

The Path from Darkness to Light

A Journey Out of the Occult and into the Grace of God

Witness Testimonies



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A Troubled Youth and the Search for Meaning

One night during a lodge meeting, the president of the club was telling us that during the lodge meetings, we're just here to distract you so that your spiritual pit crew can work on you. Unbeknownst to me, that meant that they were inviting demons to come in, and it felt in my spirit almost like something dark. I didn't make that connection that these things were evil.

I was a very unhappy child. There was a lot of abuse in my family: verbal, emotional, and physical. I was a very angry child. I can remember one time in high school—I think

it was secondary 2 or 3—I was sitting at my desk, and a fellow student came up and said hello to me, and I just ignored him like I usually did. He went to speak to somebody else not too far away, and I overheard their conversation. He said, “He’s always in a bad mood, that guy.” He was absolutely right. That was the defining characteristic of my childhood, even into early adulthood. I was just angry.

My parents attended church once a week, though sometimes not even that, and they professed to be Catholic. So when I would go to church and hear these wonderful sermons about virtue, patience, and kindness, and then when the service was over we wouldn’t stay around to chitchat; we would go right back home, and everything that had been taught in that service just evaporated. I realized early on, or at least this was my perception, that these virtues were just for show. This is what you showed to the people on the outside, and once the cameras were turned off, once the doors were closed, they were just not very happy people—very aggressive, very nasty. I grew up in that environment.

I remember one time I had gone into my room, grabbed some empty cereal boxes, and started packing my clothes into those boxes, telling my parents, “I’m leaving. You guys are just awful. I’m unhappy here, and I want to leave.” They would just laugh at me, and that stayed with me my entire life. I realize I must have been four, maybe five years old at the oldest. We had been taught catechism at school, so I knew who Jesus was, but to me all those things were just a fairy tale for grown-ups, because I didn’t really see any of that working out in my daily life. I told myself that this stuff is just fantasy. I was very materially oriented because of that. I didn’t believe that there was an absolute good. To me, good and bad were just perspectives, and if you could do something without getting caught, that was good enough. That’s how I lived my life. It was a horrible way to live.

When you’re starting to develop those sorts of ideas about the world at 12, 13, or 14 years old, of course, this comes from talking with people at school and seeing the kind of degenerate behavior that was going on there, so that obviously didn’t influence me in a positive way.

Host: Into high school and into your early 20s, how does that develop for you?

Guest: I would dare to say I was an atheist, mostly because I’d never been confronted with any arguments that could defeat what I thought the world was about. So as far as I was concerned, when you died you just went into the ground and turned into compost like every other living being. I had no conceptual framework for the spirit, for God. Going back to my childhood and what I had experienced led me to think at that time that God was just a superstition, something that adults made up to make themselves feel better.

Host: It was a complete mismatch, and that drove you away completely, it did?

Guest: Other than church, those values were never brought up in our home life. We were never encouraged to read the Bible or to pray. God was only something to be called

upon when you were in trouble. I didn't really have a direction, and I think that's something that contributed to my delinquency. I knew that I was called to be an artist, but that was something that was not really cultivated in school until I got to college. All the artistic creative stuff that I would do was heavily frowned upon.

Host: Talk to me about this move out of atheism and into New Age that we spoke of over the phone. How did that happen? How did you go from "there is no God" to sort of seeking spirituality?

Guest: Well, at about this time I'm in my late 20s and YouTube is starting to become a thing. As much as I wanted to believe everything was material, things just didn't add up. There were situations, there were testimonies from people who seemed very credible who would relate to having near-death experiences. So it got me to thinking that there's got to be something more to this than just the physical. There's got to be more than what we see. I started digging into that and I found it interesting, but at this point I really didn't pursue it seriously. It was more of a distraction.

My sister came to me one day and she brought me a book called *Buddha's Brain*, and I read that and it all sounded very good to me. It gave me an explanation of why things were the way they were, and on the surface, without digging too far, it sounded good. So I started to meditate and I gravitated towards more of that spiritual aspect without necessarily looking for Jesus. One day, she introduced me to a shaman, and that was quite a bizarre encounter because I was sitting in his living room having tea with him and out of nowhere his face just turns completely red like he's been sunburnt. He tells me a spirit came to him and told him that he had to initiate me into a shamanic journey. So we went through the whole smudging with sage and the rhythmic drumming, and I had what at that time was perhaps the most lucid vision dream that I'd ever had up to that point. It reinforced my belief that there was something spiritual, and I wanted to understand it.

As much as I could, I started out with Shamanism, but I realized that wasn't providing all the answers that I was looking for. Fundamentally, I wanted to understand why the world was so screwed up, why I was screwed up, so I kept digging and I found the New Age and I started doing yoga. It's at this point that I can say that I really started experiencing bizarre paranormal activity. The thing is, this didn't scare me. It was actually quite fascinating because this was almost proof to me that there was something beyond the physical, that I was getting to see this manifestation of the spirit.

I wanted to know more, although there were times that it did become a little bit creepy. I would start experiencing points of light. I don't know if you've ever seen anything like this—like you're just minding your own business and out of the corner of your eye you'll see a bright point of light that lasts for a fraction of a second. I started seeing these more and more often. I would also experience occasional sleep paralysis and

night terrors. At that time I didn't think any of these things were related. I thought that sleep paralysis was just some physical phenomenon. But then other weird things started happening.

Objects in the house started disappearing, and some things that I had left on the counter were damaged, and I was the only one living there. There were other situations where appliances would turn themselves on and off without a remote control, without any input from me. Televisions would turn on and off, VCRs. I didn't connect all this to paranormal activity. I thought it was just electrical phenomena. I found it fascinating, and so I was drawn in. I was not scared by the stuff that I was experiencing.

Host: So you were sort of inviting this because you were curious, right?

Guest: If I knew then what I know now, I would have gone running like my pants were on fire, but it didn't turn out that way.

Host: How long do you spend in New Age practices?

Guest: I think that started roundabouts 2002, 2003.

Host: And is that what brought you to—I think we'll get into Freemasonry now. This is a really interesting part of your testimony, this whole time you spend as a Freemason. There's so much that goes around this topic, the mystery and the secret society aspect of Freemasonry. So did New Age bring you to Freemasonry, or were they two opposite things for you?

Guest: No, it was a natural progression. Believe it or not, in hindsight I think this was God's doing. Now hear me out: I don't think he wanted me to become a Freemason necessarily, but I think he was using this phenomenon to pull me out of my staunch atheism and slowly introducing me to spirituality and allowing me to see the dark aspect before he would eventually bring me into the light. It seems like such a long, convoluted road, but God knows what he's doing. He turns everything for good, right?

Host: So talk to me about Freemasonry. What is it?

Guest: Freemasonry is probably still to this day the world's most famous or infamous secret society. It is told to those on the inside that Freemasonry is a cult that taught the first men to render homage to Divinity. On the surface, maybe that doesn't sound too bad, but why not just say to honor God? Why Divinity? Why that generalization? I had been doing some research and I found a lot of, dare I call them such, conspiracy theorist videos on Freemasonry, and a lot of them thought it was something very negative and very satanic. Initially that was my approach. But I told myself, okay, I'm going to go through this with my eyes open, and if I see something that really jars my conscience, I'll leave. But it wasn't quite that simple.

What I got out of it was something that I never got with my family, which was a sense of belonging. When they bring you into the craft, which is another term for Freemasonry, they love bomb you, and that's by design. They make you feel special. They make you feel like you're called, like you're beyond the norm. There's also that secret aspect. I think that appeals to people, that they're doing things behind closed doors and you get to be part of the elite of society. Even though I was at the absolute bottom of the basket, it made me feel special. It made me feel like I was part of something bigger than myself.

When I was initiated to the rank of Entered Apprentice, after the initiation they give you all the sacred grips and the codes, and they also gave us a little yellow prayer card-board, and they told us to do this prayer specifically on Saturday night. Everything I'd seen to that point was kind of weird, but I was just going with it. So when that first Saturday night came and I did that prayer, I saw something out of the corner of my eye, like a distortion similar to what you'd see on a really hot day on asphalt, and it just moved across the room. So without really realizing what I'd done, I seemed to have opened a portal. Though there may have been demonic activity before that, I was just bringing this to a whole new level. I noticed almost immediately that there were effects that I hadn't connected right away.

The situation with my father was already strained as far back as I can remember. Ever since I was in the craft—they didn't oppose it, they thought it was interesting, they never made any comments to the fact that this is evil, you need to stay away from this—my father just became more aggressive. I noticed more immediate bursts of anger, and these were happening more often. As much as they would tell you there were things in Freemasonry that could help you build your mind, I found myself very distraught. I was still an angry person, and I still had a lot of sadness and depression. I thought, while Freemasonry was supposed to deal with this, it really wasn't doing it for me.

Host: Did you know at the time that what you were doing was participating in demonic activity? Or was it just spiritual stuff to you?

Guest: It was just spiritual stuff to me. But there are things that were said in private conversations that, in retrospect, I can see they were basically telling me that they were operating with demons. One night during a lodge meeting, the worshipful master of the lodge, who was like the president of the club so to speak, was telling us that during the lodge meetings, we're just here to distract you so that your spiritual pit crew can work on you. Unannounced to me, that meant that they were inviting demons to come in. I wasn't getting any better, and if anything I was experiencing a strange feeling of dread because I and about two other people were marked as rising stars in the Craft in that we really took to the program and we were advancing faster than most of the other people, and they really wanted me to become a lodge officer. It felt in my spirit almost like something dark was sinking its claw into me. For a time I gave in and I did do some

work in the lodge as an officer for the opening and closing rituals. It's such a bizarre feeling. When you go to church, some people say that they can really feel the presence of God. Well, there was something similar here, but it wasn't peaceful. It was almost like you drank one too many Red Bulls and you were really wired. Whenever I would serve in the lodge as an officer, that night I wouldn't be able to sleep. I would just toss and turn all night, like a switch was turned on. Again, I didn't make that connection that these things were evil. To me it was just spiritual.

I think it appeals to two types of people. One are people who are spiritually seeking—people like me who are not intending to do wrong, they just want to learn, they just want to grow spiritually, and they think that Freemasonry is the way to go. The other category of people who are drawn to this are people who crave power. Most Masonic lodges, whether you realize it or not, are only about 28 to 30 members—that's the average across the city. It's really easy to move up into the ranks and get a position as an officer of the lodge and even as a worshipful master. So those people who crave power have the perfect setup.

When I was initiated to the Fellowcraft degree, the second degree, I was also taking weekend workshops with the Grandmaster because he was offering these workshops not only to Freemasons but to anyone who felt called spiritually. I only found out much later that the Grandmaster was charging people for weekend workshops and he was divulging secrets of the higher degrees during these workshops. One of the workshops that I did was called the Knights Templar, and it was held over five weekends, I think one month apart, and the last one was the initiation. Without going into too much graphic detail, it was an extremely stressful event, and this was by design. You see, because what they do is they love bomb you initially. They make you think that everything is wonderful, that you're perfect, that you're progressing marvelously. Then when your defenses are down...

Guest: They'll attack you verbally. The entire weekend of the initiation was people being attacked and verbally abused by the Grandmaster, and he would have people perform degrading acts during these ceremonies. There was low-level torture going on, and for me it struck a nerve because that really hit me hard. The people that I thought I could trust were ready to betray me at the drop of a hat, so at this point I was starting to become disillusioned with the Freemasons. I actually wrote out a resignation letter and I was ready to give it in, but at the last minute I chickened out.

Host: And when you talk about torture and verbal abuse and all these things you mentioned, why would they do that?

Guest: Oh boy, this goes deep. This is all by design because they are trying to attach demons to you. One of the ways that you can bring demons in is by having someone experience sustained, stressful, traumatic events, and especially if you can do that re-

peatedly, it's almost like it creates fissures in your spirit that allow other things to come in to take root in you. You don't see that immediately, although I started experiencing more paranormal activity at that point. Those points of light that I saw previously during the Knights Templar weekend workshop, those things were all over the place. It was like fireflies. Demonic activity was on the rise, and some of these things had gotten a hold of me because I came from an abusive background. I had normalized this kind of behavior, and they even told us that this was for our greater good, that the abuse—or at least what we termed abuse—was a way to bring us to spiritual elevation. I saw that as part of the process. I never saw it straight ahead as full-out abuse. I think that's also the result of demonic activity. Demons can bring a veil down over you so that even when the truth is right in front of you, you don't see it.

Host: So you didn't see it as evil, what they were doing.

Guest: No, I saw it as a means to an end, because what Freemasonry teaches, among other things, is that you can condense this life so that in the next life you move up to a different level. The abuse, the stress, all the bad things that you experience will fall away and eventually you just become more and more spiritual.

Host: When you see the next life, do you mean like a spiritual life or do you mean like reincarnation?

Guest: It depends on who you talk to. That's a really bizarre subject, and my impression was that you graduated spiritually and you eventually did away with your body, whereby you became pure spirit and eventually you would return to the source, whatever that meant. In my research later on, I found the writings of a Rosicrucian whose name escapes me, and part of the minutes of that meeting which was held in the early 20th century, he quite literally said that all the secret societies are linked, they all have a common core. No matter what you see, if you see a Freemason or a Martinist or a Rosicrucian, fundamentally the teachings are all the same in terms of the teachings.

From what I understand, there's varying degrees of Freemasonry, and you're divulged more and more occult information as you go up in the ranks. Why is that? Why do they have this sort of slow process? And is the top of the food chain actually just Satanism?

Okay, so the reason why they have multiple degrees and different rites—it's a little bit like a denomination in Christianity. So let's say the Rite of Memphis will have ninety degrees, York Rite will have seven, and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, which I was a part of, had thirty-three public degrees. The reason why they don't take you to the top immediately is they know that if they show you what ultimately is behind Freemasonry, you'll bolt, and you'll get out of there faster than anything you can imagine. People will just run away. The idea is to boil people gradually, immerse them, and as those evil spirits take root in that person and sufficiently blind them, then by the time they get to the top it's too late. They're invested.

So when you say what's behind Freemasonry, what is behind that door? Freemasons worship a god—a demon, we should say—who we see in the Old Testament. He was often referred to as Molech, and I think the Philistines worshiped him as Dagon. This is an entity that goes way back, that ancient Israel had lots of problems with. This is also the god of child sacrifice, which is why when you get up higher into the higher degrees—which I didn't go—one of the things you were asked to do is pledge your future offspring to them. That's a form of child sacrifice. Not necessarily having to sacrifice them, but pledge them, so that if the time comes and they need to be sacrificed, that you're already in agreement.

Host: Absolutely. Tell me about why you left.

Guest: One of the members of the lodge had a business, and he had brought in a partner who was also a Freemason. He had recently joined. This new member had a really pretty girlfriend. What I later found out happened was the Grandmaster had made a move on this guy's girlfriend, and that freaked him out to the point where he cursed the lodge, he left that business, and he took most of the capital with him. The member of the lodge who had this business was in a serious cash flow situation. What he ended up doing was he enlisted a whole bunch of lodge members and non-lodge members to pay him something around five thousand dollars to follow a course on how to do credit analysis. On the surface, this seemed like a really interesting way to go. I was on the fence about that. But at this time also my health was not the best because of what I'd been experiencing in the lodge. I was experiencing a burnout, and so I was going through a lot of my savings. I was already disenchanted with these people and planning to leave. I think the demons knew that, and so they concocted a way to bring me back. This is just absolutely crazy because this member who had the business had a party at his place and he invited a bunch of us, and the Grandmaster of the lodge was there. While everybody else was chitchatting and drinking and having a good time, he calls me aside and he says, "I want to talk to you." I say all right, and we start walking down a country road. He looks at me and he tells me, "I'm going to channel an entity now and he's going to speak to you." His voice changes and he looks me straight into the eye and he tells me that I am failing my life incarnation, that I went down a bad road, I was supposed to take certain opportunities which I didn't, and if I didn't take this opportunity that was presented to me, I was going to experience years of suffering. Because I was already in a bad state of mind, that completely broke me. The only solution I could see was to take that credit analyst course for \$5,000.

I take this course, and at the end we were promised that we wouldn't have to go hunting for clients, they would bring us the clients and all we had to do was credit analysis, except that wasn't true. Most of us were out \$5,000. I still had lodge dues, I still had rent to pay, and a whole bunch of us were really angry with the lodge members who did this. We found out later that we had been used, that they were just using us to prop up

the cash flow in their business, that they had no real intention of following us through on this new career. They just wanted money. I was absolutely livid at this point, that lodge members, lodge officers would be involved in this kind of a scheme. At this point my mind was made up. I said, "I'm leaving, and I'm not just leaving. I'm going to write these guys a letter to let them know that I know who they are." That's what I did. I wrote up a resignation letter that I sent to all the lodge officers, and to their face I called them demons. I said, "You guys are vampires. You are preying on your own members for your own self-gratification. You guys really need to examine yourselves because this can't go on." I left the lodge.

But I wasn't out of the woods, because all those demons that come with the oaths that we take were still very much attached to me.

Host: How are you feeling at this point?

Guest: Depressed, alone, angrier than I've ever been. My finances are starting to dry up because I'm in such a bad state that I can't do any work. I'm slowly eating my savings and watching them being depleted and getting stressed out. Also at about this time, the apartment where I was living, that building was owned by my father, and there was a big situation that needed to be rectified. There was a broken pipe under my kitchen floor, so the contractors literally had to tear apart half my apartment to get to this thing to repair it. At this point my life is in absolute chaos. I have no more friends. I have almost no more money. I'm constantly depressed. I'm binging on junk food. My father and I—we'd always had a strange relationship—but now that there was construction going on, it just brought everything to a whole different level. He comes to me and starts talking to me about something that I didn't want to hear about. I was just in a bad state of mind, and I may have made a careless comment, and he just blows up and we have this massive fight. At the end he tells me, "I don't even want you here. Get out." So on top of everything else that was going on in my life, I was about to be evicted. I was about to be thrown out onto the street. I think it was at this point that the spirit of death entered me, because I've been through bad situations, and even in those depths you can still feel hope somewhere down the road, and it was completely gone. I was empty. I had nothing left to live for. I was going to kill myself. I knew exactly how I was going to do it, and I didn't tell anybody.

Host: Where did you go after your dad kicked you out?

Guest: So at this point I'm so distraught that I call my sister who lives in Sutton, some two hours away. She's known me my whole life, and she knows something really bad happened. I'm at the breaking point. She's so distraught that she drives two hours one way from Sutton to pick me up, to bring me back to her place, because she was afraid I was going to kill myself. She was right. She brings me back to her place, and it's a really nice little place in the country. It was a warm sunny day, and I should have felt better on

the trip and when I got there, but I was still completely empty. I had no hope. Nothing was left in me whatsoever. All I could think about was ending my life, to the point that it even freaked my sister out. She was so distraught at seeing me in that state, she said, “I’m sorry, this is sensory overload for me. I need to take a nap.” She goes into her room, and I lie down on her sofa. At this point I’m at the end. In my despair, not even out loud but in my head, I reach out to God and I say, “God, if you’re real, I’m at the end of my rope. Show me the way. Show me the way.”

Within maybe a twenty-minute period, the heaviness, the depression, the anger that was over me completely melted away. I saw my father as a young child and the abuse that was forced upon him and the things that he had to deal with. While before at this point I was angry at my father—I had even fantasized killing him, it was to that point—all that melted away. All that anger was gone, and the only thing that was left in my heart was compassion and a peace like I had never felt before. This happens in a really short period of time. I get up from off the couch, and my sister hears me stirring about, so she comes out of her room and she looks at me and her jaw hits the floor. She says, “My God, what happened to you? Your face is completely different.” What I didn’t know at that time was...

Guest: That the Holy Spirit had come upon me and evicted all those demons that were tormenting me and left me with such a sense of peace and also a sense of purpose. Because up until that time, if you had asked me, “Could you ever conceive of forgiving your father for what he did?” that would have been the absolute last thing I would have thought of. Yet here I was, and this was first and foremost in my mind. I had to return to Montreal, and I had to forgive my father for all the things he did. That’s exactly what I did. I picked up my stuff, I got into a bus, and I headed back to Montreal. I went to see my dad, and I said, “Dad, I’m sorry for everything I did, all the part I played. I forgive you.” He cried, I cried, and he said, “You know what? I don’t want you to leave. I was just really mad.” While all the problems that had been there before didn’t cease to exist, they were no longer insurmountable. I just felt an incredible peace and joy inside me, and people started to notice it. It really created a shift in my life because up until that time, I was constantly depressed, I was constantly angry. That was gone. I was at that time, I think, about 50 lbs heavier than I am now, and I was just compelled to fast. So this is in Spring 2017. I didn’t know what fasting was; I just knew that I had to do it. I wasn’t going to do some sort of a Daniel Fast where you have vegetables or you eat once a day. I went all in: I went on water and liquids for 22 days. It was just a phenomenal experience for me. I dropped about 50 lbs. It changed how I view food; it changed my relationship with food. I was no longer binge eating. I was getting into shape. My life had been completely transformed. Everything that the devil had been working for decades to sabotage my life had been undone in a period of about 20 minutes.

Host: That's incredible. And when we talk about deliverance, we often think about people kicking and screaming and shouting and coughing things up and whatnot. It doesn't seem like that's what happened to you.

Guest: Not at all. I was curious about that for the longest time, so I did my own research. I found that in a lot of cases of deliverance or exorcism, if you prefer to call it that, you don't get those kinds of manifestations. Those are actually rather rare. In most cases, the demons will come out in the form of crying tears. Some are merely exhaled. In a lot of cases, deliverance from demons can be much more gentle than we've been led to believe.

Host: When you called out to God, like you said, "God" – but who were you thinking of? Was it the God like Yahweh, the God of the Bible? Was it Jesus? Like, what God were you referring to?

Guest: Well, at this point I still had a New Age mindset that I had carried through from Freemasonry. Freemasonry does believe that there is a God, just not the God of the Bible. But at the same time, I knew someone was out there, that there was a Consciousness, and though I didn't understand exactly who He was, in pure faith and in desperation I cried out to Him. Once I had done this fast, I also developed a yearning to read the Bible. That was an interesting story all on its own, because we had a New King James Bible in the family which I borrowed, and I started reading. I started in Genesis, and I realized very quickly that I was in over my head. So I said, "God, I need some help here, because I don't understand this stuff." Lo and behold, the Holy Spirit pointed me to various YouTube channels and Bible scholars to help me understand.

Whenever I had a question, whenever there was something I wasn't sure about, I went down a rabbit trail and explored it and got the understanding. The more I read the Bible, the more I understood the horror of what I had been involved in, and I understood why the ancient Israelites had been forbidden from contacting soothsayers and necromancers and all these people who have contact with the dead. It all made sense to me, and I started to flesh out a diagram in my head of what was going on. I still had some New Age beliefs, and what transformed that for me in a rather permanent way was, believe it or not, a horror movie. In 2017, there was a movie released called *Hereditary*, which I don't recommend you watch. That movie scared me straight. It showed me exactly what I had been involved in with the New Age, with Shamanism, with Freemasonry, and it utterly terrified me. From that moment on, I stopped all those rituals. I stopped doing yoga, and all the paranormal activity that I had been experiencing to that point just dropped off a cliff instantly.

Host: That's really interesting. So you started to find parallels between what you were learning in the Bible and the different stories, I guess specifically in the Old Testament too, right? And what was sort of going on in Freemasonry, and sort of the gods

that they, or the God that they were worshiping, was actually demonic entities from the biblical perspective? Is that fair to say?

Guest: That is a very fair assessment, and I can go even further. During one of the Knights Templar workshop weekends, as I mentioned previously, the Grandmaster was divulging these secrets from the higher degrees to the people who are taking this workshop. Most of the time, they would actually allow us to record the workshop for our own purposes, to take notes and whatnot. But there were times, rather specifically, when they were about to divulge certain secrets, they asked us to stop recording. Yet I was a meticulous notetaker. One of the things that they revealed early on was that the Knights Templar are not from Earth. They crashed on this planet from somewhere else, that they have an appearance that is almost identical to humans except that their skin has an almost luminous texture. These Templars taught the humans all the technology that we have now. Everything that we have in our civilization originated with these Templars who came from up there. That made me think, as I was reading the Bible, of *Genesis 6*, the incursion of the Watchers who took human wives and had hybrid children. They were basically telling us that all of their knowledge, all of their teachings came from fallen angels. This is something that's really prominent now too, right, with everybody talking about aliens and UFOs and this fascination and interest in what's out there in the universe, and in potentially even other dimensions. It's interesting you make that parallel with the Bible, because myself included, when I was looking at those parts of the Bible, I was starting to understand that the Bible actually explains a lot of the things that people are questioning in the world.

Host: About Genesis 6:4 and the Watchers—I think we could do a whole video just on that. But just to keep it to your testimony—at this point you've started reading the Bible, you're starting to get interested. When do you start to plug into a church?

Guest: Well, I started reading my Bible sometime in 2018, and I kept reading and I finished it, and so I started again. Now let's say we would be about when COVID started, so early 2020. God had put it on my heart to come out of my solitude and find a church. He said, "Okay, now you've been studying by yourself, you're reasonably proficient. Now you need to find a church family." So that's what I did. I went out and I looked on the internet to try to find a church that was Spirit-filled, and I met with a tremendous amount of resistance. Most churches were closed. They would not answer their emails, they would not pick up their phones. Spring 2020, I happened upon a video of Tiff Shuttlesworth, and I found that it was a really good teaching, so I subscribed to his channel. At the end of the video he did something that I'd never known was a thing, which was the sinner's prayer. Now that I understood who God was and how He sent His Son to save us from our sins, I decided, "Well, I need to do the sinner's prayer. I've never done this before." I did it by myself in my living room, and I think I did it about 22 other times after that just to make sure that God heard me. So I kept trying to find churches that were

open. Lo and behold, I find a video of Pastor Steve teaching. I watch this and I'm thinking to myself, "Who is this guy? He is more brazen than any pastor, any man of God I've ever seen in Canada. I have to find this church." I keep digging and I find the website for Good News Chapel, and I look at their mission statement. This is correct, this is correct. I have to go to this place. Where is it? So I look up the address and I furrow my brow and I think to myself, "That's not possible. That's right near my house. That's literally a ten-minute walk from my house." That, my friends, is God's sense of humor.

Host: How was it to get into this church family? Were you a bit apprehensive? How were you feeling?

Guest: I was very apprehensive, because this was my first time in a church in probably about 20 years. Understand that I come from a Catholic background where people pray in their heads and they don't really express themselves verbally or physically. So I walk into Good News Chapel and I'm thinking to myself, wow, this place is absolutely huge. One of the ushers brings me into the room where they're worshipping. This is my first time seeing people praise Jesus with hands raised and yelling Hallelujah, so I was a little bit taken aback at first. I guess they were cautious of me, as they should be—I just came in off the street. It took a while, but what I felt there was pretty much what I felt when God delivered me that fateful day in 2017. I just knew in my heart, this is it. This is home. This is where I belong. It's just gotten so much better.

If you had told a younger me that I would end up in a church being a prominent worshipper, that I would be involved in the church community, I'd have thought you were crazy. My life has been flipped 180 degrees. I have a church family that is closer and more dear to me than my own flesh and blood family. God really transformed my life in ways I never thought were possible. God took what the enemy meant for evil and he turned it for good.

Host: You mentioned your family again. Are they supportive of you being part of the church? I know that they were sort of loosely Catholic but not really practicing. Are they supportive of your decision? Do they think that the sort of Evangelical church is acceptable to them, or are they not really a fan?

Guest: They're not really fans. In hindsight, I think that makes a certain amount of sense because there was still some weird stuff happening in my family that goes all the way back to my childhood. God revealed to me in a dream that my family had demons. When I came to a Holy Spirit-filled church, they were somewhat hostile to the whole idea. They never questioned anything I did in Freemasonry. They never worried that I was part of a cult. And yet when I go to this church, they freak out. A lot of times they would refer to Good News Chapel as "that church" with much contempt in their voice. Unfortunately, they're still not saved.

Host: Are you still in contact with them?

Guest: I am not.

Host: So you did forgive them, but because of your participation in the church, it's not really possible to be with them at the moment.

Guest: This is a very peculiar situation. Because while I had been saved, I was starting to re-experience some—I hesitate to call it paranormal activity—but I was having nightmares and things I couldn't quite explain. In January of 2023, I was really getting this feeling that God wanted me to part company with my biological family. I was watching evangelist T. J. Malangi preach, and he brought up a Bible verse and it hit me like a brick. It basically let me know that yes, you can pray for your family. You must love them, of course, but you can't be around them.

I separated from them, and ever since I did that, my life has just gotten exponentially better. That paranormal activity stopped. I understand now that I was being disobedient. God had wanted me to part company with them for some time, but because they're your family and because you're used to having them around, you've normalized the abuse and everything that they bring with them. God said that has to stop. I had to part company with them. I even wrote them a letter, told them why I was doing what I did, so my conscience is clear, and my sincere hope is that they will find Jesus, they will receive him as Lord and Savior and repent of their sins.

Host: Yeah, thank you for sharing that. That's not an easy realization to make, but sometimes I think we've got to leave some space for the Holy Spirit to work in people's lives. That being said, you've had so many interesting experiences, John. What would you say to somebody struggling or somebody going through something similar as you went through in your life? What sort of advice would you give them?

Guest: I think I could condense it down to two points. The first being, no matter how much you think you've screwed up your life, no matter how bad you think you are, no matter how unforgivable you think your crimes are, God will welcome you with open arms if you sincerely repent. Not only will he welcome you, he will run to greet you. He can transform the worst situation. And secondly, this would be a warning for anyone who dabbles in the New Age, in the occult, in Freemasonry, or any of the other initiatory orders: this stuff is extremely dangerous. God is real and demons are real, and this stuff is absolute poison that will bring you to hell. I've experienced that myself, and I don't want that for you.

Host: In all of that, John, did you have, once you started getting into the Bible, any Bible verse that has really stuck out to you that has really kept you and helped you in your journey of deliverance?

Guest: I think what I'm meditating on most these days is, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall con-

demn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from me, says the Lord.” *Isaiah 54:17*

Host: What does that mean to you?

Guest: That means that no matter what kind of opposition you find yourself facing in your life, God will bring you through it. Just be patient. In this life we are guaranteed persecution, that there are obstacles to overcome, but if we trust in God, he will absolutely bring us through all of them.

Host: Thank you for your testimony, John. Can you do me one last favor and just end this off in prayer?

Guest: Heavenly Father, we come to you in the wonderful and mighty name of Jesus. Father, I thank you for giving me the words to speak. I thank you, Father God, that this video will reach far and wide and touch the people who need to hear this. Father God, thank you for your patience, thank you for your long-suffering nature, thank you for the privilege of using my life as an example of your goodness, of your faithfulness. Love You, Lord. I thank You, and I pray all these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

How this was made

This is the author's own work. It was composed with [junifye](#) and an AI assistant, drawing its Scripture and original-language work (Greek, Hebrew, cross-references) from [Darash](#) (Hebrew *darash*, “to seek, inquire, study”), a tool and reference work for the Bible in its original languages.

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