

Testimony Series #4

*A Life Devoted*  
*to Jesus Christ*



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*'And expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.' Acts 18:26.*

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1.

## *The One whom I serve*

The Lord Bless you. I have asked if the overhead projector could be turned on, because the song that we just sang, describes what I most want to say tonight. And so, I want to use that as the theme, as I testify how I found Jesus as my personal Saviour, and my baptizer in the Holy Ghost. So, if we could have that on.

The song that we just sang, ah...Jesus Name above all Names, Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word. And, ah...there is no other Name that I know, that I love so much, as the Name of Jesus. I have many friends, dear friends, ah...that I love. And something happens, when I just hear their names spoken. I think of an elderly couple in Christchurch, the Brecklemans, who have become such a treat, such a treasure. If it should come up in conversation, that someone mentions their surname, something happens in my heart. And yet, precious though they are, and so many others that I could name, the Name that most blesses me, is that Name, Jesus.

And, I find as I read my Bible, it was the Fathers Will that He should have first place in everything, and that is what I long for. I know now, that that is the secret of complete peace, this complete surrender to Jesus. The secret of a complete rest, complete confidence, in your life, is when you can come to the place, where you know, that as much as lies in your power, you have given your heart to Jesus.

His Name means Saviour. The Angel said, *"You shall call His Name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."* And as I think of His Name Jesus...that means 'God saves,'...that has meant so much to me over the years.

If I was...ah...going to be knocked down by a bus, that was speeding, and...ah...you pushed me out of the way, I would say you saved me. I would not be saying something religious. I would be saying, you preserved my life, when it would have been destroyed. And, whenever I call Him Jesus, that's what I mean. He has saved me from my past. He has saved me from so much ruin that was working in my life, and in the lives of others.

I don't believe I was a bigger, better sinner than other people. In fact, I never knew how much I was a sinner, until I found Him. It wasn't really that I got to the bottom of the barrel, and felt so depressed, that there was nothing in life, except to become a Christian. But rather, when I discovered how wonderfully real Jesus is, everything else paled in comparison.

Everything that I can look back on, I don't want. As a Christian, I have to tell you that there have been many times, when the way has been very hard. Very hard. And ah...since I have lived, depending upon the Lord, I have seen many wonderful miracles.

2.

And yet, there have been times that have been very hard. Ah...I recall one time, when there was so little to eat, and so little money, we literally ate the cat meat. And, that was not an easy time. And yet, even then, there was His Presence. There was the knowledge that He was my best friend, and had my highest good at heart, and that Jesus is still on the Throne.

I want to receive the most I can, out of living. I don't want to miss out on any joy life has to offer, I really don't, I must admit that to you. I want the most I can have. And when Jesus said, *"I come that you might have life in all its fulness,"* He was not lying. There are many things I don't know. And I don't believe you would have ever heard my name, if it was not for Him.

But the Bible says, *'Godliness with contentment is great gain.'* And I want to tell you, I am one of the happiest people I have ever met in my life. It's the truth! Sometimes I feel so good, I feel like a cat with twelve bowls of cream. I sit in my little flat in Christchurch, and I look around at the window boxes, I go through the photograph album...perhaps I am just browsing the Word...and there is such a sweet sense of rest, that I never knew, as a non-Christian. I never had such a knowledge, that things are alright. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

One of the most important things I have learned in my whole life, is that peace does not depend upon circumstances. It depends upon the Saviour. And the people who have had the deepest peace, that I have ever met, are not people that have been shielded from life's pain. They are people who have faced it, lived with it, but they know how to receive peace from God.

And, I want to testify as clearly as I can, that God has not promised things will go smoothly for us, He has promised that in the world, it will get worse. But He said, *'Thy God shall be the stability of thy times.'* And, I am here tonight to testify that God does not lie, and that I have seen Him keep His promises dozens of times over.

Tonight, I want to testify to some of the miracles, that I have seen Him do. I want to testify to His power. I want to say, as clearly as I can, we have a Living God, not a dead one. I...talked with Christians for years, before any Christian told me, Jesus rose from the dead. I never knew that. I had heard Christians tell me Jesus died on the Cross. I had heard Christians tell me I had killed Him. I had heard Christians tell me I was a sinner. I had heard Christians tell me I was going to hell, and that they were going to Heaven. But I never knew, that Jesus, did not die at Calvary and that was the end, but He died at Calvary, and then afterwards He rose. And there is a Living God who answers back.

## 2.

### *The One Whom He saved*

I remember when my friend Jacob became a Christian, that was one of the things that I found most extraordinary, was that his whole view of God was different than I thought Christians believed. I thought I understood what Christians believed.

I came from a large family...respectable family...I don't ever recall having heard my mother and father having an all-out row...row. They had disagreements, but never an all-out row. No-one in our family ever came home drunk. I had a very smooth, stable, happy, home life....eight of us.

And still, I went wild. Still, I left home as soon as I could. And I had all the sailors from the boats coming around to my flat for parties, because they wanted to taste life. And I shifted up here to Auckland...I was born in Tauranga...and here in Auckland I ah...lived in communes, and I experimented on drugs. And I got involved in radical protests, and I got involved in the University social scene, and everything. And I started the Auckland Love Shop, and so on.

Yet, I don't feel that I was radical, or even an Atheist. That was just like a hat I was trying on. Underneath it, there was still Marcus. Lost. Confused. Trying this road, and that road, and another road, and never finding himself. There were many times that I was consciously aware, that I was looking for something. I remember reading through the Roman Philosophers, and Greek Philosophers, and ah...they were interested in what life was about, and...and...what you should do...why you should ah...live in a particular way.

But you know, the more I read, the more I saw that they were...most of them...as confused as I was. And, especially the modern Philosophers. They began arguing over words. Is green grass really green? And what do you mean by green anyway? And ah...If somebody had of said to me then, "Marcus, you are looking for God," I would not have agreed. And yet, there was a feeling that something was missing. A feeling that I was only half alive.

I remember lying on my back at a party, completely drunk, and I made two statements that night, that for some reason I remembered. One was, If I could start again, I wouldn't make the same mistakes. And the other one was, There's got to be more than this! If this is a 'good time,' there's got to be more than this.

And, I now know, that even then, the Holy Spirit was showing me a truth. You can start again. You can have a new beginning, and a clean start, no matter what your past has been. You can be born again, by the power of God.

As long as I looked at Jacob, and tried to think that he had 'turned over a new leaf,' or just joined a religion, I couldn't understand what had happened to him. I

remember when he came to the Commune where I lived in Wellington, and testified to me about Jesus. I couldn't understand him. I wanted to understand, but I couldn't.

And yet, he had something that I didn't have. And, there was something clean about Jacob, and I felt ashamed, and soiled, when I compared myself. And he gave me the creeps, and yet, he attracted me, all at the same time.

And he kept talking about Jesus. I said, "Jacob, please don't talk about Jesus. He was just a crazy Jewish carpenter who thought He was God. He was a megalomaniac like Hitler, and they killed Him." He said, "That is where you are wrong!" He said, "Jesus is God." I said, "Jacob, He's not God." He said, "Marcus, He is." He said, "Your problem is you think that Jesus is just a Philosophy. You think He is just a religion. Well He isn't, He's God." And he said, "I invited Him into my heart, and He changed everything for me." He said, "You want me to tell you what happened to me? Don't ask me to leave Jesus out, because He is the key."

Do you know, I could argue with Jacob, I could win the arguments, but at the end, I felt he was right. He invited me to Church with him, and I went. And, the first time he invited me to Church, I ran away. I didn't know why? There was some sort of war going on inside me. This was one of the curious things that was going on.

Now, I had faced ah...all kinds of angry people, who crusaded for various philosophies. But there was a strange thing about the Commune where I was. If you were into Krishna, or Bahai, or any eastern religion, you were welcome. If you read from the Koran, or the Bhagavad Gita, or if you read from the Zend-Avesta, or the I Ching, or any religious book of the world, you were welcome. Unless you were into Jesus, and the Bible. And then, we didn't want to hear about it, and we claimed that those people were ramming religion down our throats.

That's the truth! I remember when we had a discussion whether Jacob should come and stay, we were all agreed that he shouldn't. Because he was, what we called, "A Jesus freak." And you know, Jacob is the one that confronted me in Albert Park, years ago. When I was arguing against a Christian, and he said to me, "Marcus, if you don't believe in God, why do you fight Him so hard?"

And you know, it was true. I used to go along to the Rationalists here, and we used to meet week after week religiously, to convince ourselves there was no God. It's true! I used to speak for them publicly, on occasion. I have been on radio, and television, saying there was no God. Not always for them. I was in the Progressive Youth Movement, and I was speaking and doing things. But I tell you, I was lost.

And it's a terrible thing, when you know that you're lost, and you know you don't know where you're going, and yet there are loads of people following you, because they think you know where you're going. It used to be in early New Zealand, they trained a sheep, called a Judas sheep, to walk through the slaughter gate. And ah...When the other sheep accepted the leadership of that sheep, all the sheep would follow to their deaths. And the sheep would live, and go back for another lot, and another lot, and another lot.

And I tell you, before I knew the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, I was a Judas sheep. I remember a young man ah...who we teased. Now, I never was a drug addict. Sometimes when I've had Meetings, people advertise and they say, 'this ex-drug-addict.' I never was a drug addict. I experimented with drugs, but I never was addicted.

And in any case, I would much rather talk about the Life I came into, than the life I came out of. I don't want to testify to the power of the Devil. I want to testify to the Power of Jesus. And ah..I'm...because I think it's so much more important. And I only mention my background, so you may know where I came from. That's all.

You see, in my home...my family home, ah...we were Jewish, but we never kept the religion. But we had some of the Books. And I knew about Moses and the Red Sea. And I knew about Joshua and Jericho, and I knew about all those things. But it was always in the past. It was never God doing things today. We were not in contact with a God who does things today. And so, it was a complete turn up for the Books, to come in contact with this fellow who believed that God answers back.

And one time a friend of mine said to me, "Look, don't knock Jacob, he has something that works." He said, "I visited his flat, in Auckland, and ah...he prayed, and he said, Lord Jesus your Word says that You give to those that ask. Well, I feel like eating some pork. And so, Lord if you want to supply it, that will be alright by me." And he said, then there was a knock at the door, and a lady said, "We got given some pork, and we don't eat it. Would you like it?"

Do you know, that story disturbed me? Because...No, that's not the reason...Because, I thought, my friend who told me that, isn't a Christian. If a Christian told me, ah...then...they lie...at...you see, because they want to convert you. Every Christian wants a notch on his belt. You are a scalp for his bag. And...But, for my non-Christian friend to tell me that this happened, I thought, "What does he gain?"

Also, when Jacob used to talk to me about Jesus, one of the reasons that rang true, is I didn't feel that I was talking to a tape recording. I didn't feel he was getting something off his chest he felt obligated to say, for his Church. It was as if he saw something I couldn't see, and knew something I didn't know.

Anyway, I went to Church with him again, the next Sunday. And this Sunday, the man read from the Bible, which I have here. And he read me this passage. Well, I say he read me, he read the whole Church this passage. And I had taken a whole lot of Christian...of non-Christian friends with me for reinforcements. I didn't want Christians to be sitting around me, hassling me. So, I was brave enough to go, but in convoy.

And ah...and this man read out a list of people who will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven, and I was on the list. And...and I sat there thinking, "If that Book is true, I'm wrong." This really impressed me, to hear a Christian who believed the Bible. Because I tell you, most Christians, I would ask them...this happened many times...I would say, "What do you believe?" And they would say, "Our Church believes this and that." But that isn't the question I had asked them. I didn't ask what their Church believed, I wanted to know what *they* believed.

This man was reading from the Bible, and he read this, *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit God’s Kingdom. Do not be misled. Neither the immoral (that was me), nor idolaters (that had been me), nor adulterers, nor partakers in homosexuality, nor thieves (that had been me), nor the avaricious (that’s the greedy), nor drunkards (that was me), nor slanderers (that was me), nor robbers (that was me), will inherit the Kingdom of God. And some of you were just that, but you were washed, you were made Holy, and you were made righteous by the Power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.”*

Well, you know, when I heard that, I knew it was true. Within my heart, the Holy Spirit spoke, and said, “Marcus, you are not going to Heaven.” Another thing that impressed me is...that Preacher preached was...he kept on talking about returning to God. He was not trying to convince us there was a God. He just simply said, “There is, and you should return to Him.” It was all stated as facts. He was not a man airing his opinions, he was simply delivering what the Bible said. And all this struck home.

And, he shared about how, on the Cross, Jesus was punished for my sins. And he made some statements that were very stirring, he said, “There is no chain so big, Jesus can’t break it.” And I needed to hear that, because there were many chains in my life, many areas where I had tried to improve myself and failed, again and again. Many chains that I knew of, and I needed to hear that. There is no chain so big, Jesus cannot break it.

And he, oh, he went on and on, and on, and on, and on. And half of me wanted to run out of the Church, and half of me wanted to stay. And then ah...he read about where Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, I’ll confess before the Father. Whoever confesses Me before men, I’ll confess before the Angels.” And he said, “You need to take a public stand, and accept Jesus, because He died for you, and He rose for you, and He offers you New life.” See, I remember it all!

And ah...so, when the altar call came, I got up to my feet, and I left. And I went home. And ah...I expected Jacob would hassle me about that, but he never did. And ah...I couldn’t understand the war that was going on in my heart. I began to think it all through. I felt it was true, and I liked what I saw, the way those people were enjoying God, and they talked to Him, as if He could hear. And...Billy Graham says, “If you’re the salt of the earth, you should make somebody thirsty.”

And that is what happened, as I saw that group of people. I could see, that for them it worked. I even saw a crippled woman get up and walk. I saw it, and I couldn’t pretend it never happened, because it did.

But there were many things confused me. I thought, “If I become a Christian, will it take me somewhere I don’t want to go? If I commit myself, and I do become a Christian, what about my friends? What about my parents? What will I do? What will I turn into?”

And I...I talked with Jacob, I said, “Jacob, why did you become a Christian? You were so normal? You weren’t dying? You weren’t ah...marrying a Christian girl? You weren’t thick in the head? Why you?” He said, “Marcus, because I discovered, that it is what I was born for, to serve Him.” I’m so glad I had a friend like Jacob, who would tell me that.



One time I tried to shake him off, I said, "Jacob, I'm a Christian now." He said, "No, you're not." I said, "You arrogant, self-righteous little twerp! How dare you tell me I'm not a Christian? Course I'm a Christian!" And I began to curse and swear at him. He said, "You see!" I said, "Who are you to tell me I am not a Christian?" He said, "Marcus, Jesus said, I am the door. You have to come in through the door. You never received Him, so you're not a Christian. You see, you're trying to creep up over the wall, and Jesus said people who do that are thieves, and robbers."

Do you know I went away pleased, cause, I knew I wasn't a Christian too, and it was...I was just sort of testing him to see how much he believed it. One day he got really frustrated with me, and he said, "I don't know what else to say to you? I have tried, and I just can't get through to you." And he said, "The only thing that I can say is, the Bible says, '*The preaching of the Cross is foolishness to them that perish,*' and that's why you can't understand, cause, you're perishing, so it's all double to you."

Well! I'm glad that I had a friend who told me the truth. He liked me enough to be heard, and he was straight down the line, and he told me. I needed to hear I was lost, 'cause, I was. I didn't need people to butter me up, and tell me I was going to Heaven, 'cause, I wasn't.

### 3.

## *A New Creature*

And ah...about that time, I picked up a Time magazine, it was August 1971, and on the cover was a picture of Jesus. So, I was interested, cause, like I say, I was quite drawn into it. And, I opened up the magazine, and there was a picture of some people praying. And I looked at that picture...a photograph...and on the back wall was a Scripture. And the Scripture said, '*If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are done away, all things are become new.*'

And as I read it, I realized, that is what had happened to Jacob. He was not reformed, he was not just conforming to a code, he was a *new* Jacob. And, I thought, that is for me. So, I went on my knees...I locked my door...I went on my knees, and all these thoughts went whirring through my head; what will my friends think when they find out?

But I began to pray, I said, "Lord Jesus, if this prayer gets past the ceiling, please take me. Change my life, come in." And then I thought, "If that's what you have to do, I've done it." I don't remember now whether I told Him I was sorry for my sins, but I was. I don't know if I told Him. And I didn't feel anything. I didn't see anything. I didn't...no bells went gong, and no lights flashed. Nothing. I just went to sleep.

And the next morning when I woke up, I was different. I was really different. About

half past ten, a girl came to visit and I was sarcastic to her, and I swore using the Name of Jesus, like I always did, but it cut me like a knife. Saying that Name, hurt me. And the fact that I'd been sarcastic to her hurt me. Because I had a new heart, and a new Spirit from God.

I even wanted to pay my bills. I used to be like General Custer, I used to go round shouting, charge. I went home to my mother and father, and I told them what happened, I said I became a Christian. My Mother rolled her eyes, and looked at my father, and said, "Well, I suppose it's better than the drugs." My father said, "We will see."

And ah...he waited two years before he said to me, "Now I see something has happened." Because, they had seen me go into so many things. They had seen me try so many new tricks, and try and take so many people with me. And, I myself was not sure whether this thing would last, all I knew was, it was true.

Fortunately, I had a friend who explained to me *what* I had done. And ah...she told me that when I received Jesus as my personal Saviour, all my sins were forgiven, and blotted out, and gone forever. And, she showed me a verse in Psalm thirty-two, that says, '*What peace there is for the man whose sins are forgiven.*' And I felt it, I felt a deep peace within my own heart. I felt that I was safe, and that I had come home.

But the feeling went very quickly, and I felt like plain old Marcus again. And three days after I was a Christian, I was walking down near the railway station in Wellington, and I was talking with my friend, and I was saying, "Why does God seem so far away?" And he said to me, "Don't do your talking to men, do it to God."

And so, I called out, as loudly as I could. I didn't care which pedestrians heard me, or didn't hear me, because I had given up on men, this world, and everything. I wanted God. I called out, "Lord, I want you more than I want anything else." And I meant it. And the Power of God came down upon me. I felt His Presence, and as I looked around me, I could not see anything anywhere except light. It was just like looking into the sun. And I felt completely vulnerable.

When I was a little fellow, I used to crack snail shells, and peel them off the snails. Horrible thing to do, but I was a horrible child. And that is how I felt. I felt like I had lost my shell, and I was utterly vulnerable. Powerless before this great Power, and yet it didn't matter a hoot. I thought, "To think I ran from Him, when He's all I ever wanted? To think I ever turned my back on Him?"

And my friend took me home, and three hours after that, ah...it stopped. I was just lying on my back, sensing this Power of God, and feeling like I was having a grand clean out. And ah...I began to speak, and I was not now speaking in English, but in a new language. Speaking in other tongues. I had just received what Christians call the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

4.

## A New Life

Now that was an extraordinary entrance into the Kingdom of God. But I have to tell you, though I have seen many miracles, and although I had that drastic thing there, there have been long times, when it has seemed as if God lost my address, and ah...when I have felt nothing. And I have learned since, that to be in love, you don't constantly feel gushes of affection. It is more important that you have a relationship.

And, that's what I have with God. I don't constantly hear His Voice, or see miracles at all. I have seen miracles, I have seen Angels, I have seen people healed, I have seen the most marvellous provisions. But for all of that, only one thing helps me when I go through a hard time, and that is the testimony of the Scriptures. Because, when I remember a miracle, I can't tell whether I exaggerated it or not. I keep a very detailed diary, so that when God does something I can write it down, and know I never added to it.

Now, regarding the miracles that have happened, if it were left to me, I would not tell them, because I have better things to do with my time, than to be scoffed at, or thought to be a liar. But God says, *"Make known His mighty acts."* And so, I have to tell you. The Bible says, *"Make mention His Name is exalted."*

And I asked for those words to be put up there, because each thing has meant something to me. Jesus, because He saved me from all that is in my past. Beautiful Saviour, because He is the altogether lovely One. Glorious Lord, Lord means owner. In Hebrew it is Adonai, the proprietor, the shop owner, the...the Lord of the universe who owns everything. And ah...for me...I am a Christian, not just because I get blessed, but because He has the right to claim me. He is the owner.

And, if I am managing my own life, I am stolen property. I have no right to live as if I owned Marcus, because I'm not my own, I am bought with a price. And, you are not your own. That is why it is so dangerous you see, to plan out your own way. The Bible says, *'Everyone has turned to his own way. All we like sheep have turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid upon Him, the iniquity of us all. All like sheep have gone astray, we have turned to our own way.'*

One time I was in Albert Park, during the Protest days, and I tried a little joke on the crowd, that frightened me when I saw the results. I stood up and I said, "Could everybody, please shift to the left-hand side of the Park." And as I waved them across, they went. Hundreds and hundreds went. And, no-one asked me why? So, I got up and I said, "There has been a mistake, could you please go to the other side of the Park." And they did, they went back. And afterwards, as I thought on it, I thought, "This is a frightening thing, that if you give an order, and you sound authoritative, people will

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follow.”

People are so lost, they will follow almost anybody who seems to know where he is going. And I see it now...I see that it...where we are right now...I want to say it to you, where we are right now, in this point in history, things are so uncertain...and they're becoming more uncertain...and people are beginning to become frightened, that they will follow almost anybody who seems to know where he is going, or where she is going.

And, there is only One safe Shepherd to follow, and that is Jesus Himself. That's true! Glorious Lord. Emmanuel. I have a friend, who is ah...down in Wellington. He is the President of a Synagogue there, and his name is Emmanuel. He said, "That's a pretty good name, huh? Emmanuel." He said, "I should be blessed, cause, it means, God is with us."

And I like that Name, because...in my life, one of the reasons why I have peace in my life...One is because I believe God is my friend. One is because I believe my sins are gone. And it's tremendous when you are free from guilt, and when you are not feeling ...tarnished, which you always feel when you live against God, no matter how good you excuse yourself. And, another reason why I have peace is because, I do believe God is with me. He said, "*I never will leave you, and I never will forsake you.*" And I believe that.

I have tested it in my life experiences. Some of you have heard me share this before, but we got set fire to, in our home. Er...not everyone is pleased when you become a Christian, and there is a cost. Jesus said there would be, and there is. Jesus said, "*If they hate Me, they will hate you.*" And they do.

And so, people set fire to us...I was home, I had some guests. And ah...I went to show one out at eleven o'clock at night, and our whole frontage was on fire. And the leadlight from the windows was running down like water, and five windows were cracked. And we had no time to save anything, only to run out onto the street.

And, I couldn't understand, how God could do such a thing. I thought, "But Lord, I have dreamed over this place, and I have worked for it. And I have...I have had to sacrifice, and I haven't minded, because it was Your project. But now, You allow it all to be burned down."

And there was something I could do, the fire engines were there, and people had come to watch, and I was watching my dreams going up in smoke. And then I remembered, there was no-one from the Press there, and I thought, "I might as well get some free advertising." So, I went to the phone, and rang the Press, and said, "You are the only ones we will tell." And, they sent a Reporter. And they said, "Well...why would this have happened?" So, I told them. And ah...They put it in the Paper, and we got free advertising. So, that was good.

I also...we had ah...been painting the veranda, and could not afford the top coat of paint. And the principle that we run at, down there at the Jesus Centre is that, there are no collections, and only God knows the needs. And He supplies, and it works. And ah...we couldn't afford the top coat, and there was a whole...of paint...and there was a

whole wall that had borer, and dry rot, and I am no carpenter, and I didn't know how to fix it. But it was all insured.

And because we got set fire to, it was all replaced. And the veranda was painted by professionals, with a top coat as well, and I got to witness to the people. And, crowds of people came to see, when they read in the Paper, where we were set fire to. So, I got some chalk on the street, and I wrote on the sidewalk...because chalk does not destroy the sidewalk...'If you are not on fire for Jesus, you are going to burn!' Cause, I believe that.

And ah...When I see how God turned it to our good...We sing a chorus, at the Church I go to, that says, "They that trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but shall remain forever." And I realised that my security is in God, and I cannot be moved from anything that is His Purpose in my life. I can be attacked, but I cannot be removed until His time. There is a protective Hand upon my life. I believe that. And I believe God offers that to anybody at all.

## 5.

### *The Miracle Working God*

Now, I want to say clearly...as I finish off by telling you some of the miracles...I don't believe I have a Hotline to God, that someone else can't have. Nor do I believe that there is any special quality in my life, that entitles me to a closer relationship with God, than you can have. The Bible says, '*God is no respecter of persons.*' It says, 'That God loves you, as much as He loved Jesus.'

Now, that is an amazing statement, but it is what the Bible says. The Bible says we are accepted as Christian's '*in the Beloved.*' Not alongside of Him, not just because of Him. In Him. That God accepts you in Jesus Himself. There is another verse, that says, '*The same Lord is Lord of all the...There is no difference between the Jew, or the Greek. The same Lord is Lord of all, and rich unto all that call upon Him.*'

I have had to use Bible verses because they say it better than I can. And because I don't want to just share my opinions, I want to quote the Book, and then show you how wonderfully relevant it is. Because, when I am gone, I am gone, but the Bible is still with you, and the Holy Spirit is still with you, and the Power of Jesus is still available to you. It doesn't depend upon a man, it depends upon Him.

One remarkable time...This is just simply to show God's Power, and that He is real, that He is a prayer answering God...was when I was in Auckland, and the Lord showed me that I should go down to Palmerston North, to visit a friend of mine. And, I had very little money, I had about ten dollars, and I caught a taxi from Queen Street out to the

Airport...You could do that on ten dollars in those days.

And ah...I got out there, and I counted the money that I had, and I thought, how can I possibly fly to Palmerston North on what money I have. I had to go via Wellington. And when I say God told me, I didn't hear a Voice, it just was like a clear thought in my heart. Most of the times, when God speaks to me, that is how he does. He puts a thought in my heart. It stands out from all the others, because of its clarity; and it is confirmed, with a peace from God. And so, I felt that He was saying, "Go."

I said, "Well Lord, You made the mountains. You just said, Let there Be! And all the mountain ranges rose up. So, if You want me to go to Palmerston North, You can do it. But I don't know how." And I walked up and down at that Airport, hoping that some Christian somewhere would come up to me and say, "Brother, God just moved me to give you your airfare." But it never happened.

And in the end, I got alone with God, which is what I should have done to start with. And I began asking God, "What do you want me to do? If You want me to go, I want to go. If I don't get there it won't be because I didn't try, it will be because You didn't let me. If this is Your idea, ah... only You know how You will open the door."

And He spoke within my heart, and said, "Put your hand in your pocket." And I put my hand in my pocket, and there was more money. So, I counted it with the other money, it still wasn't enough. He said, "Put your hand back in the pocket." I put it back in my pocket, and there was more money. I felt the lining, and there was no more money there. But each time I put my hand in the pocket there was more money, until I had the whole amount of the air ticket.

And, I went up to the Desk, and I said to the lady there, "I would like a ticket for the next plane to Wellington." And she said, "I am sorry, it is full." I said, "I am sorry, but I'm sure there is a mistake. Could you check?" And she checked, and she said, "There is one seat." And then she asked me, "How did you know?" So, I told her.

And...I have to tell you I have tried it since, and it hasn't worked. Because it is simply something, God was doing to testify that He is God. I find there are times, that God will do a miracle to show you that He is God, and that He is real, and that He is not what somebody dreamed up. But when you are sure that He is God, and He is real, and that He's not what somebody dreamed up; He will send you back to live by faith again, and not by sight.

So, you don't live by miracles all the time. They don't happen every day, they happen few and far between. But, they happen, because God's Power is real. But, nevertheless the general Christian life is still lived by trusting in the Word, even when no circumstance appears to bear it out, as being true.

6.

## *A Lesson In Humility*

Some other things that have happened, that are somewhat similar...One time God sent me to Waharua Pa. And I didn't know anybody there, except that God had said, "Go." So, I went. And I met an elderly man on the street, a drunk Maori man, and I felt that the Lord said, "I want you to submit to him."

And so, I talked with him, and I told him, I said, "My name is Marcus, I am a servant of God. He has sent me to this area, to come and Minister out at the Pa, and I don't know what my next move is, except to come to you, and tell you, ah...that I will accept your advice." And he laughed at me, and he poked me in the stomach with his finger. And then he said, "What you need to do is go to such and such an address."

So, I went there, and I told them my testimony, how I had become a Christian. And ah...that I felt God had sent me. And they mocked me too, and sent me somewhere else, where they also had a joke at my expense. And I went from house to house, always testifying, but ah...not really seeing much response.

And in the last house that I was in, a boy with a scar right across his face, ah...said, "Oh...I'll take you out to the Pa." And he put me in the back of his um....or, in the front rather...of his old V8, and ah...we rattled off out towards the Pa. Now there were beer bottles all over the back seat of the car, and he was cursing and swearing and so on. And I began to pray, and I said, "Lord, please clean up this filthy man's life." And as I prayed, the Spirit of God rebuked me, and said, "Don't you dare call anybody common or unclean when My Hand is on him."

And, when I got to the Pa, I never knew a soul, I didn't know who to go and talk to, or what I should do. And there was a lady who was doing some gardening, with some other friends, and the Lord said, "Go and tell her how proud you have been." And I went to her, and I told her, I said, "I have been very proud, and I know that I mustn't be, because God says, I resist the proud, but I give grace to the humble. And I have been proud, I prayed for that boy that brought me out here, and I judged him in my heart." And God said, "Don't you dare judge him, when My Hand is on him."

And she burst into tears, she said, "That's my son." She said, "He used to be a Christian, and he turned away. And I have prayed, Lord, better You take Your hand off my life, than You ever take Your Hand off my boy's life. And now, you arrive, and you say, God says He has His Hand on my boy."

And ah...We both learned a lesson that day. Something happened. God did miracles out at that Pa. A lady with a swollen leg had it healed. It shrunk back to its normal size, when she chose to repent of an unforgiveness she had against a certain man.

14.

## The Angel In The Snow

I am only just selecting one or two things, there are so many other things. I think I'll tell you about some Angels, and then I'll stop. Because, I did mention them. But I want to challenge you as I do it. I believe there are three options, why I would be telling you such stories tonight.

Number one; I am deceived. That could be. Maybe, I am making the whole thing up, and I have begun to believe the lie. There are such people around, there are people who think they are Napoleon. And there are people who are earnestly convinced of all kinds of religions, or all kinds of religious experiences. So, I could be deceived, that is one option.

(Side one ends, and side two begins incompletely. Ed).

...It is true. God is alive. The Bible is true. And the God of the Bible is still doing what the Bible says He will do. Those are the three options. Number one, I am deceived. Number two, I am lying. Number three, I am telling the truth.

If I am telling the truth, then the Bible is true, and God is true, and God keeps His promises, and you should do something about it. Do you see? The Bible says very plainly, 'Do not follow a man who takes his stands upon visions.' And so...I...just as plainly as I possibly can tell you. I am not asking you to trust me because I have seen miracles. I am asking you to trust God, because the Bible is true, and the Holy Spirit will show you direct. You don't have to just believe on my testimony. All I am doing is testifying, to what I have seen.

I read in the end of Hebrews One, where God says that 'He sends Angels to Minister to Christians.' That is the last verse in Hebrews chapter one. And I was with some friends, from the Salvation Army, down in Wellington, and ah...We were going to go and visit, ah...Tauranga...in the car. And I prayed, and I said, "Lord, You said, that we have not, because we ask not, so I am asking that You will fulfil this promise, and that Angels will Minister."

I didn't expect to see them. I thought that perhaps it will be that...when we finally die, and go to Glory, and look upon the Saviour, that He will explain to us, it did happen, but you never knew.

But, while we were on the way, we went through the Desert Road area, where there was very heavy snow. And I...was looking out the window, and I was praying, when I noticed something unusual. There was a man, standing in front of the car, in the air. And this struck me as rather odd. So,...he hadn't got any wings. He just was a very tall man, who was majestic in his bearing, dignified, and strong looking. There was a



strength about him, that I could only compare to a marble pillar, so strong.

And I felt he was an Angel. And I thought, "How can I tell people in the car? What will they think?" And then, John who was driving, said, "Look!" Because the snow was flying off the road in front of the car, about thirty feet ahead, clearing a path for us, which it continued to do, as we went through the Desert Road area.

And, when we stopped the car, about half way through...because I had never seen snow close up, and they wanted to show me. We got out, and we played in the snow, and we threw it at each other, and got a handful and threw it where it smashed on the windscreen, and so on, just...just to see what it was like.

The snow was falling all around the car again. When we got back in the car, and we started up the motor, the same thing happened. The snow flew off the road in front of the car, on our side of the road only. We passed a tow-truck that was bogged down on the side of the road, because it couldn't get past the traffic...it couldn't get past the snow. And the other cars just inching along in the snow, while we hurried by.

I began to pray, and I said, "Lord, if you don't tell my mother this happened, she will never believe me. I would not believe it if I was not here." And when I got home, and I told Mother, she said, "I believe you." I said, "Why?" She said, "Because, I listened to the radio, and it says that area is impassable to traffic, because the snow is so heavy." And that happened.

And down in Dunedin, a friend of mine, who was the Roman Catholic Priest, had exactly the same thing happen to him, but down in the South Island. So, you see, God is no respecter of persons, Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, all that matters is Jesus, and your faith in Him.

## 8.

### *The Woman Who Wouldn't Give Up*

I want to tell you another miracle, this one didn't happen to me, it happened to a friend of mine. I had ah...a friend, who was a fighting Welsh woman. God bless her. I am sure the Devil was terrified, when he knew she was coming. And ah...She knew something about the Power of the Holy Spirit. And, as a brand new Christian sh...When I was a brand new Christian...She used to come around to me...and see me, and she used to share the Scriptures with me. And she used to say, "Marcus, how long since you read the Bible?" And I would say to her, "Oh...last Wednesday." And I would think that was pretty good." And she would say, "Marcus, if you only feed a baby once a week, it will starve to death. You have to feed on the Word of God every day." And I am so glad that she came, and that she pointed me to the Power of God.

One day, as she went out with her husband, ah...they had a car smash. And when

they had the car smash...and I knew of this personally...I mean I knew...this is not a story second-hand, I know the woman. She ah...had an accident, and she began leaking a clear fluid from her nostrils. And for two years she leaked that clear fluid, and ah...her Doctor would not believe her, when she said that she knew that it was something very serious.

Finally, she went to a Specialist, and the Specialist sent for an Ambulance. He said it was spinal fluid. He said, "The little envelope that holds your brain...the sack...was ruptured, and that she should not laugh or sneeze, because she would get spinal meningitis and die." And ah...She said, "I have been sneezing and laughing for two years." But, she said, "I believe...in the Scriptures, and the Scripture says, He sent His Word, and it healed them. And I believe that Word keeps me!" And she so much believed in the Power of God.

And they took her to Hospital, and they shaved her head, and they operated, and they sewed it all back up...Now, I don't know enough by medicine, but the Doctor who's here will know. And ah...and maybe somebody else that I don't know.

But, while she was in the Hospital, there was a Vietnamese boy, who had gone through the roof of his car, and had sliced off the top of his head. And, he was lying there like a vegetable. He could only groan, like people with brain damage do, and they said he would never speak again. And Midi used to sit at the end of his bed when she could, and read the Scriptures aloud. And then she would pray for him.

And after she was released from the Hospital, she still would go back, and she would sit at the end of the bed, and she would read the Scriptures to this boy. And one day, his parents came in, and they said to her, "What are you doing?" And she said, "I call on my God to heal this boy." And they said, "Good, because we call on our Gods, and they can do nothing." They were his parents, and that was the Vietnamese Ambassador and his wife.

And she said, "My God made the first man, He made the whole Adam from the dust of the earth, and ah...He is able to recreate your son's brain." And month after month, she went in reading the Word of God, believing that there was Supernatural Power in the Words that she read. And although he had been given no hope for recovery, one day he began to speak. And the very first words he spoke were, "Jesus loves me." Because one woman dared to take a stand...and the most marvellous recovery that began to follow...because of the Word of God.

9.

## *The Choice Only You Can Make*

The more I see, the more I realise why Jesus is given the Names that He is given.

17.

Saviour, because He saves. Healer, because He heals. Shepherd, because He guides, and all the other Names.

And the more I begin seeing why the Devil is called the names he is called in the Bible. He is called the Liar, because he has lied, and people have believed his lies. He is terrified you will discover the truth, and live in the life, that God intends for you. He is called a murderer, because that's who he is, a murderer. He is called a thief, because he wants to steal from you everything that God has prepared. He is called the destroyer, because that's what he does, in homes, and families, and marriages, and lives, and minds, if he gets hold of them.

I have seen so many people saved, so many people changed by the Power of God, that I would be a fool, if I didn't go everywhere I could, and tell people, "Turn to Jesus, He's where the hope is, He's where the life is." And I want to say this, no matter who you are, if you don't know Jesus tonight; you were born to live for Him. You were born for Him. He is your destiny.

And if you live away from Him, there will always be something missing, and nothing can ever replace it. You will be like I was, restless, and not knowing why. And that restlessness that you feel, that lack that you feel deep down underneath, the Bible talks about...it says, *'There is no peace, says my God, to the wicked.'*

But you *can* turn to Christ, and you *can* have your sins blotted out. I see many Christians, you know, that don't have the peace of God, that don't have a sense of blessing. And I find that many times it is because they do not really admit to themselves that they are sinners, that need Salvation.

I find, if you just want to join yourself to Full Gospel Businessmen, or any other Christian group, and receive the blessings; you will always find you have a Christianity that doesn't work, because you didn't repent, and you didn't give up your life to Christ. It only works when you surrender, and ah...that's what I want to recommend for you to do tonight.

I had a friend, Rabbi Ruddman, who had such a Salvation...and he came with me to a Jesus Rally. And as he listened to the Gospel, he was talking with me, and I was angry with him, because I thought, "He can't even hear the Message." And then came the Altar call, and up he went to the front. So, when he came back, I said, "Why did you go up to the front, you know you never heard what was going on?" He said, "I heard what I needed to hear."

And then he began to tell me this story. He told me how years ago, when he was studying for his Rabbinical Degree, ah...he read the New Testament, because it was Comparative Religion. And as he read it, he said, "This Jesus has to be the Messiah." And he gave Him his life, he asked Jesus into his life and he felt that...that he could be a Christian. But he never knew the Power of God, in his life.

And it wasn't until he came here, and he heard Pastor Frank Houston preaching, and heard that Jesus wanted him to confess Him before men, that he said, "That's what I was missing, I thought I could be a secret Christian, now I see I can't. I have to take a

public stand." So, he went forward, and he took a public stand.

After that, no-one could shut him up. No-one could shut him up. He told everybody, and in the end, he got a lot of people upset, and now he is over Sydney, upsetting people over there.

Now maybe you are missing the one ingredient he was missing. Maybe that's so for you? I was up ah...Paparoa, and there was an Englishman...we were sitting in a home, and he was sharing, he said, "You know, it's all very well to talk about Christianity, but I have tried to be a Christian and it hasn't worked for me." And he began asking all kinds of questions, and there I was giving all kinds of answers, and the Samoan lady who was with me, said to him, "How long since you received Jesus?" And he said, "What?" She said, "Were you born again? Did you ever ask Jesus into your life?" And he said, "No." She said, "Well of course, that's why you can't live the Christian life. To as many as received Him, to them He gave Power to become the sons of God." And I felt ashamed, because that simple little thing I left out, and it was the key.

## 10.

### An Invitation to Choose

Tonight, if you want to know God, you must receive Jesus into your own heart. That is something you have to do definitely, and it is not something you can do secretly, it is something you must do openly. I want that we shall pray, and ask Jesus into our hearts.

And to the Christians, I want to remind you that, when Jesus said, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hears My Voice and opens, I will come in to him.*" He was speaking first of all to Christians. And as Christians, we can shut Him out too, and we need to invite Him in.

So I'm going to ask all of you, as I pray, line by line, for you to repeat the line...if you mean it?...And we will ask Him into our hearts...And if you have never done it before, you can do it for the first time tonight, and you can receive Jesus as your personal Saviour. Let's just pray, shall we?

Dear Lord Jesus...Dear Lord Jesus...I thank You that You died for me...I thank you that you died for me...On the Cross you were punished for my sins...On the Cross You were punished for my sins...I admit that I have done wrong...I admit that I have done wrong...And I thank You for taking that punishment...And I thank You for taking that punishment...I ask You into my heart...I ask You into my heart...To reign as King...To reign as King...Over every area of my life...Over every area of my life...I receive You now...I receive You now...In Jesus Name...In Jesus Name...Amen.

End.

19.

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Ed.D.