is okay when we deal with other Christians; but out in the secular world, I have to operate with different attitudes when I deal with non-Christians." The stranger stopped and looked into their eyes saying, "You cannot act differently in the secular world or you will be a hypocrite Christian. You have Jesus to help you. You have nothing to fear."

There was an uncomfortable silence that held sway until the stranger spoke again, "I will give you a very important bit of wisdom." Bold said in a hurried voice, "What is it?" He leaned forward to make sure he did not miss it. The stranger responded, "If you want to be successful in your career, you must let your associates know that you are an active Christian and will not do anything that is in violation of God's laws, like to lie or steal. For then, they will never ask you to do an illegal thing, as they already know your answer. However, if you hide your Christianity and they ask you to do something illegal and you tell them no; well, that is curtains for you as they will seek the fastest way to get you fired. As long as you do not openly evangelize them, they will leave you alone, while all the time you can be a light for Jesus. Being there among them, you are where they can ask you why they see so much joy in you, while they are having difficulties.

Suddenly, there was a clearing ahead and the sun shone on

the green grass. Emmaus Hall was only 200 feet ahead framed by the blue of the sky above and the bright sun shining on its white exterior with green trim. Meek said to the stranger, "Are you with the Leader's Retreat? For we are heading for a training session in Emmaus Hall." The stranger slowly shook his head, no. Humility said, "Please join us," and the others nodded in agreement. Bold added, "You are so knowledgeable!" But the stranger said, "It is time for me to pass on up the path. Let me leave you with a closing scripture. Truly, one of my favorites, where Jesus said in John 15:5-11, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. I have told you this so that you will be filled with joy."*

They reached the side path to the hall. The stranger shook each of their hands and wished them God's blessing. As they were walking to the door, they all agreed they had learned much from the stranger and wanted to hear more. Bold said, "We didn't even ask him his name." Then Meek's face expressed much excitement when he exclaimed, "That's it. I understand how it happened that we met the stranger. Yes, that is what happened! It was all planned."

Ted, the coordinator met us at the door. Meek said to the coordinator, "You are such a clever fellow. You kept us off guard by sending a teacher to walk with us while instructing us on the lesson." "Yes," Bold said, "And what a teacher!" Humble agreed saying, "I was fascinated by his memory of the Scriptures and I listened to every word." The coordinator's face went blank as though not understanding. After a pause, he said, "I sent no one..." The three looked at each other in amazement and then they made a dash out the door to look for the stranger. They could see down the path a long way and no one was walking there. The path was empty.

All Scriptures used in this article are from NLT.

CHAPTER 23

THE FIFTH TESTIMONY - THE KANSAS CITY BUSINESS CONFERENCE

I was attending a boring business gathering,
There was a small park near the conference
A block away that reminded me of an oasis
Appearing among the large tall buildings.
Quietly I slipped away for an hour's rest there
On a green park bench under an oak tree.

Forgetting my business, my mind did turn
To the problems of weakness in my church,
Seemed like my pastor's sermons lacked punch,
Powerful words without the unction of God,
For they did not stir my hungry soul
And I so did want God to touch and guide me.

Soon prayer grasped me and I bowed my head
When a very pleasant voice I did hear,
Looking up I saw a man of my age
Dressed in clerical attire who spoke.
"Are you ill? Can I help you? Need water?"
I responded quickly, "I was praying for help."

He said, "May I sit down with you for a spell?"
I moved my hat leaving room for him,
My first reaction to this nameless man
Was that I liked him and felt at ease,
Then he said, "We all seek spiritual food."
I thought how did he know my prayer?

I looked at him and awaited his next words.
He said, "God has placed different coverings
Over his church and ministry leaders,
Some wear shawls with holes of no power
For God has given them limited spiritual power,
For they believe too much in their own ability."

**“Sadly there are many unknowingly wearing shawls
But God desires to replace this holey garment
With a hole-less cloak of power on their shoulder,
If they turn from intellect to trust Him more fully,
For God’s power dominates this world and all life
His ministers are empowered to represent Him.”**

**“You see, Frank, it is all a matter of trust,”
I sensed this man was special, a teacher,
He continued on, “We grow in trusting
But when we take the step of deep trust
The unction of the Holy Spirit so fills
Our being that the shawl becomes a cloak.”**

**Frank, pray for your pastor who operates
In his intellectual effort and control,
That the Lord in His mercy will replace
Your pastor’s shawl with a spiritual cloak
Now it is late and I must go, so goodbye,”
I said, “No, I have many more questions!”**

**By now I sensed that this was a holy man
And I begged him to stay and talk
He said, “You had your question answered,
Now I leave you in peace and remember
God is in charge and to receive His unction
You need to trust Him with all your soul.”**

**Reader you say, “I am not an ordained pastor
But God has given me a ministry,
Do I also have either a shawl or cloak?”
Yes, indeed you do have God’s power,
How far do you trust God to guide you?
Pray for a rich covering of power from God.**

The author says, "This poem combines into one story,
Two events in my life where God touched me,
God touches often surprise me,
In ways I least expected their arrival,
Those are too wonderful to fathom,
If God touched you by this poem
Praise him wholeheartedly for His gift to you."

By Frank E. Henrich January 15, 2012

Hebrews 13:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* so
have unwittingly entertained angels.

Could I have been visited by an angel? For they carry no
sign. Whoever it was, my soul clung to every word he
spoke and discerned he was a holy man.

Yes, God touched me and it was wonderful.

GOD TOUCHED ME

By Frank E. Henrich April 15, 2007

God touched my life,
It came unexpectedly,
And suddenly now
My life is changed forever.

Before the world was only
What I could see,
But now I fully realize
The spirit world is alive.

God cares for little me
For He touched me,
In my sorrow and concern,
He reached out to me.

He cares for me,
Little me, no great saint,
Just an ordinary person,
How great is His love!

In church, I was taught
That God is Spirit and alive,
And I hoped it was true,
Suddenly, I knew it was.

Oh! What a change
It has made in my life,
Before, coping only with the seen,
Now, I am comforted by His presence.

What is this life in the spirit?
How does it function?
Can it be defined?
Jesus, I need your help.

God used a yellow rose
And silent voice to awaken me,
From passivity to newness,
I have a new horizon to search.

Has God awakened you?
If not, ask Him,
And when it happens,
Your vista will expand.

You will seek His face,
And learn to understand,
His ways and how
They guide you.

It is like suddenly finding
A door that was invisible,
And it opens and bids
That you enter.

You enter and find,
A world where prayer,
Bible studies, and retreats,
Engage your mind.

You will come to
Understand that God is alive,
Your sleepy life
Will awaken to a new dawn.

When that man walked away from me at the Kansas City
Park, I knew he was a holy man. I knew I had been
blessed.

CHAPTER 24

THE SIXTH TESTIMONY - THE MAN AT THE LUNCH COUNTER

Now it has come time to describe the fifth discernment event in this book. This is the event that required immediate action by me. Yes, a call to bold trust and action.

This is a true account of an event in my life. On most mornings I lay prostrate on the floor and pray, "Please God, use me today in your service and when you do, please give me an inner knowing that I am being used." The incidents that followed in my life were many, but I would like to tell you of one. It was a business day for me and being a salesman, I traveled. It was noon, and I found myself hungry in San Leandro, California.

Not knowing where to go, I spotted a small cafe and, upon entering, found myself in a narrow building just wide enough for one long counter stretching back 30 feet. The kitchen was in the back. On the customer's side of the counter were round swivel stools without any backs and the place was packed with noonday customers.

My first thought was, the cafe is full, but upon walking down the narrow passageway between the stools and the wall, I spotted one free stool. Being hungry, I made a beeline toward it and sat down. I ordered my food and then I had an unusual thought come to me, as a silent command that told me to tell the man sitting on my left that he was losing his faith. I looked at the man, who I had not spoken to or acknowledged.

He was a businessman in his thirties, and he was just about through with his lunch. I looked at him for a few seconds and reminded myself of my morning prayer. Without another thought I looked at his head bent down over his food and said, "You are losing your faith." He jerked his head upward toward me and stared. He said nothing and his face first showed annoyance at being disturbed by a stranger. Then I could see anger fill his facial features. His cheeks started to turn red. I said

nothing more and we stared at each other for a time that seemed endless to me. Then slowly the red drained out of his face and he spoke saying, "How did you know?"

I told him that I had received a word of knowledge from the Lord Jesus along with a command to tell him. That inner witness that I asked God to give me when I was being used by Him, was within me and I felt fulfilled. The man's name was Dave. He sat there and we talked until I had finished my lunch. Going outside, we continued to talk. He explained that he had studied for the Catholic priesthood and dropped out, had gotten married and had two children. Slowly, he had become convinced that he was losing his faith in God and had stopped going to church on Sundays. Soon one of his children would be ready for First Communion and he was trying to decide what to do. He was visibly shaken that God, through me, had given him a revelation that God truly is real and still loved him, yes him, with all his doubts. We agreed to meet for lunch again.

Over the next four months we met for lunch four times. He started to return to church and saw to it that his child received First Communion. The last interesting thing about my contact with Dave was at our last lunch. We had selected a quiet restaurant with lots of room between the tables so that we could talk freely. After a bit of conversation he said to me, "I do not know why I should listen to you; you are not a priest." The bluntness of his remark at first stung me. But then I remembered how Catholics are often taught that only the priest can handle spiritual matters. Besides this, there is often a reaction after a spiritual intervention event in a person's life. First, they are excited about it and then they say, "Could this really have happened? I better put up my guard and back away." The interjection of the idea about a priest, well, that was an attempt to build a wall between us.

I replied, "That is a good question. Let's both pray to the Holy Spirit to see if you should listen to me?" I immediately closed my eyes and silently prayed. What happened next was in the inner theatre of my mind; you know, the place you play back memories both good and bad. Well, there I saw a man under a canvas tent open on all four sides but with a canvas top hovering two feet over his head. Then the meaning of the image came to me. I opened my eyes to look at Dave. He was looking back at me. I said to him, "You have built a tent between you and God. If you remove the tent, you have no more need of me." And so it was, we never met physically again. But I did phone him six months later and all was well between God and Dave, and his family was attending church regularly.

What did I learn through this experience? I learned that a prayer to be used as a servant of God, is honored by Him. I have learned that God can use anyone, in any situation, if he or she is willing to be bold and expose one's self when called to action. What did Dave learn? He learned that God is real and that God had not forsaken Him. So if you feel that you are losing your faith, don't wait for God to intervene miraculously, but instead get down on your knees and be honest with God. Tell Him you are losing your faith and need His help. A humble and meek soul receives much food from a loving God. Do you have a tent over your head, between God and you? The next poem describes waiting to be used again.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO GOD?

By Frank Henrich September 28, 2010

Are you listening for God?
Are you listening to God?
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your silent voice.

I ask you, "Are you listening
For the mighty voice of God
So that you will be always doing
What He bids for you."
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear your silent voice.

Your response, "Frank wake up
God does not speak to us
In an audible voice, at least
I never heard of it."
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear your silent voice.

Well, you are so right
Not that He couldn't
If He wanted to so speak,
It's just not His way.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your silent voice.

In the Bible, 1 Kings 19:11-12,
God reveals Himself to Elijah,
God was not in the mighty wind
Nor the earthquake or fire.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your still voice.

God spoke to Elijah
In a still small voice;
If He spoke to Elijah this way,
Will He not do so with us.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your still voice.

You may say, "Frank, just how
Can I hear a still silent voice?
So God cannot talk to me

And I wander undirected."
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your voice.

Well, let us get one thing clear,
It's not words but the Holy Spirit
Who empowers any such message,
Such as when we read Scriptures.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your voice.

We suddenly have a new thought,
We suddenly understand a verse,
We then observe an inner knowing
And hope surges in our spirits.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your voice.

Some people say we must meditate
For God to speak to us
But I say it is more important
To be right with God always.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your voice.

When you are right with God
He leads you oh so gently
You have an inner knowing
That floods your inner peace.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your still voice.
I call it presence Christianity,
For one values this rightness,
That sin is no longer desired,
When that happens, God leads.
Oh Lord, let us hear.

The Holy Spirit leads us through
The still silent voice of thoughts

Our soul is silently entwined
Tuned eagerly to hear.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your voice.

Joseph was there that night
When God directed Him to Egypt;
Joseph knew it was from God
And immediately obeyed.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your voice.

You say, Frank, "I am not there
But I want to be right with God
Can you advise me what to do
For I need God's voice."
Oh Lord, let me hear,
Let me hear Your voice.

Yes, I can, get down on your knees
Tell God you want to confess,
Then turn away from your sins,
Be right with God, be joyful.
Oh Lord, let us hear,
Let us hear Your voice.

CHAPTER 25

THE VISION OF A SPIRITUAL WELL

Here we have a directional life-changing vision. A gift whose insight directed my life and helps others that God has brought my way. May it be insightful for you, is my prayer.

GIVE ME A FULL CUP

By Frank E. Henrich

Painted image by Mary Henrich Doria

I was 2,000 feet up in the sky without a plane, parachute or support. With my arms outstretched like a bird, I was moving through the air viewing the Earth below. There was someone flying with me. What is happening? Will I fall?

My mind slipped back to how it all began. It was a September night in 1982. I was in my study at my San Rafael, California home. The chair in my office felt comfortable, as I sat praying. In the quiet of the room, the joy of being alone with God filled me with peace and contentment. Suddenly my mind was impressed with the urge to relive a vision experienced in 1972. Ten years had passed, yet the details jumped out before me in my mind's eye.

I had the sensation that I was flying like a bird. I felt no fear. There was someone flying with me, just ahead and to the right – you might say alongside of me, but just slightly above me. I did not want to look up because I found it so fascinating to glance down.

The ground appeared covered with a bright white mist, yet the lushness of the light green earth penetrated the fog. I was heading somewhere, but did not know where. I was not anxious; yet, a sense of anticipation filled me. Then, a small spot of land on the horizon appeared and kept growing larger; it intrigued me and soon drew all my attention. My silent companion and I were flying toward that stretch of land. Still, I felt no fear, knowing my silent friend directed my way.

As we drew closer to the land I could see activity; people moving about. Oh, how vibrant the colors were, not gaudy to the eye, but soft watercolor shades of white, red, yellow, green and blue.

The plateau rapidly grew larger in my sight. I discerned

that the top of the hill was flat with edges sloping back down into the white mist. That flat expanse with its sloping sides was all that pierced the fog in all my vision. Everywhere else, I saw nothing but bright white mist. Then a circle of buildings became visible.



These structures were in an open courtyard. The courtyard was round, green and looked grassy. My silent partner and I traveled closer and then in the middle of the courtyard, I sighted a brown object. There were buildings surrounded the courtyard and placed next to the slopes. Yes, Yes, I believed I saw them well enough to identify them as canvas tent booths of different beautiful colors and shades – too many to count – perhaps fifty or sixty were there. Oh, how splendid those booths appeared against the background of the green lawn! The colors and contrasts were beyond description. There were groups of people standing about, throughout the courtyard.

The brown object in the center was large enough by then for me to recognize. It was a well; a water well with a stone side surrounding its round shape – and on its edge sat people, dipping into the water with cups. I could see others walking to the well to obtain water. The people either drank their water themselves or shared it with others. The groups that stood closer to the tent booths

would send runners to the well, who would obtain cups full of water and bring them back to their little groups; there, each one would sip from the cup. But then, there were those who sat on the edge of the well and drank from their own cups, having all the water they wanted.

In a flash, my mind became clear regarding the purpose of the well. The words of Jesus rang in my ears: *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me," as the Scripture has said, "out of their hearts shall flow rivers of living water."* (John 7:37-38). I was an observer; no one was looking at me. The Scripture from the book of Revelation came to me: *"He who sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'"* In addition, Jesus said, *"I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment."* He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." (Revelation 21:5-6) Then, there was Samson, of the Old Testament, who called out to God because of his thirst. God responded, as recorded in Judges 15:19: *"God split open the hollow place and there came water from it; when he drank, his spirit returned and he revived."*

Suddenly, I had an inward knowing that it wasn't desirable to be near the booths. Stay away from the compartments, I thought. Those people near them were receiving their spiritual water in small doses from others. I wondered why they did not go to the well themselves and why they depended on others.

We swooped down and landed on the green. No one seemed to pay any attention to us. Then, my flying companion disappeared before I could look at him or her. I stood there alone. My focus turned to the booths. A deep sure knowing filled me that the tents were Booths of Pleasure, brightly decorated and appealing to the eye.

There was a hidden power that could lure people to them. A sign hung over the entrance of each tent. What did it all

mean? There were so many booths surrounding the courtyard. The sign in front of one booth said "Golf"; in front of another, "Fishing"; and on another, "Secular Work". Other signs read "Bridge", "Social Work", "Tennis", and "Bowling". I walked around and read the signs of the different booths; "Books of Pleasure", "Professional Students", "Family Worship", "Youthful Appearance", "Model Trains", "Photography", "Horses", etc. By then, my head reeled. The scene made no sense.

The booth named "Golf" had a lapse of activity, so I walked slowly toward it, alert to whether anyone was observing my actions. It was as if I wasn't there. Those present greeted their friends; but no one noticed me. People went in and out of the tents. Some went to the well for water and then went back into the booths again. I needed to know what was behind the veil! I pulled the curtain aside and what do you think I saw? There was nothing more there than a descending stairway. It must be the stairway into the mist that I had seen from the air leading down the hillside and into that mist.

Quickly, my mind filled with the knowledge that the booths were booths of Perverted Pleasure. Golf is not evil. However, golf, as one's god, and the love of golf that keeps one from church on Sunday, is wrong. Golf that so fills one's mind and leaves no time to honor and praise God or do God's work here on earth – that is wrong! A verse I have always loved came to mind: *"But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. For my people have committed two evils, they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and have dug out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that hold no water."* (Jeremiah 2:11) The cistern here was golf. What was true about golf was also true about the other decoys such as the gods of secular work, bridge, intellectualism, college degrees, stamps, gardening, tennis, family worship, auto repair and all the other hobby booths there on the plateau.

Then, without warning, I was back in San Rafael sitting in my comfortable office chair that September night in 1982. A vision had been relived and expanded in meaning ten years after it had first been experienced. For, in 1972, I had not seen the signs hanging on the tents nor the stairways. My only discernment in 1972, concerning the booths, had been that the entrance into them was destructive to the soul. Praise You, my God, for this insight.

Oh, God do not let me ever get caught in one of those booths of pleasure! Grant me the gift of sitting on the edge of Your well of living water! Oh Jesus, do not let me ever get caught going down one of those stairwells! Make me thirsty to always desire to drink from You.

The beautiful Psalm came to me:

“Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;

Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

They cried to the Lord in the their trouble;

And He delivered them from their distress;

He led them by a straight way, till they reached a city to dwell in.

Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, For His wonderful works to the son of men.

For He satisfies – him who is thirsty and the hungry He wills with good things.”

(Psalm 107:4-9)

I thought of the many times our roads become straightened by God. When tragedy has struck, we have bent our knees and humbly prayed. God has heard our prayer and called us to visit the grassy court and have a drink of living water. Then, later, we have forgotten our true God and returned down into the mist. Has this happened to you?

I thought again of the well and the wonderful things that

Jesus did for us by dying on the cross, providing us with salvation with the Father, salvation with our God. I thought how wonderful it is when the Holy Spirit comes to direct and comfort us.

Within my vision, I saw no one I know. If I had, I would have encouraged them to move closer to the well. To not be afraid! In addition, if trapped in some booth of pleasure, I would have encouraged them to break that bondage and to move into the circle that surrounded the well. I did not know what lay down those steps in the valley below; but certainly, nothing could be as wonderful as drinking the spiritual water of grace and truth that the well represented.

May I ask you some questions? Do you dwell in the mist? Have you made pleasure – a god to stand before the real God? Do you want your cup to be full? How thirsty are you? Do not be thirsty. Come up to the fountain. Ask Jesus, your door to the Father, to show you the way to the well.

It has been 43 years since the Full Cup Vision and you ask me, “Do I sit at the edge of the well and drink? That is indeed a fair question. My Grandmother Ella said, “Talk is cheap, the proof is in the pudding,” and of course her logic makes sense. Do I still believe I should be living at the well of living water? Oh, yes! Have I always? No! Would I want to? Yes! I would not presume such an honor but I pray always to be there. The Lord honors the humble and meek.

I am reminded of a story told of Jan Van Ruysbroeck of Belgium, a noted Christian teacher who lived from 1293 to 1381. Two students from Paris, France once visited Jan for the purpose of being taught spiritual truths. After their conversation with Ruysbroeck, they left dissatisfied, for he had said to them, ‘You will be as holy as you wish to be.’ His words are true in all areas of life; we are as expert as

we want to be.” (Page 29 A Journey With the Saints by Thomas D. Kepler)

My mind asked the question, “Am I sitting on the edge of the well of living water now? Then memories of days spent in rehab treatment where I was confined to a bed because I had broken my only leg in a fall, flooded my thinking. Having lost my right leg the year before, I was back again in rehab and not sure I would ever get out of there. I had a device that played music with headsets for listening. I would lay there and listen over and over again to one song and cry. I had not lost my faith in God, but I felt very alone on the earthly plane, as my accident had caused my wife to become overwhelmed and she was in a hospital. My family tried their very best to help me, but there were many lonely, confined hours. So I cried and sang softly the hymn *Fill my Cup, Lord* over and over again. The chorus reads:

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul,
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

(Hymn by Richard Blanchard)

Then one night, the Lord showed me a picture in theater of my mind, showing two hands holding up a cup and on the image were the words, “Fill my cup.” Then the Lord spoke in His small voice the words, “Paint this.” I then knew I would someday get out of that this hell-hole. I promised the Lord, that when I was out and able, I would paint a picture of what I had seen. It has been exactly one year as I write tonight, this August 29, 2015, that I now live a normal life with my wife at the home of my daughter and her husband, Dave, who is like the son I never had. Yes, living a normal life and able to write this book for you. Praise God for His mercies. Did I paint the picture? Yes, it is on next page:



We may want to sit at the fountain and drink, but do still cling onto a sin, even a small one, which disqualifies us, such as bitterness caused by the lack of forgiveness. Why don't you stop and ponder this question, "Am I sitting on the edge of the well drinking a full cup?"

CHAPTER 26 GOD'S STRONG ARM IN DISASTER

A true life experience of Frank Henrich recorded by Frank Henrich in November of 1978

Sometimes our prayer for God's wisdom through hearing His voice comes after the event. Such is the case in this chapter. I recommend while reading the below you are seated with your auto safety belt hooked.

It was a November afternoon in 1978. After an unsuccessful and stressful sales call in Maxwell, California, I was driving to see the ATCO Company in Napa. It is not a short distance, and the highway, a narrow two-lane forty-year old highway, was going up and down every little knoll. I was tired, and I was pressed for time. Could I get there in time before they closed? The bright, low afternoon sun shown in my eyes as I turn westerly and its reflection on the yellowish brown hills made my eyes sore, even with sunglasses.

The road had started its descent into the Napa valley. Ahead, the road curved to the left, and I could see it dipping down into valley filled with of oak trees. I had a feeling of impending danger for over a half hour, but, I had dismissed it as baseless. The road went down into the little valley of dense trees.

My car entered the grove and while trying to adjust to the darkness of the grove; before my eyes was a car, stopped dead, with the left turn signal blinking, awaiting a coming car to clear the two-lane highway. I knew I couldn't stop,

There was not time, and there wasn't a shoulder to swerve out of the way (the road shoulder was only two-feet wide, and then there was only a rough ditch of uneven ground about the width of a car, followed by a raised area of wood fencing). Then, suddenly my car moved to the right over that shoulder and ditch area. There were no bumps; it was as though the car was traveling on the smoothest highway. The next thing I knew was I was looking out my driver's side window as I whizzed by the passenger side of the stopped green car. I saw the driver sitting in her car. My hands were clutching my steering wheel, and my foot had jammed hard on the brake pedal, pushing it to the floorboard. Then, a tree passed by my

right side window. The green car was behind me, now, and my car slowed.

Looking back, my car had passed the car with my driver's side wheels on the shoulder of the road and the other wheels on the undeveloped land near the fence. I could see the tree now through my back window. Slowly and carefully, and without effort, my car moved back on the road. All this time I had no control of it. I was being driven.

I looked back to reassure myself that this really had happened. The car was still there waiting to make a left-hand turn. I realized I hadn't done it myself. I had not swerved the car to the right. There wasn't time for me to think it out and act upon it, my mind had determined in the flash of a second, when I saw the car, that collision was inevitable.

As soon as it was safe, I stopped the car along the road. I said, "Lord, I didn't do it; You must have." Then came a wonderful knowing, for the following words came to my mind, "From a hospital bed for six months, you will not be able to do the work I have for you to do."

Since I had just completed my training to be a leader of the Festival House Church, an outreach of my local church, I knew the work spoken of would be there. There had been some family concern that this outreach effort would be too much for me to handle along with my company work. I had gone through the training not sure if I could handle the load. My doubts had been answered in certainly a unique way. My response was, wherever it is, my God, Old Friend, thank You and please use me.

What do protective angels do? In the Scripture, Exodus 23:20, says "*Behold, I send an angel before you, to guard you on the way to bring you to the place which I have provided.*" Then when Daniel was in the lions' den, Daniel 6:22, "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouth."

The message here is God protects His workers. It does pay to pray to God for protection when you expose yourself to danger. When I visit sick persons, I recommend that they get involved with a ministry if the aren't; then they respond, "I am sick, what can I do?" You can start a prayer ministry, praying for others. Turn you mind over to a ministry and let God heal you, because you will be too busy to focus on your illness.

CHAPTER 27 THE VISION OF THE CRYING VICTOR

Visions are often God's method of pointing us in a certain direction or explaining the importance of something to us; we step away from a vision with a sense of awe. God cares enough for me, little me, to share this. Then comes the question, is the message only for me, or am I to pass it on to others? I have always prayed to share the delight of its unique insight. So I pray that you will pass on the below vision to others. Is it time for the vision? Yes, let's start:

WHEN YOU MEET JESUS!

THE CASE OF THE CRYING VICTOR

By Frank Henrich

It was an event I saw and lived. It came upon me quite suddenly, yet without fear, as I was sitting in a comfortable rocker in my house during deep silent prayer. There I was, high in the air with a landscape filled with very beautiful multi-colored clouds containing soft shades of red, blue and green blending in a constant flow of changing hues. The banks of clouds were florescent in

tone, as soft as if they were lighted from behind. They glowed! I could not see any land, just air and I was walking forward, that is, my feet were moving but touching nothing solid.

I had no control of my direction or speed nor had no fear of falling. Just a wonderment of where I was and what was I doing here? The air was not blue as our sky is but like a soft translucent white mist that eyes could pierce easily to see the bands of far-off colorful clouds that formed the distant horizon all around me. A sense of peace filled me as I began to see others like me; walking the same way, and strangely we all seemed to be headed the same direction. I realized that I was no longer in my study room at home but had left Earth, heading somewhere; tingling with excitement; but without a care.

The further I went, the more people I saw. We were all walking in the same direction. This started to interest me, thinking, "Where are we headed?" Then the thought came, "Well at least I must be headed the right way." As my journey continued, those ahead of me appeared to be forming into long rows – like rows of marching soldiers. In the distance, the lines of people were as straight as lead pencils stretched across the sky from my left to my right. I could only see their backs as they were all facing away from me. What seemed odd to me was the distance between the files. Being 60 yards apart, each file seemed unattached to the row in front and behind them.

My walk slowly moved me into one of these newly forming rows with three feet separating me from the persons to my right and left. My group formed in seconds as if an unseen hand moved us with ease to each appointed spot. My walking continued at the pace and direction of all in my file. This walking was not the common action of moving legs, but rather a suspended motion in space – moved and controlled by an unseen hand – at times rapidly and at times slowing or not moving at all – yes, suspended in this lush land of white mist colored here and there with beautiful soft pastel colors that seemed to fade in and out in the distant landscape. What a view!

However, my mind was unable to enjoy fully the terrain because of an expectancy that something important was about to happen.

What is this all about? Then the thought came "What's happening to the people?" Looking ahead, the files of people stood out as pencils in the sky – all facing away from me. How many? -- Gee, I don't know. Suddenly my fully formed file stopped, and so did I. This allowed me a second to glance at my fellow travelers. They were all smiling and happy. No words were spoken, as words seemed so unnecessary.

Without warning, my row moved forward again. Soon, we stopped. This continued for three or four times, this going and stopping. Suddenly, I saw puffs of smoke. There was not one puff of smoke, but many wisps of white filled the sky ahead. The rising vapor rose from each individual person in the most forward row. My mind started churning, "Gee, that's odd, wonder what is going on?"

Again, we went forward – again we stopped. Now there were only two rows ahead of me. What happened to the other people? was the thought racing through my intellect, "Would it also happen to me?" After the puffs of smoke, the furthest row had gone somewhere. But where? My attention focused on the files ahead. For soon, would I not be going through that process? The line would move forward and then there would be something similar to a bolt of lightning, a fire from above would come down for just a second and then disappear, and then there would be this puff of smoke that would rise. Sometimes the smoke would be black and heavy in front of the person – and sometimes there would be hardly any smoke at all – just a wisp – hmm. Then I noticed someone would come with some kind of white object. I didn't know what it was. Then suddenly the people would just be gone. They would move rapidly out of their file and disappear. Then the next row would move forward repeating the process.

The file that moved forward next was the row right in front of me. Wow! I wondered, "Should I be afraid?" You know, the same thing happened to the next row. The fire came down -- there was this puff of smoke -- and then someone walked to the file -- it looked like he was wiping their heads with a white cloth. Not everyone had their head wiped -- just some of them, especially where the smoke was very heavy. I wondered if the smoke smarted their eyes and they needed to have their eyes wiped -- because, you know smoke does hurt your eyes. Hmm -- that is something to ponder. Then all of a sudden, I became very nervous as each person in the row ahead vanished. Then my row marched forward. I must admit there was nervousness in me -- I was not afraid -- it was just that I was curious -- well maybe that stretches it a bit -- I think that I was kind of wondering.

There I was, standing shoulder to shoulder with all these people. I don't know how long the line was to my right or my left. I couldn't see the end of it. Suddenly, we all stopped. In front of me, I saw a vision -- all the things I had done in my life! My life focused before me -- showing me all the good deeds I had done, and the bad ones. I was filled with the understanding that this was my judgment. There was a Single Person standing thirty yards ahead facing us. He was a blur to my sight but my spirit acknowledged Him to be Jesus. He was there! All of a sudden, there was a fire that came down! It was like a bolt of lightning, and it struck my deeds that lay before me -- and I saw smoke ascend.

And then I saw -- after the smoke had cleared -- the reward that the Lord had for me. It was right there in front of me! The Scripture I learned a long time ago, concerning my work for God's glory and how it will be judged, passed through my mind.

"Each man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself shall prove each man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work shall abide which he built thereon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work

shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so through fire.” 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 ASW

I realized that in front of me was the reward Jesus wanted to give me for my work done for Him on earth. It was not my salvation – I had my salvation by being there. Only those who are saved go through the believers’ judgment. I know this from my study of the Bible. What was lying in front of me was the special reward He had for me.

I looked to the right and saw some people with much larger rewards than mine – truly, they had performed greater feats for our Lord – they had brought greater glory to His name! Then I looked to my left! That person had no reward. He was standing there crying! He realized that he had lived his life for himself. He was saved, and had eternal life in heaven. He believed in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. His life had been busy making money, or gathering fame, or living it totally for his family’s benefit, so that work for our Lord had been left out. I wanted to turn to him and say, “Let me help you my brother.” My aching heart reached out to him. However, I felt restrained – as if I was not to touch him – as if I was not to lend a helping hand. My love for him had turned my thoughts away from the reward in front of me.

Suddenly, I saw the Lord moving forward to him and, with a white handkerchief, wipe his eyes. It was as if I heard the Lord say to him, “it’s okay, my brother, its okay.” I recalled the Scripture, “*God Himself will be with us; he will wipe every tear from our eyes.*” (Revelations 21:4). Again the Scripture passed through my mind:

“If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire.” 1 Corinthians 3:15 ASW

The person next to me was saved. He is in Heaven; but with little reward. God renders many judgments; but the believers’

judgment is only for believers and it is the only judgment that believers in Christ Jesus pass through. That was a relief – to know judgment is past for me.

I started to move – I was leaving. Another Scripture filled my mind:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more. And I saw a holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be His peoples, and God himself shall be with them and be their God; and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more; the first things are passed away.” Revelation 21:1-4
ASW

The row was breaking up. We were being sent in separate directions but this time, as before, my legs weren't moving, yet with great speed did the landscape pass by in glimpses. Then suddenly as if someone turned out the lights – pitch darkness followed – and then a light flashed on. Oh, but a different light - the glow from the lamp in my study.

Yes, there I was, back again in San Rafael as a 51-year-old man rocking in my comfortable chair. I immediately prayed: “Lord Jesus, I have not passed thru the believer's judgment yet, don't let me be a Crying Victor. Don't let me stand in that row - with no reward because I did not take time to do Your work.” It is my prayer that you also, my sister and brother, will not be one who stands with no reward, whose tears our Lord Jesus will wipe away. The vision told me, do not be a Crying Victor! Live your life to its fullest serving God whenever the opportunity arises.

God made this world function with us earning our way, paying our rent. When not working to pay our rent, we are not to become aggressively active persons pushing our views on

others. Rather we are to be available to spring to action when God calls us to action. You don't want to be a crying victor!! Wonderful!! Just ask Jesus to guide you to the work he is preparing for you. Yes, He will show you. Why don't you ask right now? My pastor, Bob Collins, said, "One can serve without love, but when you love, you cannot help but serve."

The vision also taught me that when I go to judgment, I would be there alone standing before Jesus. Yes, alone before Him. No minister or pastor would be there to say that I served and loved the Lord. Would I be ready? Oh, no, I must plead for the mercy of God and lean on the great gift Jesus has done by redeeming my sin through His blood on the cross. Praise God!

CHAPTER 28

THE ELEVENTH TESTIMONY – THE PARABLE OF THE RIPE TOMATO

Now it is time to describe the next, and last, testimony in this book. It is a true story about how God will use his workers for this regeneration work of bringing the Good News to the world.

THE PARABLE OF THE RIPE TOMATO

By Frank E. Henrich

This is a true story. It was the morning of August 4, 1971. I was in the kitchen when I heard the noise of the garbage truck down the street. I remembered that one of the cars would have prevented the garbage man from getting to the cans. I dashed out, moved the car so he would be able to do his work, and then returned to the house. I used to talk to one of the garbage men and I was curious to see if he was still serving our area. So, I waited and watched for him to walk down the driveway by peering through the curtains over the dining room window. After a bit, he came and went to the garbage cans, which were on the side of the house. He started back up the driveway and then he stopped, set down his large roller container and went over



to my vegetable area. We had an abundance of ripe tomatoes, as I was the only one in the family who ate them. I had been meaning to pick them, for they all seemed to come ripe at once. Three or four days had gone by and I hadn't been out picking the tomatoes. It seemed like there was always something more important to do.

As I saw the garbage man go to the tomato patch I thought, well, that's fine; why shouldn't he have a couple of tomatoes; there are plenty there." However, as I watched, he stayed and stayed and kept picking and picking. I began to think that he was picking too many and so I stepped out of the front door and said to him, "Can I help you?" He turned around and then turned back and kept on picking. I noticed that he had a brown sack that he was filling. This really irked me and I walked over to within 10 feet of where he was standing. I said to him in a firm, stern voice, "That's enough!" He turned away from the tomato patch but didn't speak. He offered the sack of tomatoes to me; I thought for a moment thinking perhaps he has a family to feed? So, I refused the sack saying, "You can have them, but next time, ask first." His expression never changed nor did he show the slightest emotion. He never spoke. He turned around and walked up the driveway.

I was very mad and thought of calling the garbage company and as the day went forward, my mind remained angry over the situation. I immediately went out and

picked the tomatoes and my wife made tomato soup.

The event remained in my thoughts throughout the day. Suddenly the story unfolded with a new meaning, slowly as a flower unfolds its beauty. It was a parable that came to my understanding in a beautiful, peaceful way. I grew more and more excited as each meaning unfolded. The tomato bush was a Christian Church. I represented a pastor of a denomination. The ripe tomatoes were those Christians who had been trained and were ready now to do the Lord's service. The blossoms were new Christians and the green tomatoes of various sizes were Christians not yet mature. The garbage man was a pastor of another church where mature people, ripe tomatoes, were used as laborers in God's work in accordance to their calling. I, as a pastor, didn't care that the other churches would pluck one or two of my earnest Christians away. I was sure that I didn't want him to come and pick all of my ripe tomatoes.

Oh God! It was as if You were warning the churches to provide a space and a time for their ripe tomatoes to function in Your will and for Your glory, and if not, they will be picked away.

I, representing the Christian leader of the church that was losing the tomatoes, accepted the fact that I would lose some tomatoes by reasoning that it was more important to maintain a Christian community in stability and order than to use all the mature Christians. It would be more difficult for me to control it. Oh! I forgot it's Your church, Jesus. God, it is as if you're saying I'll not let my ripe tomatoes fall to the ground and rot for lack of a director, a leader. Reader, are you a ripe tomato? Are you a church leader encouraging and directing the Christian work of others? Did the Holy Spirit reveal something to you as you read this parable? May I encourage you to act upon it. *Read Scriptures Psalms 146:1-2, & 139:1-2*

Soon in this regeneration work for God we learn to ask
God for simple work.

A SIMPLE TASK, PLEASE!

Oh! Must I look ahead
Only to the means
Of filling my body
With bread and wine?

Is there not
A more noble cause
For this being to live
The rest of my earthly time?

Surely there must be

Such a cause!
Will You help me God
To find and apply it?

You will!
How wonderful!
I await in awe
For this simple task.

So it will be said
When these bones are put to rest,
Here lies (insert your name),
Whom God used in a simple task.

Praise You my God,
All glory be Yours
Forever and evermore
My Lord and my God.

I have asked my wife to have this poem read at my funeral.

CHAPTER 29

WHY DO WE NEED SPIRITUAL REFORMERS?

Today, as it has been for centuries, there is a battle for God to keep His spirit in His church. God used the Quakers against Puritan legalism; George Tenant against his fellow Presbyterians, and today the Pentecostals against the intellectuals. It's always Spirit against form worship whether it be intellectual (liberal) or legalistic (holding doctrine of salvation in works). Keith Miller expressed it well when he said "We can only testify to the insights we have received walking down God's path." That's experiential religion. Let us always temper it with sound doctrine.

Each century has its "spiritual reformers" trained by God to be His instruments in this constant work. They come and pass with their work for Him "blended into the church." Any organization they form dies in 30 to 40 years leaving a dead spiritual movement in its wake. Who are the "Spiritual Reformers" of today? To find them, find the issues that smart the eye of current Christendom because they have swung away from center. There you will find these selfless persons. They may be functioning on the national scene, or in a religious group, while many may function in their individual congregations. Support them! A non-believer reading the Bible calls it boring and always

repeating, while for a believer the reading of the Bible makes his spirit (soul) jump with joy.

Who are spiritual reformers? The noted Christian author of the twentieth century, Thomas S. Kepler, wrote in one of his books his description of a Christian Saint. I found it a guide to strive for. Thomas wrote in the masculine form to represent both men and women. There are ten points made by Kepler. I have selected portions of each of the ten to present to you as the total sections would be too long to copy here but can be read in his book *The Fellowship of the Saints* by Thomas S. Kepler in the preface pages 8 and 9.

KEPLER'S DESCRIPTION OF A CHRISTIAN SAINT

1. *"His life is imbued with a deep love of the Christian religion as a way of 'feeling at home' in the universe.*
2. *He lives with radiance because his spirit is rooted in God's spirit. A saint is a person who has quit worrying about himself, because his life is centered in God.*
3. *He starts each day with these words: 'May the image of God radiate through me this day in each life-situation.'*
4. *He asks that God use him as an instrument of love to bear the burdens of his fellowmen.*
5. *He believes that before God's Kingdom can arrive in society, it must first begin in him."*
6. *He has humility, caused by his belief that life is too much trouble unless he can live for something that is big. And most of all, his life is lost in the Bigness of God.*
7. *He feels that every person, regardless of race, color, creed, or nation as a brother in whom lie the potentialities of a Christian saint.*
8. *He desires to use the results of prayer and devotion to better the world.*
9. *He believes that the two great secrets for becoming a*

saint lie in 'the imitation of Christ' and 'the practice of the presence of God.'

The above is a description of an ideal person but one we can strive to obtain it, if only partially.

CHAPTER 30 – CONCLUSION

As all things must end, so must this book. I do hope that the Holy Spirit has pricked your soul and inspired you to serve God in a fuller way because of this book. This is my prayer. So I simply will close with one of my favorite poems and say God bless you.

HERE I AM, TAKE MY HAND

When awaiting God's direction in your ministry

By Frank E. Henrich June 17, 2012

It was summer fun time
In the California mountains,
My hammock was motionless
In the cool of the afternoon.

As I gazed upward
Into the beautiful blue sky
Peppered with needles
Of pine trees. I thought.

What lies ahead for me
In my ministry, my Friend,
My Creator, my redeemer,
How will it change?

Then the serenity
Of this wonderful place
Quieted my mind thoughts
And I raised my hand.

I lifted my right arm
Upward toward Heaven
And said, "Here I am Lord!
Take my hand."

Suddenly not knowing
How the path will bend
Became a thrill to me
To see God's plans unfold.

How is it with you?
Committed worker for Christ,
Let your mind be still
Wait, see God's plan for you.

Lift up your arm
Upward to heaven
And say, "Here I am Lord,
Take my hand.

Thank you for taking the journey with me. Remember give all the glory to God where it belongs. This book describes only a small section of my spiritual walk with God. See my other books listed below for further information:

List other Christian books written by Frank Henrich

Heaven

The Christ Helper's Manual

Talking With Jesus

Wash me, Oh Lord

Hope, in Troubled Waters

Jesus and Me in Workplace Ministry

This last book is available on Amazon.com

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| 86 | Three Day Fast |
| 4 | Transparency |
| 91 | Unsung Worker for Christ |
| 55 | Way of the Lord |
| 32 | Workers Need Spiritual Discernment |
| 9 | Yellow Rose Event |