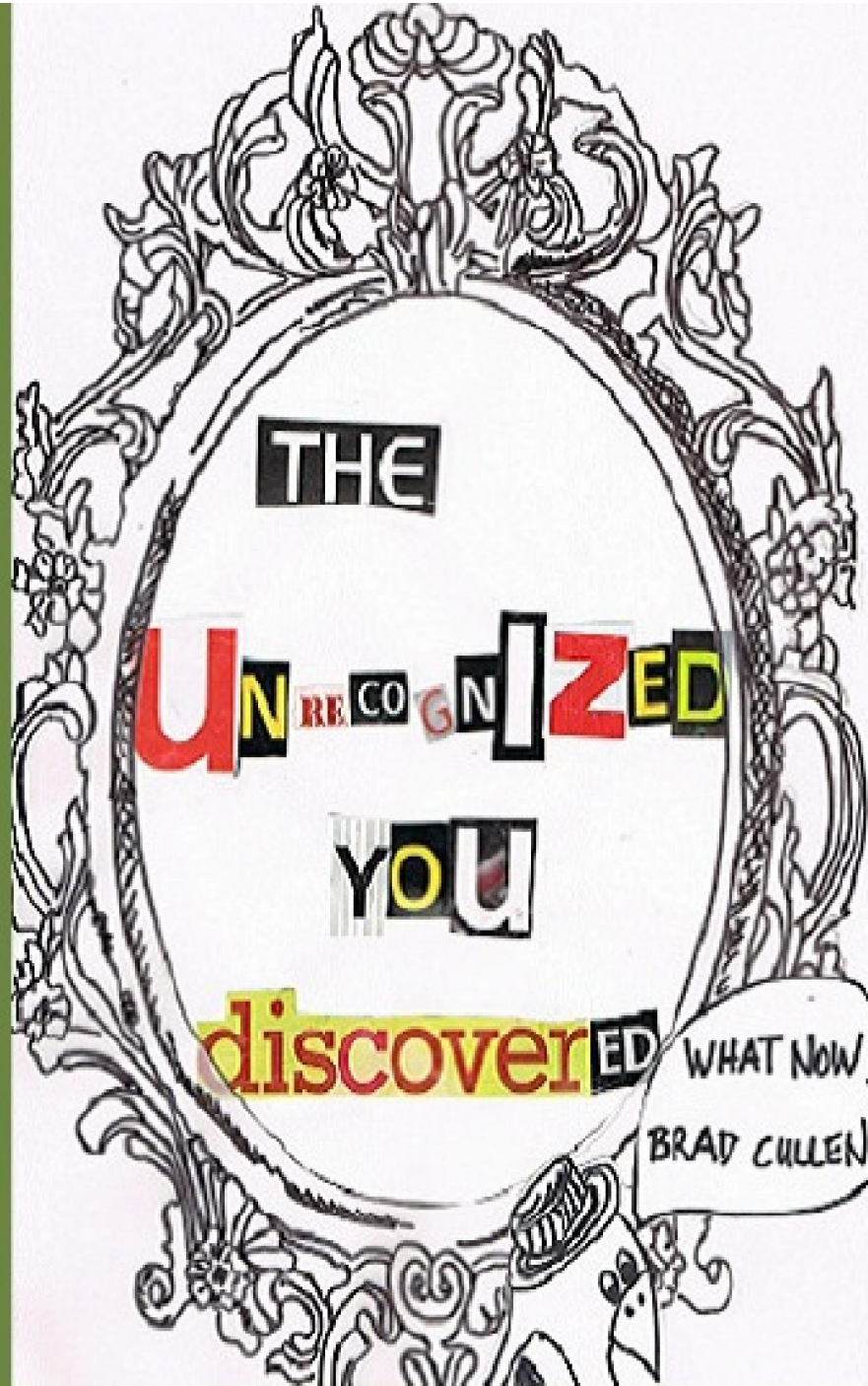


The Unrecognized
You...Discovered

Brad Cullen ∞



What Now?

The Unrecognized YOU ...Discovered

WHAT NOW?

A book that defines many things from a different spiritual perspective, but more than that, provides a simple and stunning answer to the question: Who am I?

Now that I know, what am I supposed to do?

Guaranteed not to be a smooth ride; all aboard!

Brad Cullen

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All the people whose story is told within these pages.

Most of all Eve, my partner, my rescuer and my transcriber.

For more writing by Brad Cullen please visit:

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Foreword by a Friend

To say that Brad Cullen writes often about faith, truth, process, hope, possibility, sin, and faith and faith again, is to shout out the word, radical. Brad gets down and right on it. His interest is connection with the Source, the Source of life, everything, creation, love, freedom, and power. This is radical for speaking of the root of a tree is radical. Detailing leaves, limbs, branches and even the trunk is a phenomenal act, but if we don't acknowledge the roots of said tree, we have forsaken the cause.

I observe daily how technological wonderment, call them new toys, whether in the form of cars, computers or camping equipment, can become what we attend to. We so easily get caught up with tools and miss the reason or purpose for the instrument. Take the hammer for nails. Wonderful, a brand new perfectly weighted hammer to pound nails, but why (keyword!) are we building this house and why might we lift our goal to it being a home, a sanctuary where healing love and peaceful conversation can take place. Just like we can get distracted by the gift and miss the giver, we can capture fantastic "theology" and miss the Creator.

We can digest the Scriptures and miss the Author. We are so easily deceived by thrills and knowledge that we can miss giving worth to the Source of thrills and knowledge.

Here is where this book comes in. It's not only radical, getting at the Source, the root, but does so by pronouncing faith as the connection with the Source, loving Parent, loving Spirit. Instead of the human brain being honored, and yet it should be within the parameters of the Source who created it, we are to understand its absolute limitations when it comes to the realm of Spirit, which this book demonstrates we are--spirit-beings.

We happen to be in bodies, but we are to understand that more truthfully we are spirit-beings housed in bodies. Not denying our body, for our spirit-being resides for now in our time-based, space-based body, we are to recognize in faith that our real self is spiritual. In so believing, we can apply faith to the Source of our spirit-being and find connection and a relationship of meaning. 24/7 is the non-time, all-time, framework.

Brad Cullen points us to the radical truth of I AM inhabiting the I AM, that we are. Jesus showed us what this was like by always giving credit to his Father. All credit goes to I AM. In humility Jesus showed us the way. We can emulate the attitude of Jesus by keeping connected to the Source by listening and conversing and listening some more to the Source.

Instead of getting instructions from our brain, from books, from biases of religious practices, we can go directly to the Source. Now that's radical! When unplugged from the Source, that becomes a description of sin. Not as we were intended to live, but not a shame-based description of sin, this book points a healthy direction of keeping connected to the Source. It's fun, it's learning, it's life, it's healing, it's hope, it's nonjudgmental, it's freeing, it's Truth. Read with all your might!

Dennis Plies, Ph.D., Professor, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon

The Unrecognized YOU ...Discovered

WHAT NOW? Chapter One

GETTING RECONNECTED

One of the true stories I love to tell on myself, even though it reveals one of my glaring flaws, is about an incident that took place while I was doing some market expansion consulting for a small manufacturer located near Las Vegas, Nevada.

As part of our agreement the company maintained a small office for me to work out of, equipped with a computer with high speed Internet access, a telephone and immediate access to any company information I required to do the work for which I was contracted: Developing new customers starting with the markets in Southern California, Phoenix, Arizona and then beyond.

One morning I was unable to get the computer I was using to boot up. I walked up to the receptionist who also functioned as the plant bookkeeper and asked her if there was someone there who took care of computer problems.

“Sure,” she said “that's Frank and if he can't fix it - we have an outside firm that will have someone here in fifteen minutes. FRANK, PLEASE COME TO THE FRONT OFFICE,” she intoned over the intercom and which bellowed loudly enough to overcome the entire machinery racket throughout the factory.

Just then, the president of the company walked in and said, “Hi, are you having a problem?”

“Just a minor one, I'm sure, I can't get the computer to boot up, so Jane called Frank to take a look.”

“Let's go see if we can get you going.”

“I'm sorry for the bother,” I sheepishly apologized.

“No bother at all, I'm anxious to get your report and recommendations so far ...so let's see if we can get you up and running,” he said, as I followed him back down the hall toward my cubbyhole.

As we arrived, so did Frank. While I stood there feeling helpless, the president got down on his knees to get under the desk to look at all the connections and to my horror and embarrassment he pushed the end of the connecting cord into the receptacle and immediately the monitor lit up and the computer went through its opening display and electronic chattering.

“Oh, wow, how stupid of me-- I'm really sorry.” I stammered.

“Not at all,” he said, assuring me, and then drily added, “We certainly don't expect you to have such technical skills.” Frank and he laughed at his joke and my embarrassment.

“What can I say?” I said with as much good humor as I was able to muster, laughing with them.

Of course, I relived that moment over and over, asking myself why I hadn't checked the wall outlet before creating all the fuss.

The answer was simply that I assumed the problem was technical and therefore it would take someone with a bit of expertise which I didn't possess to fix it.

The “glaring flaw” in me that this story uncovers is that I do that with any number of things. Eve, my beloved life companion, suffers over the same flaw ...I misplace something and before I take any time trying to find it – because I know I can't – “Eve, do you know where I put my _____?” She will walk in and within seconds point to the corner of a table or chest of drawers, right on top and in plain sight voila' there's the “lost” item. Why I can't see it, is part of the flaw, I reckon.

One of the silliest things some people do when something goes wrong with an automobile and it doesn't start is they lift up the hood and stare inside the engine compartment

as if some bit of information will jump out to inform them what to do. Not I. I assume I know nothing and proceed to call for help.

Why that doesn't carry over to other areas of my life could be called “faith” by some, “presumption” by others and “sheer stupidity” by yet others.

An undeniable fact, however, is that I've managed to live long enough – “going on eighty” is my stock answer to any query about my age ...or, “I'm well past three quarters of a century,” without any medical assistance or prescribed medication. I walk or jog three to five miles most days without suffering any of the aches and pains which many of my chronological peers complain about.

My stated purpose in life is to be in complete harmony with the SOURCE of everything. What that has to do with anything is what this treatise is all about. What little professional/business expertise to which I lay claim (some even call it “genius”), is in the sales and marketing arena. The only reason I lay claim to it is for business purposes. If I told any client the truth ...he or she would most likely run in the other direction.

What is the truth? I KNOW NOTHING!
But I'm connected to and have complete

confidence in how to access or plug into the ULTIMATE SOURCE of everything by asking: What now? That is the exact process I utilize to write. What now? ...and then wait to hear the answer. I've written eleven books to date, one of which has been translated into several languages and has been given the credit for changing enough lives spiritually for me to have the confidence to say, "I" didn't write it.

What Now?

With utter confidence I can say that some of you reading the following are about to embark on a journey that will be the most rewarding and even exhilarating experience of your lives. Whether that is what your experience will be ...depends upon myriad things, but let me give you a shortcut and secret. You ask, right now, if reading this is worth your time. My SOURCE is your SOURCE.

No need to waste your time. This is not some kind of reverse psychology or negative sell – it is simply truth. Read on or move past -- it is your choice. I have no ego-involvement whatever in your outcome. I am compelled by the SOURCE to write it. If you are not being compelled by the same SOURCE to read it -- don't!

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Two

THE UNRECOGNIZED YOU

Now that my neck is stuck way “out there” by promising a rewarding, even exhilarating experience from just reading the following -- whoa there... STOP!

Let's get something straight right now. Reading some words cannot be all that exciting or life-changing *unless* they happen to introduce you to something you've been looking for ...even if you haven't been conscious you were looking for it.

What could that possibly be? It is here the excitement begins, because the appropriate question has been asked. Here we are, only in the second chapter and the secret of the universe is being offered to you.

Ask the appropriate question and LIFE, *REAL LIFE*, begins ...even (or especially) if you are going on eighty? NO! Let's not get side-tracked. Age has nothing to do with it. The question, “What am I longing for, what do I REALLY want?” has everything to do with it ...and, by the way, it's not my neck that is stuck out.

Every person with whom I've ever spent any time reveals something similar -- there is an

inner yearning a deeply hidden desire that cannot quite be expressed – and here's a secret which will never be understood until it is discovered.

Many people go to their grave without ever discovering it because they never asked the appropriate question; often because they were duped into continually asking questions that are inappropriate.

Let's underscore this claim because we will come back to it; this is a secret that cannot be understood until it is discovered. That sounds trite until you discover the secret for yourself ...then you'll agree that there is no other way to present it. I'm really not being patronizing here ...just be patient and I do believe you will later come to agree with me fully.

Have you noticed the words “appropriate” and “inappropriate?” We're not talking “right” or “wrong” here. “Appropriate” simply means that which gets the desired result and “inappropriate” means that which does NOT get the desired result. What is the desired result? Getting the answer that is appropriate for YOU about what it is you are really longing for. This is all about YOU. YOU are unique and an appropriate answer for somebody else may or may not be appropriate for you.

As you most likely remember, the story about the original couple had to do with them

being duped into eating fruit from a tree they weren't even supposed to touch. It broke what we can call “the connection.”

The human family today continues to get duped into doing the same thing – eating the fruit they think will make them wise – from the tree of knowledge of right and wrong.

This is why we have a longing; an undetermined yearning to be reconnected to the SOURCE. There are many hybrid trees of knowledge of “good and evil” today, but by different names so that we don't readily make the identification.

The names of these hybrid trees are religion, science, advanced education (whether from a university, the Internet, OR, OR and etc.) all of which have people asking questions that don't satisfy their *real* longing. That is, again, to be reconnected to the Creative SOURCE of All.

Wait a minute! You exclaim, who are you to exhibit such hubris -- such uncontained arrogance to make such a declaration?

I AM that whom you cannot find through knowledge, be it of the scientific, religious or academic trees -- plus you won't get it from asking inappropriate questions from whom your reason tells you is “my” identity. I am not that.

I AM the unrecognized you. You can only begin to ask appropriate questions when you ask them appropriately (that is, with

results-getting questions directed toward the results Giver).

Your wheels have started turning again ...I can hear them. Your reason is telling you that I am talking about "God." I am not talking about "God" and it's not even your reasoning telling you that, it's a religious or anti-religious reaction.

Please, oh please let the immediate foregoing register or you'll miss what you were about to absorb. Religion *and* anti-religion are two sides of the same coin.

If you have switched your devotion from some religious belief or another to science or advanced education you are still barking up the wrong tree.

Instead of reacting to what you *think* I'm saying here; see it as a signpost to take you beyond and get you reconnected to the unrecognized YOU.

But you won't get it if you continue tripping over what I (small "i") am or anyone else is saying.

Let's get down to it and see if you can keep your reactions in tow. I do not like the three letter English word "GOD." I don't like the word because it represents too many different things to too many different people. But replacing the word "GOD" with "Allah" or "Jehovah," or "Yahweh" or "Universal Intelligence" or any one of hundreds of other

“sacred” words leaves us stuck in the same quagmire called inadequate -- because that is what “it” is, an inadequate human concept that is contrived to mean something somebody else decided was “sacred.”

Let's look at why and how that is, so we can simply get plugged back in -- *again*.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Three

RECONNECTED (*Again*)

There are two themes here. One is that we've been connected to the SOURCE before, but not conscious of it. The second one is that we're unaware of who and what we once were. Therefore, we're not only talking about properly identifying the SOURCE, but also defining our own identity.

This will be a little “off the wall” to some, so let's approach it s-l-o-w-l-y.

Who are you? Who is this unrecognized you? Knowing the answers to the two foregoing questions is part of the undetermined longing ...and part of the process of getting reconnected, *again*.

Now then, if you will allow the following to take root as the truth that it is, NEW and exciting life is yours. Are you ready? Here it is: You are a spirit-being from the beginning.

One of the layers of mistaken identity we need to have peeled back is that we are not what we *do*, and if what we do is tied to an academic process which includes degrees and titles, the process of uncovering the real YOU may even be more difficult.

It is difficult enough if you are a housewife (or *househusband* no gender discrimination here) or a salesperson.

The tendency is to label ourselves by saying, “I am a plumber,” or “a commercial airline pilot,” or “a pediatrician,” or “a teacher,” etc., but that is what you *do*, not who you are.

Understanding that you are a *spirit*-being rather than a physical-being, who *possesses* a spirit, is difficult enough, because of the whole humanizing process.

Your earthly parents proudly (or otherwise) tagged the body you occupy with a name at its birth and so you *naturally* think you are the name they attached to it.

Getting past that will be an even bigger challenge for some than for those with Ph.D.s or M.D.s after their names.

Part of our human-identification layers are also derived from ethnicity and culture ...and reinforced there by our own emotional need for acceptance. I am black, I am white, I am Asian, etc., and now comes along somebody telling you to “get over it!”

Let it begin to register deeply: Begin to say it NOW: I am a spirit occupying a human body.

If you have grown up within a religious belief system wherein you were programmed to believe you are a human being *with* a spirit the challenge is even greater.

Many folks resist this “role reversal,” that is, switching consciousness from being a person *with* a spirit rather than the truth which is being a spirit *occupying* a body, because they believe that's what the Bible teaches.

Does it? Well, certainly some who teach and use the Bible as their source material teach that – but let's take a little spin and get ourselves acquainted with a mystery that is solved merely by looking at it from the perspective of the original language. Ready?

The following is from a fairly popular, so-called “modern” English version of the Bible, “The New King James Version” (NKJV) ...the reason for the implied sarcasm of “so called modern” is because of the obvious hold-over to the grand-daddy of all modern English versions translated into the archaic English of the 1600s – which is hardly modern and because of the imposition of words no longer in use and the insistence by some that it is the only valid English translation, it simply does not convey even what those translators back then were trying to convey, let alone the message contained in the original language.

At any rate, here's the passage with a few pointers aimed to expose just a couple translational flaws, from the 6th chapter of Genesis:

“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters

were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took for themselves wives of all whom they chose.”

If you have read the Bible in perfunctory fashion -- perhaps to get through it during this year or that, you have most likely read this passage several times without it having any significant impact.

Perhaps you've been involved in a Bible study in which this particular passage was used to make a point ...just as I am referencing it to make a point right now.

If you recall, back in chapter one, I stated that my SOURCE is your SOURCE. That does not mean you will necessarily arrive at the same understanding nor am I implying that you should.

Truth is not unlike a finely cut diamond with many facets. Our individual ability to focus on the whole is distorted by the proclivity of the brain to focus upon one facet at time.

In other words, the brain, even though beautiful and complex instrument that it is, misleads us into thinking it is the primary receptor for things spiritual.

It is not! Hopefully, at this juncture, you can accept this statement at face value.

Now, right NOW, is the moment to engage the SOURCE. What do YOU want me to receive from this? I find the following

affirmation to be helpful when I want to engage the SOURCE. “I do not want to be governed by preconceived notions – I want YOUR truth no matter how startling – help me.”

This requires a huge leap of faith and trust. Most of us have been conditioned not to expect to get anything directly from the SOURCE. But it is appropriate for you.

STOP! If you are concerned that you could be attempting to connect to a wrong source (small “s”), let’s remember something Jesus taught using a metaphor to illustrate how to access “THE SOURCE.”

He likened the process to a little child crying out to its Perfect (over-indulgent) Jewish Parent: “I want, I want, I want.” Then he said, “you being imperfect parents would not give your child a serpent (symbolic for the giver of misleading lies) when he asked you for food; No, of course you wouldn’t. You would give him good food; how much more will the perfect Daddy/Mommy give the SPIRIT to those who cry out for Spirit, I want, I want, I want?”

If the words of Jesus mean anything, you can take this to the bank: Your perfect Parent, the SOURCE of everything, will not allow you to be misled.

Okay, back to the passage in Genesis 6: Notice that “men” here, in the original language, is referring to the descendants of “formed man” (Genesis 2:7), Adam. Whereas

'sons of God' is using the same root word as was used in Genesis 1:26 – “Let Us make mankind in Our image.” [emphasis mine]

As we will discuss later, “man” here, referring almost certainly to a spiritual being and not a human being at all ...and if this is true, more than just a few changes need to be made in our thinking before we are able to accept other truths.

The distinction is “created man” made out of unseen stuff, vs. “formed man” a human being made out of the dust of red clay.

Apparently (obviously) two different beings ...time for appropriate questions for you to ask the SOURCE:

Are these really different beings? If so, am I different than how I have identified myself formerly? Am I a hybrid of sorts? Or am I, as being suggested here, a spirit-being occupying a human body?

In case you're tempted to discard the entire thesis, I implore you to consider the following true story as to how I arrived at this rather bizarre-seeming understanding.

But first, one more thing about the referenced passage , Genesis 6:1, 2 Note the word 'wives' -- this is a prime example of KJV paraphrasing that has “stuck” as almost all modern English versions say the same thing.

The Hebrew text, in my mind, makes it clear that these *created* “sons of God” -spirit

beings- had sexual intercourse with the beautiful female descendants of *formed* man, Adam ...without benefit of a wedding ceremony and not directly, but vicariously.

How did they accomplish this? Ask the SOURCE! The answer I was given and most definitely not a universal understanding was that they took over the bodies of the male descendants of Adam and vicariously experienced the “joys of sex.”

If you read from verse 3 forward (still in Genesis chapter 6) you will see how the whole affair was displeasing to “the Lord” and what he did about it.

Now onto the true story, my experience: It will explain why I do not like the three letter English word “GOD” and my bet is that some of you will discover the same distaste. That's all coming up.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Four

THE LOST YOU ...FOUND

For some of you this true story will be a seed. A seed that must germinate, that is, go through its natural process of disintegration into a small mass of protoplasm, or cells from which a new organism or one of its parts begins to form. That process takes time.

OR, this true story will be the basis of an ah-HA-eureka, moment of confirmation. It will be something that clicks inside that you already “knew,” but weren't yet conscious that you knew it. Some of you will be nodding your head knowingly because it is already “old hat” to you.

This occurred during the tenth day of an elongated fast. No food, no juice, stimulants or supplements – nothing but pure drinking water. If you've ever fasted in like manner or read about it, you already know that there can be a tendency to hallucinate.

Some folks (not I) even claim that was what really happened to Jesus during his famed forty day fast when he had the encounter with Satan. You may want to read the account as it is described in Luke 4: 1 - 14.

I had been invited to share with a small group in Portland, Oregon. The couple in their seventies who were hosting the meeting had experienced physical healing a few weeks earlier – she of an acute and life threatening heart condition and he was virtually blind, but had his vision fully restored.

They wanted to invite some people to their home for healing – among which was a woman in an advanced stage of leukemia. I was fasting and praying in preparation.

I was lying on the floor, face down, in my office, praying in the Spirit, when I heard what seemed to be an audible voice say: “Would you like to know your real identity?”

Startled, I got up off the floor and stood straight up – concerned that I was either hallucinating or having an encounter with something I didn't want!

I heard the words again, 'Would you like to know your real identity?'

I quickly went through a process of “testing the spirits” that I had learned to make sure that whatever I was “hearing” wasn't from the “dark side.” I stood there nervously while I heard the same voice ask:

“Do you want to know who you really are?”

To be completely honest, at that moment I was scared to death! So, my *real* answer was

probably, “no, not really,” but I said aloud, “of course.”

Immediately a copy of the “Living Bible,” a large green volume on the shelf above my desk caught my attention ...I walked over and pulled it down. I somehow “knew” I was supposed to open it to the 6th chapter of Genesis.

This was early in the 1990s when that particular paraphrased English version was quite popular and widely distributed. The “sons of God,” referenced earlier, in verse 2 had a footnote – which explained that those were “beings from the spirit world” and referenced two other Bible passages, one in Job 1:6 where “the sons of God” phrase was also found with the same footnote that these were beings or angels from the spirit world. The other reference was to Genesis 1:27 – “man” was the same root word ...in other words, *not* referring to humans.

To say I was perplexed is a gross understatement! “What's this have to do with me?” I stammered. Since this episode came about while I was fervently praying to be filled with God's own Spirit, again, in preparation for the upcoming healing and deliverance session in Portland, “What does this have to do with that?”

The answer was even more perplexing: “Nothing. This is who you are.”

I warned you that the story seems bizarre. There's more. Any hopes that this will have a widespread audience of mainstream Christians are hereby dashed. In fact, the hope for widespread readership of any mainstream religious or non-religious group is to be likewise diminished except for YOU - the heretofore unrecognized YOU.

You see, here is where I explain my distaste for the three letter English word, "GOD."

Let the following register in you consciously and subconsciously. Here's how: I challenge you to say to the SOURCE of everything, the Living, SUPREME CREATIVE SPIRIT, "I am willing to see the truth. Help me get rid of any misleading, preconceived ideas programmed in me by traditions that are not of YOU!"

Here's where the unraveling begins. As I began to ponder the fact that apparently the original language of the text was revealing something startling about the difference between created "man" of Genesis 1:26, 27 and formed "man" of Genesis 2:7 (at least according to the translator of the "Living Bible").

The distinction, again, being that created "man" is an angelic or spirit-being and formed "man" is flesh and blood; but also it clears up a

whole lot of mysteries about why there is so much confusion and argument about the names of “GOD.”

In most English versions of the Bible the word “God” appears thirty-four times between Genesis 1:1 and 2:3 – and *then* a different term is introduced: “Lord God,” taken from a very distinctive Hebrew symbol ...back to that symbol in just a second.

Each of the 34 times “God” is used in that first chapter of Genesis, it is translated from the Hebrew (here in English characters) “Elohiym” ...which literally means “the many Spirit-Beings that constitute the Godhead.” In other words, Elohiym is a plural word comprised of many Spirit facets.

Whereas the English word, “God” is a singular word that culturally and linguistically refers to a singular, *one* Supreme Being. In other words, Elohiym is simply not translatable into “God.”

When we get to “Lord God” we need to realize that it is also not translatable, but for an entirely different reason. It is not supposed to be! The symbol is used because, according to Jewish tradition, it is supposed to be too Sacred to be spoken or pronounced. For this reason the century-plus old argument between the Watchtower Society ...a.k.a. Jehovah's Witnesses and no few Evangelicals should be surprising.

Jehovah's Witnesses insist that the

symbol should be pronounced “Jehovah” those on the other side of the argument insist that it should be pronounced “Yahweh.”

The argument is plainly laughable, plain silly. Why silly? Because, again, the symbol is used so there would be NO attempt to pronounce or speak it. In English characters the symbol is translated YHWH ...a non-word, non-name ...and further, it doesn't even mean “God” anyway as that word was left in the dust of chapter one.

Again, my distaste for the word is simply due to the fact that it means too many different things to too many different people ...so that all it communicates is confusion.

As we can see, it certainly generates argument; and why oh why am I perpetuating the argument? Because it demonstrates that it is exactly that – arguable.

It takes minimal study of the Hebrew language in these references to realize that the “God” of the English language, “Theos” in Greek, “Dios” in Spanish and the Arabic “Allah” are *all* a departure from Elohiym and YHWH (both remember, here in English characters).

Again, put in a different way, all of these names *are* equivalent to the singular “God” – none are equivalent to the many faceted “Elohiym.”

What does all this have to do with the “Unrecognized YOU?”

Everything and nothing and that *is* the point. We don't reconnect with the SOURCE by immersing ourselves in a language – *any* language, even and especially Hebrew or Greek, the original languages of the Old and New Testaments respectively.

In fact those particular studies will help you lose all spiritual perspective. Why is this true?

Because languages are the tools by which we convey thoughts brain to brain ...and the brain is NOT the primary receptor of communication from the SOURCE!

Consider the words penned by Paul the widely acknowledged “apostle to the gentiles,” the same Paul who wrote much of the New Testament:

“Brethren, when I came to you, I did not come with excellency of speech or of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of the power of God that your faith should not derive from the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. ...But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God. No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness nor can he know them because they

must be discerned with the Spirit. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he is judged by no man for he has the mind of Christ.”
(...compiled from 1st Cor. 3: 1 – 16)

Remember, I said earlier that these things cannot be understood until they are (individually and personally) discovered ...let's add ...*and* they may be discovered only *experientially* in the SPIRIT.

Let's take a breather.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Five

TAKING INVENTORY

Is what I've read, so far, too weird, or too far "out there?" Or is it simply a confirmation of what I've already known or, at least suspected? Or perhaps, is it somewhere in between, that is, kind of making sense, but not quite?

Suggestion: If you are not ready to throw this little book away or burn it, then the way to make the best use of it, NOW, this moment, is to take a personal inventory, but avoiding your normal thought processes while doing so.

Engage SPIRIT, the Creative SOURCE of everything.

We're going to look at a list of questions which your brain is not "wired" to answer anyway ...so this is a perfect time and means to practice being reconnected to the Ultimate SOURCE (by whatever other term or name).

To help us take this leap of faith into the abyss of the unknown, let's see if we can break away from some preconceived ideas that are born *not* in truth, but tradition ...religious tradition, or *anti*-religious tradition.

Anti-religion, remember is the tails side of the same coin that is inscribed, on the heads side, "In God We Trust."

Warning! As soon as we see this list of questions, the ego side, the well-worn groove of our opinions, will take over. Notice, please, I'm saying, *our* not *your*, OUR opinion/ego dominated side. It is a challenge, universally – and goes far beyond the oft-pointed-at male ego.

A preliminary exercise will be helpful. Try referring to whom you may still think of as “God,” as “She” or “It.” Be honest – does it make you uncomfortable and if so, why?

Remember, this is only a preliminary exercise aimed at preparing us for answering a list of questions while being disengaged from our opinion-dominated thought processes.

Back to the question, does it bother you to refer to “God” as “SHE” or “IT” ...and if so, why?

If you think of yourself as a Christian, consider the fact that Jesus clearly taught that “God” is neither male nor female, but SPIRIT.

One of the well-established traditions of Christianity is that God is our “Father,” ...and, therefore, “male.” Where did that come from?

Is that what Jesus actually taught? If so, it's in direct contradiction to what he said when he told a group of Jewish religionists, “You do err. God is neither male nor female – there isn't any marriage in the kingdom, God is to be worshipped [understood and focused upon] in Spirit and in truth.”

A rather wonderful metaphor Jesus employed to illustrate how to access “God” in prayer is to approach “God” as we would an over-indulgent mommy/daddy parent ...having both male/female characteristics, a perfect composite HE/SHE/IT ...or can we say, an “IT” with wholly perfect male *and* female attributes?

Let's be redundant and drive home the point. Religious tradition has us thinking of “God” as “He.” Most Christians assume that's what Jesus taught. Let's review some quotes of Jesus that are standard to most English texts.

“You have seen me; therefore you have seen the Father.”

“I and the Father are one.”

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me.”

In the above referenced metaphor, the word translated in English as “Father” in the original language is a very intimate word, far more accurately expressed as “Daddy” or even “Dearest Daddy.” In today's culture “Father” is at once both too austere and too formal to accurately portray the intent. That is, of an over-indulgent parent who will give a child whatever he/she wants if the child is relentless enough to keep on saying “I want, I want, I want,” in child-like fashion.

The oft-quoted “Lord's prayer” opening, “Our Father,” creates the same challenge of assumed formality and awe-inspired reverence.

Jesus' intent was intimacy - and, by the way, his metaphoric reference, in context, was so that we can obtain ever more of our one and only, perfect Mommy/Daddy-Parent's Spirit. Consider this latter carefully!

One last point, then onto the self-inventory list of questions: The reverence Jesus was attempting to instill and which religionists have missed is that of the absolute intimacy of a child; secure in the love of his or her perfect Parent and without fear of expressing it with endearing terms of I love you Mommy or Daddy ...which can come only out of a heart revering, *intimately revering*, our loving, perfect DADDY/MOMMY. Just to rub in the point, can you imagine your own little toddler climbing onto your lap and saying, "Oh gracious, Supreme Father, if it please you, may I have an ice cream cone?"

Finally, the three letter English word "God" is a religious concoction. If we can use it intimately without fear and with complete familiarity and intimacy -- then fine, we have received Jesus' message to us.

What now, Daddy? I ask in my own admitted religious predilection ...it is time for the list of questions.

Please remember, disengage from your opinions. Most find disengaging easiest to do by simply consciously wanting to engage the SOURCE and saying, with complete humility --

'HELP me so that the answers I receive are YOUR answers for me and not my preconceived ideas.'

Who am I? What am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

This is a process and begins this moment in this perfect NOW. Don't rush it. In the next chapter, we're going to review what constitutes an appropriate question. By remembering what an appropriate question is, an inappropriate question will always reveal itself.

Suggestion: Make notes of the answers you receive to the foregoing questions. Don't walk away from this exercise until you *know*, without any doubt that FOR NOW you have received insight from the SOURCE.

Keep in mind that insights are almost always partial... and almost always for this moment. As our relationship with the SOURCE grows, from practicing being in HER/HIS/ITS presence by asking appropriate questions, the insights we get build upon the earlier insights.

Eventually the picture will change. Remember the story about the SOURCE providing manna to the children in the desert? It didn't keep. While there is no reason not to believe that it actually happened... use the example that spiritual food today does not keep for tomorrow. The SOURCE IS ALWAYS NOW ...this moment.

In other words don't be afraid to re-visit the exercise. Faith is a process that comes out of a continuing ever-growing relationship with SPIRIT. Flashes of truth are almost always partial. It takes time and practice to overcome the well-worn ruts of opinion made by the wheels of our brains.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Six

AN APPROPRIATE QUESTION

Sorry folks, but I've just been informed that I was going in a direction that is *not* serving my ultimate purpose. I had just finished writing, in very rough draft form, chapter six. It has taken several hours over a period of several days. From my analysis, it was written cogently and even brilliantly.

Something wasn't adding up. What I had written was consistent with chapter five. I went back and read from the beginning of the first chapter. Again, my analysis was that chapter six was a perfect fit. So, I finally asked the SOURCE, my Daddy, "Why don't I feel good about it" ...an appropriate question.

"Appropriate" upon what basis?

Appropriate on the basis of to WHOM the question was directed and the trust I had in getting my obvious conflict resolved.

Remember, in Chapter One: "My stated purpose in life is to be in complete harmony with the SOURCE of All." One signal that I'm not in complete harmony is the feeling of being unsettled, that is, something is "out of whack."

I asked and received clear instructions that it would be better to “confess” this to you ...and the better way of putting together a meaningful Chapter Six of, “What Now?,” is to explain my processes and how I arrived at them.

My spiritual journey began (at least consciously) in 1957, at the ripe old age of 24, when I admitted to myself that I didn't know how to live – that, in fact, I was *afraid* of living.

It was suggested that the answer was to invite Jesus Christ to take over my life. “Jesus, if you're real,” I said, “takeover my life.”

“Shortly afterward I stumbled across Proverbs 3: 5, 6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” I *knew* that I was supposed to memorize this passage and make it my constant reminder as to how I was to live from then on – and it still remains so today, over fifty years later.

Going back to the point of my story, the embarrassing story, also in chapter one – all I needed to have done to get the computer to work was plug it in. Instead, I went looking for an expert. The analogy is apt. When I am unsettled it's the sign of being unplugged from the SOURCE. I don't need to trust in my own (or that of others) knowledge and understanding, but I just need to get plugged into the

SOURCE. How? ...is answered, simply, by acknowledging “Him” and that, by asking the appropriate question.

Is just any question we ask the SOURCE appropriate? Perhaps and perhaps not.

An example of Inappropriate, that is, a question that doesn't get the desired result of being plugged back into the SOURCE, is a question that “hooks the resident expert,” –the ego-dominated side of the brain– the place where all the opinions about what is “right” and “wrong” or “good” and “evil” reside ...and which lead to “leaning on my own understanding,” rather than trusting in (getting plugged back into) the SOURCE.

Remember the “original sin” of the first couple?

NOW HEAR THIS: Most of us don't remember because we've been misled in the same way. We look at the story through the window of religious (or, don't forget, anti-religious, the other side of the very same coin) tradition-engendered opinion.

How did the first couple get unplugged from the SOURCE? **IN THE VERY SAME WAY WE DO!**

Leaning on their own understanding instead of just plugging in. They were susceptible to the machinations of the tempter.

There is more than one perspective of this incident. Ask most people what the original

sin is and the immediate response is disobedience to the command of the Lord God, ("thou shalt not eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil").

Was disobedience involved? There seems to be no question about it, but we need to dig a little deeper.

Our collective religious predilection that sin is disobedience comes from an ignorance of the origin of the word, 'sin.' Believe it or not, "SIN" was a popular sporting term on a par with the modern English sporting term, "foul."

Fans of several modern-day sports, including basketball, football and hockey recognize the word, "foul" to mean an infraction of a rule most often regarding improper personal contact between players, in other words, breaking a specific rule with regard to contact.

"Foul" in some other sports such as baseball and tennis refers to a ball landing outside a definite line of demarcation ...made evident by an umpire or a line judge who calls out loudly, "FOUL!"

...and thereby momentarily interrupting play.

"SIN" is the historical equivalent in the ancient sport of competitive archery as played in the foggy bogs of England. An archery meet official stood down field from the bows men and the scorekeeper, and off to the side,

protected by a tree, would yell out the point scores based on where the arrow pierced the target ...hollering the number score or “bulls eye” when it struck the center mark of the target.

Well now, guess what that official called out when the arrow missed the target completely? You've got it, SIN!

The rather obvious (and appropriate) question is, how did a popular and well-known sporting term “SIN,” meaning, only, to miss the target completely, come to stand for a term that means to almost everyone today to break one of God's rules? Here it is, turn up the volume so the point is not missed.

The “good”* King James of England, when authorizing a translation of the Bible, wanted to make sure that it would be understood by the common man of England in the 1600s.

Therefore, the KJV translators used words that could be easily understood in that day and age. The word for missing God in the original language was rendered “sin.”

* NOTE: A meaningful exercise, from several different aspects, is to look up King James in a reliable encyclopedia... and see if you think “good” is a fitting term.

With the knowledge or the origin of the word “sin” under our belt - let's ask the question: At what point did Adam and Eve break the connection between themselves and God? At what point did they “miss” God -- or in modern equivalence, “cross the line?”

Was it the breaking of the rule not to eat the fruit from that dang tree – or is something else involved? ...and what importance is this little historical example of miscommunication?

Now we get into perspectives and which expert might be propounding one point of view or another ...and, again, of what importance is this example of miscommunication anyhow? ...*and*, is paying attention to that particular expert or his/her perspective breaking our connection to the SOURCE?

Now then, with that in mind, what *is* the appropriate question, and the set-up for asking it in order to get reconnected?

Hint: Asking, “Why do I always wind up acting so stupidly?” ...is NOT an appropriate question. Why not? “Stupidly,” according to whom or to what standard? Who’s rules and in what game leads me to such a judgment? A judgment based on leaning on my own understanding instead of [acknowledging] - [asking] - [plugging into] the SOURCE.

If we look at the “original sin” for just one more glimpse, we will see that the fruit of that tree was “pleasing to the eyes” and what

gets us into *sin* today, NOW, is a wise axiom directly from the same tree. That is, “seeing is believing...”

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Seven

PERSPECTIVES/OPINIONS

Opinions are like anal orifices – everyone has one. The lack of truth of the foregoing statement is glaring. Yes, it is true that everybody has an anal orifice, but the truth of it is that everyone has *several* opinions ...about myriad things. So the statement, while being humorous, is somewhat misleading.

Let's ask an appropriate question. How can I know the truth about anything? ...*The truth according to whom?* What *is* truth? If we're asking the SOURCE [of all truth about all things] and we collectively get the same answer from SOURCE, we can all live together in peace, correct?

If we believe that to be true, we are, at the very least, missing something rather obvious.

Let's ask another question: Is what is in this book so far, true for you? How about partially true? That is, are some things true for you and other things NOT true for you?

What is your basis for accepting some of it as truth? What is your basis for refusing to accept other parts of it as truth?

Let's shift gears and ask, what is happening right now within the framework of the

foregoing questions? You are being asked, basically, what your opinion is of what you've read so far, on one simple basis: Is it true for you?

The objective truth is that it doesn't matter! It is only your opinion about my opinions ...now that we're up to intermediate speed let's begin shifting gears again.

We've all heard (or seen) the phrase, "Prayer changes things." Is that true? If your immediate mental process said either "yes" or "no," are you not caught in an emotionally charged mindset – an opinion?

Let's play with this thought and see just how easily we are led down the same path into delusion and deception, in the same way as the first couple were seduced into "original sin," that is, missing SPIRIT, the SOURCE.

In Chapter Six, I reminded you that, "my purpose in life is to be in complete harmony with the SOURCE of everything." What does this have to do with "Prayer" and, further, whether you think that prayer changes things?

Hold on, we're shifting into overdrive. There was a point in my life that I felt oppressed and that the cause was spiritual. I asked SPIRIT and was shown clearly that the cause was someone praying for me! Which gave proof, to me at least, that prayer does, indeed, change things, but perhaps not always for the better.

I was shown who was praying for me and what to do about it. I confronted her, not unkindly, but by merely asking if she had been praying for me.

“Oh yes,” she gushed, “I’ve been praying that God would show you that you are to start a new church and be its pastor.”

I told her gently, but firmly, that was exactly what I had been told *not* to do and, therefore, her praying was causing conflict and chaos. I got her to agree to continue praying for me, but to pray ONLY that I would listen, hear and obey (in her terms) the Holy Spirit, alone.

The feeling of oppression lifted almost immediately. I came away from this incident with the conclusion that prayer can, indeed, be dangerous!

SPIRIT has shown me many things, one of which that “He” honors our choices.

Therefore, when people feel the urge to pray for another person with the intention of a “good” outcome they need to make sure they are not praying from the basis of their own agenda, based on their own choices made from their own limited perspective.

All their “good” intentions may indeed be paving a road to some hellish circumstances.

The general rule I have adopted for me, in that regard, is to first ask the person how or what they would like me to pray for them.

Have I gone too far afield? That depends upon your choice and your perspective. My agenda is tied to my life's purpose which is to be in complete harmony with the ultimate SOURCE, the SPIRIT (period).

NOW HEAR THIS (please) – this does not at all preclude you from having a totally different agenda given by the same SOURCE.

How is this possible? With the SOURCE all things are possible – it is just extremely difficult to get our minds around the concept.

WHAT NOW? We are climbing again so a down shift is necessary. Perspective = opinion ...and this about choice, what about TRUTH?

We can (and do) think of TRUTH as being immutable. Is it? ...*that*, friends, like it or not, is a matter of perspective.

Some will want to remind me that the words out of Jesus' mouth were, "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by me."

Let's ask a few questions: Who was speaking here? Since Jesus said that his words were not his own, but the Father's in him – is it possible that the SPIRIT was speaking through Jesus? Or was it Jesus (who, according to one religious perspective was God in the flesh) the man speaking?

Another religious perspective that is held by some Muslims and others, insists that Jesus was a prophet. Many Hindus consider Jesus to have been a Great Teacher and some an ascended Master, etc., religious perspectives all.

So ...just what is TRUTH and how can we know it?

These questions may bring you to yet another perspective.

Which perspective is TRUTH?

Is it possible that all perspectives are somewhere between 5% and 95% TRUTH?

Asking these questions of the SOURCE will build your faith ...in what? Your IN-ability to arrive at TRUTH by using your intellectual logic ...or to the logic of others. If you try hard enough to find the religion which is a “fit” with your perspective you will most likely succeed, but have you found TRUTH?

Further, have you found *truth* according to whom or what?

Does the *truth* you've found supersede the *truth* I've found? Or, is a possibly better question, is the *truth* that you've found, which may seem to both of us different ...even *drastically* different – actually a part of the same TRUTH? We may be getting somewhere.

Ah, but just where is that somewhere? Back, just for a moment to the plight of the original human couple whose newly acquired

wisdom got them ejected and banished from the garden and the SOURCE – unplugged because the fruit of that tree made them think they knew the difference between right and wrong ...and they hid from the ONE who had formed them.

So, you ask, what's the point of all this? Well, first let's back up a couple of paragraphs. Is the truth you've found actually a part of the same TRUTH (I've found)? If we miss this we fail to see that we both have found only partial TRUTH.

Even if we can agree to just that little slice of TRUTH, that is, that our two small slices of ultimate TRUTH even if sewn tightly together in a combination of partial TRUTH we must not fail to look at something most of us have never seen before, that is, one Biblical explanation of why we're the way we are. That is unable to see the WHOLE TRUTH.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Eight

CHOICE and PERSPECTIVE

While asking what now? (of the SOURCE), I was struck by the beauty and power of different perspectives in a very interesting and useful way.

Some very famous person or another coined the phrase, “Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.”

I confess that at times I am driven into an almost frenzy of activity because of some guilt feelings over some bit of procrastination, particularly after recalling this phrase of “never putting off until tomorrow.”

That is one perspective. Until I just now engaged the SOURCE I had never before realized just how driven by that phrase I can be. When the thought “that's one perspective,” hit me. I asked, “Okay, what's another?” The answer, in all its truth, astonished me -- *unless by putting it off you will improve it.*

Instead of being swayed by either the force of procrastination or driven by guilt to stop procrastinating – I am relaxed, plugged in with an almost “holy patience” ...waiting for the best possible answer (for me) to What Now?

What I had promised would be next -- and I was rushing to “do it now,” needed to be tempered (in the sense of strengthening) because merely citing the following text will precipitate an abundance of different and differing perspectives that could overwhelm us.

Instead, let's take a deep breath or two, or many, relax, get plugged into SPIRIT and instead of attempting to choose between several intellectual possibilities, let's allow our minds to be permeated with the presence and power of our SPIRIT-PARENT SOURCE.

Here's the text: “Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another,

“Come let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, “let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language and his is what they begin to do; now nothing will be withheld from them. “Come, let Us go down there and confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.”

So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth.

-Genesis 11-

Is this story simply a myth, or can it have a profound effect on those willing to absorb its lesson? That's a choice we have. We can pass it off as Jewish whimsy – that's certainly one perspective, or we can adopt an attitude that it is a deep mystery not easily fathomed by the mind of man ...another perspective.

Is one of these perspectives correct and the other incorrect? Or do both contain a part of TRUTH? Or, is it even possible that *both* of these particular perspectives miss the point entirely? ...which, don't forget, is yet just one more perspective.

If we read this passage over slowly, then re-read it again and again, we can come away with dozens, if not hundreds of interesting points...leading to dozens, if not hundreds of perspectives, among which we may choose to say a-ha, a nugget of truth -- you do see there is a choice, right?

Here's one irreducible point: Something bothered (?) the Lord sufficiently to put a stop to the building of the city and the tower.

How the Lord did it was to turn their formerly united language and speech into

meaningless babble and gibberish so they could not only no longer communicate with one another, they could not agree upon anything.

Is this an irreducible point or merely one more perspective? It's your choice – or is it?

Hopefully some of you, at least, will be driven to listen to and understand something that came out of the mouth of Jesus:

“You pore over and carefully study the Scriptures because in them you think you will find real LIFE (truth?), when all the while they testify of me, yet you refuse to come to me so that you can receive this LIFE.”

Earlier, we pointed out that Jesus said that what he spoke were not his words, but the words of the SOURCE living within him.

Therefore, can we determine something from this about certain groups and their proclivity to engage in what they refer to as “Bible study” or is this simply another perspective worthy only of being ignored?

How about another choice?

WHAT NOW?

Ah yes, since this confusion and scattering was decreed and carried out by the Lord, in order to stop the building of the city and tower, as well as something else ...to stop

them from being united because by being united nothing would be withheld from them.

Can we ask if all our division over thousands of religious dogmas –some to the extent of war and violence– were/are not ordained by the Lord?

Now let's ask, why is the idea so repugnant to us? One perspective will be that we believe religion is inherently “good” and, therefore, the Lord wouldn't be at the bottom of such violence and division – just to get rid of unity.

Well, sorry, but the text indicates otherwise. But that's only one perspective.

Why do we find it so difficult to communicate with one another? Is it a carry-over from the destruction of the tower at the hands of the Lord ...because, apparently, that's where the problem began?

Now, that opens up another avenue of thought ...it's only a problem if that's your perspective (that it *is* a problem).

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Nine

AMAZED!

I'm always amazed at the diverse reactions I get to what I write. What brings me clarity about that is one simple question-statement out of the mouth of Jesus, as reported by John:

“What's that to you? You come and follow me!”

I do try to understand what precipitates the reaction of any individual by attempting to engage her/him in dialogue about her/his reaction to what I've written.

Here's an example. One single chapter of this draft, so far, got these two seemingly opposite reactions on the same day.

“Troubling,” responded one.

“Wonderful,” said another. I was curious as to how a single chapter could evoke such different -succinctly different- comments.

So I asked both respondents. Neither could explain his reaction other than obliquely. The first said (my paraphrase), that it was too complex and urged me to “return to” what his perspective of that which constitutes simplicity. From my perspective, the subject which he felt was simple is hardly that!

The other could only reiterate what he'd said in the first place; "Just wonderful, brother, keep it up. You write so clearly and simply."

No amount of questioning or probing changed the basic of either (to me, opposite and emotional) reactions.

To me, both reactions (and several others even more diverse) only serve to prove two things:

One, the impossibility of communicating effectively with everyone; and, two, that I'm writing for myself, and doing so consistently within my own stated purpose, that is, in continual harmony and relationship with the SOURCE of All.

In the middle of writing just now, I was interrupted by someone who was reacting (positively) to something I had said to him casually just yesterday morning.

A little background may be helpful. This particular fellow (with whom I have NOT shared this draft) is a dynamic, devoted, self-described Christian who, several months ago, expressed excitement because he had assumed from my encouragement to him about something, and that it meant I must be in agreement with his religious inclinations.

He said, with no little excitement in his voice, "Oh, you're a believer!"

His youthful exuberance, appearance and general demeanor belied his actual chrono-

logical age -- I had thought he was in his twenties. After considerable probing I learned about his background and spiritual journey. I was pleasantly surprised at his level of maturity and overall thoughtfulness, which brought about my asking his age -- 37!

"That explains it," I said, "I thought you were in your early twenties."

"Well, that's both a blessing and a curse," he said with a smile, "The latter when I'm trying to get someone to take something I am saying seriously."

He then asked me how long I've been a Christian. I gave him my somewhat stock answer that I no longer used that term in reference to myself and quickly added:

"Because the term means too many different things to too many different people."

That got us into a dialogue which lasted two hours and resulted in our becoming friends.

He immediately latched onto something in a true story I tell anyone who expresses interest at why my response to, "how are you?" It is almost always: "Perfect!"

This response began "accidentally" at a checkout counter in a supermarket in Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. The Cashier, a young lady, greeted me with a smile, "how are you this evening, sir?"

To which I blurted, "Perfect, how are you?"

Her eyes narrowed and she responded a bit sardonically, "Don't ask."

"Oh, why not," I countered.

She looked at me, eye-to-eye, "Well, I can tell you one thing," (I took her tone as being slightly hostile); "I most certainly am *not* perfect!"

"Who lives inside you?" I, again, blurted, completely without any conscious thought beforehand.

At this, she straightened her shoulders and put her head slightly back, "Jesus Christ!" ...her eyes boring into mine as intently as the manner in which she had said it.

"Then why don't you let him do the talking?"

Her expression changed immediately and dramatically as she got it ... "Oh, that's what you meant by perfect!" She exclaimed, "Oh, that's wonderful."

"Isn't it amazing," I said to her, "that we can say Christ lives in us and then let the enemy do our talking?"

"Oh, this is so wonderful..." She locked her register and walked with me all the way out to the parking lot, carrying my small bag of groceries. "I'll never forget it."

"Neither will I," was my final response -- as I took the groceries from her and put them in my car.

My new friend loved the story and for the next several weeks, anytime we happened to meet, he and I exchanged “perfect” to the inevitable, “how are you?”

Then a not so subtle change came over him. One morning, the standard greeting issued forth from me, his response with an almost wary look on his face was:

“He that is in me is perfect, brother.”

“Yes,” I said, “and he that is in you said that you would be and do what he was and did if you believe enough,” I responded.

“Can you show me that in the Bible?” he asked guardedly.

“You bet,” I told him and agreed to sit down with him later as he had requested.

This led to several more visits at his request, as he rapidly absorbed some of the things Jesus said that so many Christians ignore. Now we're (finally) up to the exchange that just now occurred.

“Hey, brother, I hope I'm not bothering you – but I've been mulling over something you said yesterday.”

I honestly had no clue what he was referring to and told him so.

“You told me to remember that eternal life is always now – right now ...and that Jesus said not to look here or there for the kingdom of God, because it is within you.”

“Okay ...so?” I guess I sounded somewhat impatient, that's certainly how I felt as I was trying not to lose the train of thought that I'd been writing about, when he interrupted me.

“That's the key, brother,” he said, ignoring my mood and with his usual intense enthusiasm – “The kingdom is now, eternal life is now, inside me ...I'm finally understanding why you say “perfect” ...it's a reminder of all this.”

I laughed and said, “It will be now, my friend, it will be now, thank you for sharing that... it's perfect! Thanks for having church with me.”

“Yeah, I understand now what you mean about that now too... thank YOU!” He initiated a “fist bump” and left me. I was in a state of wonder and excitement.

Here I'd been, irritated about the interruption and was worried about losing track of the point I was making ...thank You, Daddy, that IS the point, you are always in the NOW, in this moment. Thank You for using this interruption to bring me to You – NOW!

Indeed, this is eternal life, in Your perfect presence.

Now then, what difference does it make where I was or the point I was making? The interruption was PERFECT!

I just sneaked a look ...yep. I could care less about anybody's reaction to what I write –

well, that's not quite true; I really do hope you're enjoying the ride, but that's not my purpose.

WHAT NOW? ...A whole new slant on “perfect,” that's next.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter 10

A WHOLE NEW SLANT ON “PERFECT”

There's an old, crude (but “perfect”) phrase: “It’s very difficult to remember, when you're up to your ass in alligators, that your primary objective was to drain the swamp.”

One of the things I abhor about organized Christianity, in all its multitudinous forms, is the clinging to (and fighting over) traditions that are both distractions and detractions, from my perspective, from the primary purpose of the appearance of Jesus the Christ on the scene according to my understanding and perspective ...and here I've been clinging to a story of an incident that happened almost fourteen years ago ...my own tradition. I'm surprised that I didn't build a monument, but then, I guess I did ...a mental image.

It took the interruption by a Christian to bring me to a new and beautiful TRUTH directly from Dad. The real value (for me) of “perfect” is to remind me that NOW is where SPIRIT resides, that this *is* eternal life, that is, being in “His” presence and power, NOW. That “He” is in me NOW, this moment and nothing else matters.

I'm in a situation that I want to get past and get on with my life. One hundred and sixteen days in the future when an ordeal that's been ongoing for several years is over. The kingdom of the SOURCE is HERE AND NOW. In one hundred and sixteen days it will still be "here and now." Thank You, Daddy/Mommy/SPIRIT!

How much of my life I spend focused on the future! Eternal life in the kingdom is NOW and inside me.

I share my life with a wonderful and beautiful woman who has been with me going on fourteen years. We have some plans for the future that cannot begin until this present situation is past. Our relationship is fantastic and "perfect." If I learned anything from the exchange with the young man, now several days ago, that is important – or, as he put it, "key" ...

NOW is the time, today, to make the most of every moment, not only with my relationship with my beloved partner in this physical existence with her, but everything that happens today. And, part of that is planning our future – although, for all our years together, our plans have constantly been altered to accommodate things we haven't foreseen.

When I'm thinking righteously (and not judging interruption as "good" or "bad"), I see that carefully planning the future is a creative

act, part of which will come true. The unforeseen alterations are merely a part of the process to be enjoyed as challenges along the way – challenges to being ever and even more creative. That is, to treat them as opportunities which, in actuality, they are.

One of the many seeds of this approach to life was a book based on the concepts of Emile Cou'e, a French physician and chemist, "Self-Mastery through Autosuggestion."

An associate of mine, a psychiatrist, and I were involved in a "healing ministry" for emotionally disturbed people who were cast-offs from and referred to us by a variety of churches because they were either disruptive, or more often pastoral counseling was simply not effective.

I was making a presentation of our work to a Charismatic Catholic group at a Catholic church in Portland, Oregon. One of the priests in attendance came up to me afterward and said he enjoyed the presentation and recommended the Cou'e book to me and another about "Silva Mind Control."

The priest told me that he thought I would appreciate both as they presented some parallels to our work.

This was in the mid 1970s. I had been making a study of the healings by Jesus as recorded in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). One of the things that struck me

about the book was that Dr. Cou'e never took credit for any of the "miraculous" cures of thousands of his patients. He said his goal was to teach patients how to get in touch with the power within that enabled self-healing.

So often, Jesus said, basically, "I didn't do anything, your faith healed you." Was Dr. Cou'e saying the same thing?

One simple statement Dr. Cou'e taught his patients is worth memorizing: "Day by day, in every way, I'm getting better and better." A cornerstone of his method was to get his patients to repeat this phrase upon arising and just before retiring every day. It worked on everything from asthma and cancer to diabetes.

The other book, recommended by the same priest, written by Jose Silva in which he referenced (almost reverently) Dr. Cou'e and his free clinic in France and claimed that the principles that Cou'e employed were the basis for Silva Mind Control.

I don't remember, now, a lot that was in either book, except that I enjoyed them both and that they confirmed everything I believed in then and now. I do remember that Silva, a devout Roman Catholic, noted the similarity between what he called "Christian faith healing" and the work of Dr. Cou'e. I do remember laughing out loud (literally) at a comment Silva made in his book to the effect that had the Cou'e method been complex, so

only a few learned specialists could learn to employ it, the method would not have fallen into disuse! Can we not say the same thing about “faith healing?”

Per usual, I have digressed. What made me think of the books of Cou'e and Silva had to do with the attitude they engendered in me about planning and how to handle interruptions to those plans as challenges and opportunities, rather than as catastrophic events ...hence the epiphany created by the interruption during my writing of the previous chapter. I confess that I also have a long way to go in fully implementing the philosophy.

One of the twofold themes of both books was: It is impossible for the brain* to focus on more than one thing at a time; and whatever we do focus on – including healing, but also making plans for the future ...the body tends to transform into action.

Planning, therefore, is an excellent tool – just take along an umbrella because rain can fall during a parade.

The reminder is that it is *all* perfect ...creative planning and the interruptions to those plans which challenge us to even more creativity in the NOW presence and power of SPIRIT, the Creator and SOURCE of All.

*NOTE: An amazing fact is that the latest (in just the past five years) scientific research into

the functioning of the brain proves that, indeed, the brain can only focus on one thing at a time ...which belies some of what we have heard about “multi-tasking.”

WHAT NOW? For this, I'm willing to wait and see ...and it will be perfect.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Eleven

“FAILURE” to “SUCCESS”

What and how can I learn from my failures? ...which considerably outweigh my successes in my over three quarters of a century of striving on this planet, within this body tagged as, “Brad Cullen,” at its genesis; which I contend is not the *real* me.

Every day and in every way I'm getting better and better at remaining “plugged into” my relationship with SPIRIT, the SOURCE.

Are there laws and principles that govern this relationship? Only one ...same as the original ONE: Don't eat from the 'Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil' -- or it's many seedlings which are labeled under various, deceptive names which are all boiled down to systems of knowledge about anything.

How then, do I get “plugged” back into the SOURCE? Ask our SPIRIT-PARENT SOURCE and ask NOW!

But you see, that takes *faith*, a certain kind of faith. Faith is not obeisance to a codified religious system, no matter how high sounding or well intentioned. If you insist upon using the Bible, as your source then let's go to a

text that may serve us in the matter of getting plugged back in.

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” What kind of “faith?”

Is this faith intellectually acquiescing to a religious doctrine or dogma? Not according to this particular passage. This particular text defines this faith as being based on one thing: The relationship of one man to the SOURCE of everything.

The man's name is not important, but the *result* of his faith that “pleased” the SOURCE is nothing short of astounding. What's more the very same result is available to YOU and to me. My purpose is not to sway you with enticing words to adopt this particular aspect of faith.

Most assuredly you will not gain this FAITH through a microscopic study of the Bible, or the spiritual works considered as scriptural by various religious groups.

Please understand that I am not saying that the Bible, the Qur'an or the Veda are not enormously powerful spiritual texts as are the writings of many people in the past... I'm thinking of Mary Baker Eddy, Joseph Smith and Ellen G. White and others considered to be on a par with scripture by some followers of Christian Science, Mormonism and Seventh Day Adventism respectively – because I believe they are (which doesn't make it so).

Remember, Jesus quoted from the Hebrew Torah, but he also warned that an intense study of it led AWAY from the SOURCE. Even though these writings may be spiritually “breathed” we need only to revisit some words that came through Jesus:

“You pore over and search the scriptures diligently because you think it is in them that you will find eternal life... when all the time they give their testimony about me, yet you refuse to come to me so that you can have that LIFE.”

We might want to remember that “eternal life” is translated from a word in the original language that means “right now” -- a parallel existence ongoing right this moment.

That's what being “plugged into” is really doing ...accessing the “other side” right now. How do you do this? Here's the secret:

Ask HER/HIM/IT right now... Just what is the *how* that is best for you?

WHAT NOW? I'm supposed to share a personal experience. That's next. Who knows, it might even be the ending.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Twelve

WHAT ABOUT THOSE IN “ANOTHER TENT?”

In the preceding chapter, I mentioned the writings of Mary Baker Eddy and Joseph Smith, both of which are considered *Holy Writ* by millions of followers of Christian Science and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), respectively. I found both spiritually illuminated - which makes me suspect among a particular brand of Evangelical Christians who consider both as being *extra-Biblical* and thus, “cultic and specious.” A subset of these same Evangelicals would include the writings by Ellen G. White, of Seventh Day Adventist fame, which I have also found illuminating, in the same category of “cultic and specious.”

I remind those, who have the ears to hear, something that Jesus said, directed at a group of conservative, religious Jews of his day: Basically, that only those who contend that something emanating from SPIRIT actually had an evil spirit as its source, would never be forgiven for that. Jesus said this because they said that he had an unclean spirit.

Therefore, it would seem we need to be careful about attaching our religious-based bias

against material purportedly from SPIRIT and we adjudge them as having an evil spirit basis, we could be on dangerous ground indeed ...this according to Jesus, not I!

Jesus had to admonish his own hand-picked twelve who accompanied him for stopping those who were healing or preaching in his name, from doing so, "because," they said, "they aren't walking with us" -- he told the twelve to knock it off. It was the occasion for him to say: "Those who are not against me are for me."

I am blessed with an affinity for those Mormons and Christian Scientists, Seventh Day Adventists -- and yes, (alphabetically) Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and on and on, who are seeking for TRUTH!

The experience I'm supposed to share is specific to Mormonism. According to Joseph Smith, when he asked what religion he should join, he was told -- none of them ...and thus began the odyssey that became the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (hereafter LDS), with millions of adherents around the world.

Why are there so many Mormons around the world? ...especially, some would say, because their beliefs just don't make any sense to the majority of the rest of the world. We won't enumerate which of those beliefs are particularly offensive to some; neither will we

enumerate the core beliefs of mainstream Christianity, Islam and Hinduism which make no sense to the rest of the world either -- in some lame attempt to prove that Mormonism may not be any *crazier*.

Back to the question, why are there so many Mormons around the world? -- counted in the multiplied millions and growing rapidly? In my view, because it is a religion based, initially, upon individual, personal experience!

Not just the founder, but of almost all adherents. They can point back to a time that “something happened,” ...and which that “something” caused them to choose LDS as a way of life.

Some Mormons refer to this experience as an *inner witness* that came about when they asked if they should join the ranks of the LDS. As I said, I'm supposed to share my own experience, with regard to this phenomenon – some readers will understand and some won't.

Pleasing readers, however, while certainly appealing to me, is way *off purpose*.

In the early 1980s I was the president of a corporation in the publishing business – one of our locations was in Salt Lake City, Utah – the world headquarters for the LDS. Several of our employees in Salt Lake City were Mormons.

Our primary printing contractor for the entire U.S. was located in nearby Ogden ...the

owner, as so many other of our suppliers, was a devout Mormon and he happened to be in the upper echelon of authority in the church. He became a close friend.

As I mentioned earlier, I have an affinity for all seekers of truth ...many Mormons are included in that category ...a niece of mine too.

Mormons, though I am avowedly not a member of LDS, have a special place in my heart because of an “inner witness” experience of my own – relative to joining the LDS church.

While technically, in Mormon parlance, I am a “gentile” (non-Mormon) some Mormons have become fairly close friends, spiritually, even *after* I share the experience to which I make reference here.

Another business consulting project; helping a company work out the mechanisms with which to convert their twenty-one retail outlets from employee-operated to independent contractor, owner-operated stores.

One of the former employees and her husband had taken over a store ...and were quite happy about the opportunity. Mormons, both, I asked them what had prompted them to renounce their former allegiance to a Methodist church, in favor of LDS?

They both quite simply referred to asking God if they should and both were “told” *yes*. This happened first to the woman, then within a few weeks, her husband.

She said to me, “you should consider doing it; the church needs people like you.”

“You mean,” I responded, “you think I should join the LDS church?”

“Not at all,” she quickly, but calmly said, “Just consider asking the Lord if that's what would be the best thing for you.”

That struck a chord in me. They were both so sincere, and serene about their adopted religion – and quite low-key in their conversation with me – that I did ask.

The answer both shocked me and changed my life. About 11:00 p.m. that night, I was alone, in my office at home, finishing up a report to the umbrella corporation supplying those stores. I began musing about the conversation with that Mormon couple.

Up until that encounter, my view of Mormonism was passively negative – the reasons are immaterial. What *is* important (to me) is this couple left what I had considered to be a relatively “pure” Christian belief system to join what I considered, at the time, to be neither “pure” nor “Christian.”

Yet, there was something highly appealing, spiritually, to me about this couple.

“Okay, Lord,” I began, “is becoming a Mormon something I should consider? I want your will totally.”

“NO.” The thought was so clear as to have been an audible voice! “But do not judge

any group based on your understanding and logic. I care about all people and I want you to encourage all people to seek Me, just as you are seeking Me and hearing Me this moment.”

“It was a rainy night. I put on some rain gear and walked for two hours. I was invigorated and excited. I knew that I had a new and different call on my life. I had no idea how it would all work out, but I knew I could trust the One who would lead me as long as I confided in “Him.”

“What should I tell this Mormon couple?” I asked. The answer was simple and succinct. “The TRUTH.” I was in for another shock.

I stopped by their store, later that morning -- and told them what had happened. In unison, as if directed by a choir director, they both said, excitedly,

“Praise the Lord!”

“Wow,” I stammered, “I didn't expect that kind of response. ...I guess I expected an argument.”

“Not from us,” he said, she nodding in agreement, “we're not going to argue with the Lord.” She hugged me, and he said, “Sounds like you have your marching orders.”

While this has not always been the reaction to this story by other Mormons - for the most part, there is a kinship that I sense and seems to be felt mutually among many

Mormons -- and, what is universal among *all* Mormons, whom I have encountered, and with whom this experience has been shared, is a total lack of judgment expressed toward me -- not always acceptance, to be sure, but not a hint of criticism or judgment. Some Mormons have also shared enthusiasm for articles and books I have written.

Since my instructions are to judge NOBODY and to encourage all to seek “Him” without fear ...I'm sensing what may be next, but I turn to HER/HIM/IT and ask, WHAT NOW?

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Thirteen

THE SIMPLE DIFFERENCE

I'm supposed to explain the simple difference between being one of the many whom are “the called” and the few whom are “the chosen.”

Terms found in the Bible. Obviously, there are some standouts in history – those who felt they were chosen, by God, to deliver a particular and peculiar message.

Regardless of our personal feelings about them, those who take on the mantle of “the chosen” become “special” to some other people.

One night, in just the past few years, I asked, what's the difference between being “called” and being “chosen?”

You see, I've *known*, as opposed to *felt* that I was one of the many *called*, but didn't even consider it a possibility -not for one second- that I was one of the few *chosen*. Had I thought about it, I'm sure I would have considered it to be sheer arrogance to have held such a thought.

I've been stupidly (is there another kind?) arrogant in my life about several things, but *certainly not THAT* – would have been my

thought. While I'm somewhat well read, my formal (accredited) academic knowledge, other than that gleaned from numerous extension courses, ended with a high school diploma.

In the world of business, one of the qualifications to work for some corporations is a college degree. I learned a secret ...a secret that knocks down that particular (if you don't have a degree) barrier.

Here comes the arrogance (and stupidly so). At the tender age of 24 I was promoted to a Regional Manager's position -in a large multinational Corporation- the youngest of forty-two regional managers around the world, and the ONLY one without the benefit of having a college degree.

What's the secret? It is immaterial, *totally immaterial* ...except that knowing the secret fed the, again, *stupid arrogance*.

My counsel to any young person today, who might ask, would neither be to get a degree, nor to tell them the secret of advancement without one.

In the words of Jesus, "You cannot serve two masters. You can't serve both God and Mammon." Unfortunately *Mammon* is usually misinterpreted. If we get nothing else from this chapter, hopefully we get this: *Mammon* refers to the "god," the spiritual entity" who rules over all commerce ...and when religion, or whatever else seems *good*, slips into a monetary

focus we can have confidence as to whom is its spiritual leader. Enough said?

Back to the question ...what's the difference between being *called* and being *chosen*?

“Everyone is called. I CHOOSE those who want to be chosen.”

“Wait a minute,” I said, amazed, “You mean it's *my* choice?”

“It is your choice to accept the universal call and your decision to be chosen – a decision I honor and for which I provide the anointing.”

I had never heard of such a thing! Over the next several weeks, I received confirmation upon confirmation of the truth of this.

Day by day, in every way, I am getting better -clearer and clearer- that I am chosen and it is my choice – and SPIRIT, honors my choice and anoints me with HER/HIS/ITS presence and power ...and the same thing is available to anyone who makes the same decision.

Therefore, it isn't arrogance because there is only one SOURCE who is equally available to all.

What about all the different religions? I am chosen and anointed [empowered] to tell you that if you are led to any religion, it is a step in the direction you are being led. Continue seeking *Him* as an expression – an exercise within that religion.

Unless the religion or the primary study tools, within the religion, lead you to SPIRIT they have no value to you. The goal of religious exercise is to find a deeper, more meaningful relationship with the Creative SOURCE of everything.

We've already seen the disdain expressed through Jesus for a study of the Scriptures when they didn't lead to LIFE in the SPIRIT.

This is just as true with Vedic writings, as it is with the Bible or reading the Qur'an (Koran). It is just as true with religious exercise. Some people are able to sense the presence and power of SPIRIT by simply entering a place of worship whether Mosque, Temple or Church. Others do so by chanting or singing hymns; still others by different prayer forms.

All of these have value when they lead to a deeper, more meaningful relationship for you. When any of these becomes mere form or ritual ...seek *Him* in other ways. How? By telling *Him* you want more.

The following words came out of the mouth of the Jewish prophet, Jeremiah: "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for me with all your heart."

When is NOW ...Always! NOW!

This is the first step beyond mere religious ritual and/or the study of spiritual writings ...that is, going directly – seeking

HER/HIS/ITS presence will enhance your experience of studying or ritual.

Study and ritual are like milk for a baby. Until its digestive system is ready for solid food the baby requires its mother's milk or a formula designed to produce a similar result.

Solid food in this analogy is switching to a direct relationship ...like drinking from a glass rather than sucking through a nipple.

Ritual and study are okay, but in smaller and smaller quantity in relationship to the entire diet ...until, finally, the baby is weaned.

From ritual and study to mature *faith* ...faith, another word that means too many different things to too many different people to communicate meaningfully.

Let's take two common, but disparate definitions:

1) Faith IN God. Which means, to some, a belief in the existence of God and to others that God controls and takes care of everything ...*God does it* – and many variations thereof.

2) Faith OF God. Jesus actually coined this term. It means an inner *knowing* that allows an individual to do work(s) generally ascribed to God. There are also many variations to this theme.

We could say that *faith* encompasses all the above. That is, the working of God, independent of man AND God working through

man to accomplish *His* purposes. In other words, not either/or, but Both and More.

We started this chapter by examining the difference between being *called* by God and being *chosen* by God. They are both powered by SPIRIT and both are initiated by individual choice.

WHAT NOW?

We're to end this chapter by providing a glimpse into the next one. Introducing "Faith" and "Faith" ...and away we go!

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Fourteen

THE INGREDIENTS OF FAITH

For over twenty-five years I have been writing and teaching about the *secrets*, the *keys*, the *laws*, the *principles*, etc., of getting an ever increasing amount of what Jesus introduced as the *faith OF God* or *God-faith* which is basically the faith with which to perform the seemingly *supernatural* or *miraculous*.

In just the last few years, I have been sharing what I call *ULTIMATE FAITH*. Faith that transcends healing and other *miracles* to something most people find difficult to absorb.

Some people even react with hostility ...over the mere mention of this *ULTIMATE FAITH*. Save your hostility for a later chapter, in this one, now, we'll deal with several kinds of faith, whether referred to as faith *IN* God, faith *OF* God, or *ULTIMATE FAITH* ,,it's *all* faith.

Rather than *principles*, *secrets* and *laws*, etc. I'm supposed to share the ingredients. *Faith* of all varieties has the same ingredients; the “*it is what it is*” of faith, no matter how defined or described.

The ingredients are (and without which there is no faith):

DESIRE -ya gotta want it-

BELIEF -ya gotta believe it's possible-

EXPECT -the catalyst which transforms desire and belief into a cohesive and explosive power ...it takes all three

Jesus said, "Nothing is impossible if you believe enough." Without desire, that is, *wanting*, the impossible just became far more difficult to attain. Belief and desire need to be harnessed together -- and together, they achieve some phenomenal things.

Consider that until 1954 nobody had ever been clocked at running a mile in less than four minutes. It was considered *impossible!* Along came Roger Bannister, a British runner, who wanted to do it badly enough and believed enough to accomplish it. Today, hundreds of runners each year, at the collegiate level, routinely accomplish the same thing.

They want to, they believe they can and they expect to. Let's put a screeching halt to the debilitating term, *seeing is believing*. Yes, because we've seen Roger Bannister break the barrier we, therefore, believe that it is possible.

Running a mile under four minutes is still

impossible for most folks. Why? They neither believe it is possible for them, nor do they want to do it.

The truth is that believing leads to *seeing* whatever comes into being ...we need to continually reiterate Jesus' words, "NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE if you believe enough."

I just flashed on a photo in the sports section of a newspaper that I saw, two or three days ago, of a 91 year old man on a track, who holds the record for runners in his class (75 and older), a mile in under 10 minutes. That may sound fairly slow when compared to a four minute mile, but I jog 3 - 5 miles most days and can tell you that a ten minute mile would be envied, if I cared! I don't. In other words, I don't have the requisite desire to make it happen.

There's not a doubt that I COULD do it ...in other words, I believe, but it doesn't transpose into *faith* because a necessary ingredient is missing. I like this example, simply because it demonstrates that belief is NOT the equivalent of faith. Jesus' half-brother, James, in the New Testament book bearing his name, said:

"So, you believe in God? Big deal! So do demons believe in God and they tremble in fear at the knowledge of their destiny!"

Belief in anything is intellectual acquiescence to something. Harnessing that belief to desire and stirring in the catalyst,

expectation, and PRESTO! We have the magic of faith, by which nothing IS IMPOSSIBLE...

So then, let's start where we are. Do you believe that what Jesus said is true? That is, that ANYONE who believes ENOUGH will do the same things he did and more. Do you believe that you are an "anyone?" Or, have you been overtaken by a religious doctrine that says, "miracles died out with the apostles and the early church," or some such (?).

That is really easy to overcome *if* you want to overcome it. Wait a minute, believing it's possible, remember, is one of the essential ingredients. Let's enumerate the things he did in order to have a reality check: He raised the dead, turned water into wine, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, healed diverse diseases, cast out demons, etc., etc.

I have not, as yet, raised anyone from the dead, nor turned water into wine. But I believe it's possible and have the desire and even expect that the list will be completed = FAITH!

Does that make me *special*? No. But it puts me in the ranks of those who are willing to say I'm an *anyone*. You still don't believe it possible? Well, friends, that's where we start.

Let's review briefly and then see if we can move on -- go forward -- from whatever position we each, individually, hold. We've already noticed that James, Jesus' half brother said, that you can say, "I believe in God" and

his response is, “well, big deal, so what?” I didn't say it, James said it; *and* it is in an advanced pole position in the race toward *ULTIMATE FAITH*, that is, already past someone who doesn't believe in God (by whatever other name or title) A pole position - is a starting position and nothing more.

WHAT NOW?

How we advance from wherever anyone of us is, to wherever you or I will ultimately be, related to the degree of faith you or I possess, at this particular point in our growth. It depends on desire and belief being mixed together as chemicals and then pouring in the catalyst called expectation for a controlled, chemical reaction of *EXPLOSIVE, MIRACULOUS POWER* ready to use, when directed by the Master Chemist *SOURCE*.

The foregoing is a monstrously long sentence. Let's take a second to absorb the content, not getting hung up on comparisons with one another. We're a long way past examining who we are, in the sense of the questions Who am I? Where did I come from? etc. *IT DOESN'T MATTER!* What we do with what we've already been given is the focus.

Human beings have a proclivity to ask, *why?* Which leads to ingesting the “fruit” that looks good because we've been duped into

believing the answers we get will make us wise. We've used the metaphor of being in a race, the metaphor of chemicals being mixed into a potentially explosive potion when applied by the Master Chemist ...WHAT NOW?

There's an old military maxim, "It is not ours to ask how, or why, but ours to do or die."

No matter what or who we religiously insist Jesus is – can we, at this moment, "see" and "hear" his example? Whether we believe he is a "Great Teacher" or "Ascended Master" (Hindu), "Prophet" (Muslim), "Son of God" (Christian), etc., etc., let's read the following out loud, several times and hear it:

"It is not I that does the works, and these are not my words, they are the works and words of my Father who lives in me – my words are SPIRIT and LIFE."

Did we get it? Wonderful and "big deal" ...and so what? Now read out loud and hear this that Jesus also said:

"Whatever you have seen me do you will do and more. ANYONE who believes enough will do the very same things and more."

Arguing with one another about religious perspectives about whom and what we believe Jesus is and/or was is an argument fueled by an enemy and his agents who have one goal – to kill the human body bags we occupy and destroy our faith. I'm quoting Jesus here ...call

him what you will, but hear three more things he said:

“Why do you call me 'good?' Only one is good, God.” I know (personally) Muslims who love to use this quote in arguments with Christians to prove their point that Jesus is a “prophet.” The following quote is for all of us: “What is the point of calling me [saying that I am] “Lord, unless you also do what I tell you to do?” ...and this final quote with which to end this chapter: “Get the faith OF God.”

WHAT NOW? Suggestion: Reread this chapter until it registers deeply within – that's what now (before moving on to the next chapter). A stronger suggestion: Ask directly, WHAT NOW? Perhaps it's time to move on under HER/HIS/ITS direct control. Drink out of the glass - put the pacifier away or, perhaps, simply discard it! ASK!

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Fifteen

WE'RE STILL HERE?

Well, are we curious, or what? I'm being directed by SPIRIT to continue writing.

Hopefully, since you're still here, you're being directed to keep reading; if not, this will most likely be a waste of your time. We're going to talk about ULTIMATE FAITH and, in my limited experience, some people get hostile, remember? It's up to you whether you keep on reading ...your choice. So, just remember, you've been warned.

To me, one of the more appropriate and exciting comparisons can be found in the Bible. It was made by a young man fresh out of the Jewish "School of Prophets." The story was a huge directional signpost for my life. Elisha, who "attached himself" to the famous Jewish Prophet Elijah and appointed himself to be Elijah's valet, gofer, "aide de camp," etc., whose presence at times annoyed the great man. Elisha followed Elijah everywhere.

Elijah would say the equivalent to the modern day, "Get lost, kid, I'm busy. I've got people to see and places to go."

Elisha's response continued steadfastly. "No way, as the Lord lives, and your soul lives, I'm not leaving your side."

So Elijah began taking another tack: "Look, kid, the Lord is sending me to Bethel. You stick around here and when I get back, we'll get together."

"No way," Elisha stuck to his guns, "as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, I'm staying by your side," and off they would go together.

Finally, one day, Elijah had had it. "Look, kid, just what is it you want?"

"I want twice as much of the same Spirit that is in you!"

"Whoa, kid, you've asked for a very hard thing. But I'll tell you what. If you see me when the Lord takes me up, then you'll get what you ask. If you don't see me go, you won't."

There are two reasons I say Elisha's comparison of himself to Elijah are both exciting and appropriate. First, Elisha saw that there was no way he could pull off the special miracles Elijah was doing ...not in his own power, no sir-ee. So he paid close attention to everything about the great man. When Elijah finally asked the question, Elisha was ready: "I want double the Spirit in you!"

Elijah gave him the conditions. Elisha met them and a quite amazing fact, you can prove for yourself, by reading about the careers

of both men, in the latter part of First Kings and the early part of Second Kings. After Elisha witnessed Elijah being taken up in a whirlwind and Elisha received the great prophet's mantle.

Elisha performed twice as many miracles as the record attributed to Elijah. Count them, it's rather amazing.

The second reason that the comparison is apt and even more exciting is that it can apply to us. We have ample historical record beyond even the accounts the writers of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) reported that, indeed, Jesus performed many miracles. Which brings us to the point made previously which irritates some folks:

No matter what your own religious perspective about who/what Jesus was/is and what he did (or still does), that is, Hindus generally think of Jesus as a Great Teacher-Guru-Ascended Master; Muslims, a Great Prophet, and Christians, the Son of God. Some hold to variations of all the foregoing – listen up:

A comparison between you or me and Jesus, unless we're a bit crazy, brings us quickly to the place, "I can't do what he said I would do unless I have even more of the same Spirit that was in him as a man."

Oops! "Houston, we have a problem" (a *huge* problem, loaded with religious dogma and tradition), remember I said to hold onto your

hostility for a later chapter. We have arrived!

To some, making any comparison of ourselves with Jesus is blasphemy, outright, and then comes righteous indignation.

But wait, comparison to Jesus is exactly what he called for ...and why the narrative about Elisha/Elijah is so exciting to me is that Elisha wound up performing twice as many recorded miracles as Elijah, as we recall.

What can we do with the same dynamic concerning ourselves as related to what Jesus did?

Jesus said, remember, ANYONE ...that's you, that's me, who believes enough will BE and DO he was and did – not only that, but *more* than he did.

So, my friends, to whom/what are you going to pay attention – religious dogma or the words of Jesus himself?

“Since you know it is going to turn people off, why do you write such things?” a question I've heard many times. Now, you can call me a rebel or a reactionary, but I will throw the ball back to you ...a rebel against whom?

Answer: Against those who cloak themselves in robes of religious leadership.

Christian religious leadership, those who not only ignore what the one, whom they insist is “The Christ” said, but teach the opposite of what he said.

Reactionary against what ...against the system that is the great rebellion and which fosters those whom, in disobedience to the command of Jesus, NOT to do so, not only *allow* themselves to be called, but insist that others call them by titles Jesus said not to use.

If you are still with us, but find yourself cringing at the audacity of comparison of anyone with Jesus as the “Only begotten Son of God” here's a direct quote from the revered Book:

“As many as receive (the SPIRIT in)* Jesus, to them are given the right to become sons of God, born not of flesh and blood or the will of man, BUT OF GOD!”

In other words, as the Bill Gaither Trio song goes, “Joint Heirs with Jesus!”

Is this the truth? ASK the SOURCE!

* NOTE: In context, this is exactly what the passage is saying. That is, anyone who receives the truth that the “Word of God,” the “Creative Spirit,” became the man called Jesus, has also received the authority and the right to become a son of God. That there is an obvious difference between the “Only Begotten Son” and one of the many “sons” seems to be self evident and needn't have a bunch of discussion.

BUT, that we'd ignore our promised sonship in favor of religious pew trapping, spectator nonsense?

What now?

Let's continue dealing with the, "How dare you?!!" issue, that is, the comparison with Jesus issue. If you haven't jumped ship by now, and you are still reading this, you are almost ready to hear about ULTIMATE FAITH, but not quite.

Bondage to a religious system which includes antipathy toward it, that is, a strong aversion to it (and which I readily confess) is extremely difficult to get free from).

How I got free, yes, escaped from the love/hate relationship with Christianity was a long struggle. Long, only because I kept resisting what I was being so clearly told and shown, that is, to come out of "her" (Christianity), and that Christianity is what Jesus referred to as the "Whore of Babylon."

Now get this: The reason it was such a struggle for me was because I still wanted the approval of men and women (who were still stuck in the mire of the system) more than I wanted to obey the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF who was telling me to get out of it!

It is still a temptation, but I understand it clearly ...and I understand clearly how to overcome it. How? By staying in continual touch with the Commander-in-Chief. How? ...By continually asking, "What now?" ...and

exposing myself to my unconsciously, but very real and finally “realized” perceived dangers of being rejected by all those whom I love, including those who insist upon referring to themselves as Christians, Muslims, Hindus or whatever and of whatever stripe and banner.

The Commander-in-Chief has instructed me to love them all ...*especially* those who hate me. Not just a difficult task, an impossible one if I insist upon thinking my identity is this body-bag I occupy ...but I don't insist upon that at all. Just like Elisha, I know I can do nothing in the strength of the body I occupy, so it isn't impossible at all.

Hear this: It is no longer “I” – it is Christ. Trust me, that is *not* Christianity.

I am decidedly not a Christian, but neither am I a Buddhist, Hindu, Jew, Mormon, Muslim nor any religious label or banner concocted in the mind of man, *any* man or woman (no matter how great). Nor am I attempting to get you, or anyone else to fall in line behind my particular brand of non-conformity.

I AM, after all, a conformist to the individual call upon my life; to the ONE who calls, which only I can hear. My desire is only that you hear your own call ...even if it seems diametrically opposed to mine.

Chaotic! Yes, but far less than the wars and arguments between the religious. You see, I

know one thing and *only* one thing about your call. Your call will include that you love me as your brother even though your call is different in every other respect.

What Now? No, we are not at the end as yet and I'm quite excited to see just what we're in for.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Sixteen

TRANSCENDING

We all know that to transcend means, essentially, to go beyond. I've noticed that some writers who tend toward the mystical-spiritual, that is, the arena "beyond understanding" (or "knowing") use the word "translated" in discussing those individuals, mostly in the geographic "east," and that, primarily in India, who didn't go through the process of physically dying, but who aren't around anymore to tell us about it.

Those individuals were "translated," so these particular writers say. The question about these individuals then, becomes far different than the philosophical/religious question:

"What happened to them, where did they go **INSTEAD** of dying? These were translated or transported to the "other side" without the (laughable) "benefit" of physical death.

In my former experience as a Christian, nobody, at least who I encountered, in that system, wanted to talk about it. It was, or at least so it seemed to me, forbidden territory conversationally. Nobody ever said it that way to me, but I never found a Christian who didn't

change the subject from translating to one of “after death.”

This made the remarks of Jesus about it all the more amazing to me. How on earth, I thought, can a religion, Christianity, which purports to be founded on what Jesus said, ignore the fact that he said death was abolished!

In plain English: “He that believes in me shall never die.”

The Christian rationalization (the use of rational lies) is basically, “oh well, that's not what he really meant.”

Since the experience of everyone on this planet is to know somebody who died and saw their “remains” lowered into the ground, or the ash residue placed in an urn and into a crypt – or perhaps scattered, it's a tough call to even dabble on the surface about “translating.”

“Death and taxes” are inescapable events, we've been conditioned by experience to believe. Translating is impossible, right?

Well, so is the four minute mile if you insist upon living prior to 1954 and Roger Bannister; and CHOOSE to ignore the fact that THOUSANDS of runners have transcended that imaginary barrier and they are still doing it today. There we go again, seeing is believing; and believing is an ingredient of faith, right?

NO! The belief that something which seems (or we've been told, backed by personal experience) is impossible *is* possible.

That belief is one of the primary ingredients of faith, ALL faith. Desire that whatever is possible is the other primary ingredient. The catalyst is *expecting* it to come into physical being. These three; belief, desire and expect ...form the faith that brings whatever into “physical” (seen) and “spiritual” (unseen) reality.

I think I already shared the story herein about the fellow who walked out of a meeting saying, angrily, “You people can believe anything you want!” ...then slamming the door behind him, obviously not wanting to hear anymore.

Now then, *ultimate* faith which goes beyond ...*transcends* everything most people call “faith.” Whether it's “faith *in* God” or Jesus’ version which is the “faith *of* God,” which is, essentially, having the ability to do what he did – and which he not only said to get, but provided instructions as to HOW to go about getting it.

“*Ultimate* faith” transcends both faith *in* (or about) God and the faith *of* God.

Wait a minute, are we saying that being *who* Jesus was as a man and doing what Jesus did as a man, is not *ultimate* faith?

Yep, that's exactly what we are saying. Don't forget, the destiny Jesus promised those who believe *enough* (Desire, Belief, plus

Expect) is that they will do even *more* than he did.

The essence of the “faith” espoused by Christianity is to believe that Jesus died and then was raised from the dead to be with God.

Most Christians, it seems to me, think their responsibility is to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus and to tell others about that ...sometime before their own funerals.

Harsh? Yes, intentionally so. Something has to get our attention. Talking about, writing about what Jesus did some two thousand years ago is *not* faith, not even remotely so.

It can be a starting point, but unless I transcend (get beyond) to the essence of joint-heir status, how can I even call myself a “follower of Jesus?” I leave it to each person to answer that question for her and him.

WHAT NOW?

Transcend. Get beyond! Get beyond what? Get beyond all limitations. Especially and most particularly believing that physical death is the end of physical life; more importantly, it is not the beginning of spiritual life either! “Life after life” is really just another way, a trite way, of saying the same thing.

One of the results of ultimate faith is not avoiding death, but avoiding death by

transcending or translating is simply one of the many possible results of ultimate faith.

Ultimate faith is the confidence of knowing we are ONE with, that is, in UNITY with the SOURCE of everything.

While there is only one way to be one with our SPIRIT-PARENT SOURCE, it is unique to each individual.

Just as your relationship with each of your physical children whether “by blood” or by “adoption” (and “legal” has nothing to do with the latter), is individual to and with each child ...so it is with the SOURCE. This ONE WAY is YOUR way, and MY way.

How, then, do we each find our own individual way? The beginning step is to want to ...DESIRE. What if we don't really care?

Admit it! Then announce that we *want* to want it. Begin saying, “I *want* to want having that kind of relationship with YOU, SPIRIT” ...that is the beginning “seed” of DESIRE.

Soon, you will be amazed that you really do want to have the relationship. At that point, believing that it is possible is born ...at the birth of belief, begin speaking it as if it is full-blown. “I believe it!” This will be your announcement to the entire universe. Keep on saying it until it IS. It will be and that is the essence of Jesus' instructions.

Expectation, while being the catalyst, it is also the result of desire-come belief. You can

believe anything you want. Yes, you can. Start here.

WHAT NOW? Just one more chapter ...I think, but I'm not quite sure.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Seventeen

GRAVITY AND GOD [Ending (?) Part A]

There is nothing misleading or “wrong” about the word “gravity.” What does mislead us is our inner interpretation of what the word means and/or how we express that meaning.

Gravity is universally accepted as a law or principle in the world of science. That's nice, but what does the term “gravity” mean to you and me?

Does the phrase, “What goes up must come down,” ring any bells? If that is where our collective heads are, with respect to the word, we might want to reconsider the basic premise of “up” and “down.”

Gravity, the force that keeps our feet firmly planted on this part of the planet and performs the same service for those who are standing relatively close to the opposite geographical point on the other “side” of the planet, messes with the definitions of both “up” and “down.”

To belabor the obvious, “up” points in the exact opposite direction to our counterpart’s “up” over there ...in fact, when we point “down,” we are pointing in the same direction as those over there who are pointing “up.”

Admittedly I have created a straw man so I can easily knock him down. Well folks, it isn't so easy to construct an equally weak straw man with respect to the word "God."

What about "true" and "false?" ...a little closer to home than "up" and "down" at opposite points of the globe.

Standing next to one another, two people can proclaim "the truth" and be seeing and meaning two different things.

A third person standing nearby can interject the qualifiers "subjective" and "objective" and believe that he or she has cleared up the whole thing. Well, of course, for that third person, but it doesn't stop the grappling of the other two.

Then we arrive at the oxymoronic term, "theology." Theology is an oxymoron only to those of us who believe that God, God's ways and nature are all indecipherable. Theology, that is, the study of God, from that perspective, is definitively an oxymoron.

...and, now, here comes, "FRAMES OF REFERENCE" ...that's next and last (?)

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Eighteen

FRAMES OF REFERENCE [Ending (?) Part B]

What we don't understand we sometimes fear to some degree or another.

Fear is something that also causes us embarrassment, to one degree or another.

Depending upon the degree, we tend to cover it up with an, "I don't care" attitude.

Attempting to communicate effectively with somebody who is in the "I don't care," cover-up-mode is next to impossible. The primary reason is that the fear and the cover up are going on at a subconscious level.

None of you remaining are in this category, for obvious reasons ...you've proven that you are without fear, by hanging in there to read this!

Building an emotional word bridge, with which to communicate, requires a bit of improvisation that can help a person consciously get past the threatened state.

Let's try a paradox: In my view, a paradox is best described as something that our current understanding and experience tells us is impossible or untrue ...and yet, at a deeper

level, we know that it *is* true even if we cannot explain it.

The contradiction of what we think of as “evil” co-existing with what we think of as “good” and being forced to believe that somehow a loving God created both is a perfect example of a paradox.

Because this is a difficult contradiction for some of us to even contemplate, let's go to something far easier to deal with: Different frames of reference; different viewpoints; different perspectives – all terms that mean the same thing, that is, looking at the same thing but in a different way and, thus, reaching vastly different conclusions.

How often have we heard somebody exclaim, “How could God allow such a thing (some disaster or another) to happen?”

It is a question that some of us wouldn't even attempt to answer ...at least in that frame of reference. Some of us knowingly opine, “God did it for such and such a reason.”

Others shrink from making any such pronouncements, thinking them blasphemous.

What I personally believe about how evil came into existence (I've heard seemingly learned Bible teachers assert various scenarios, in complete disagreement with one another) is

immaterial. My belief is one frame of reference just as are the varying disagreeing postures of the aforementioned Bible teachers.

I have learned an argument that makes sense to me in the face of somebody asserting that “God did it – for His purposes and known only to Him” – about some personal tragedy ...I say: I prefer to see it that, all things work together for good to those who love God and are the called according to His purposes.

Thus, rather than speculating that Satan caused it, or God caused it ...I prefer to see it as that which God will turn into His purposes for those who trust Him to do so.

Some might call the foregoing approach faith. I do not and here's why – and it is not a paradox at all, but just a different frame of reference:

I accept the tragedy for what it is – without attempting to assess blame, which includes, “natural causes,” “human error” (intentional or otherwise), “Satan,” “God” or etc. It just is what it is.

Segue to what Jesus described as “faith” in two instances:

1) A blind man, by the name of Bartimaeus was hollering at the top of his lungs, “Jesus, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” The people around Bart were trying to get him to shut up, but he yelled all the more,

“Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on me,” until he finally got Jesus' attention. Jesus told those with him to bring Bart to him. Whereupon, he asked Bart what he wanted.

“I want to be able to see.”

Jesus said, “Okay, you can see,”

Bart whooped and hollered, “I can, see, I can see!” Jesus told him that it was his (Bart's) faith that had healed him.

2) A woman had a menstrual period with a severe flow, non-stop, for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors, but they couldn't cure her. She heard that Jesus was nearby and she also heard about his ability to heal.

So she left her home and walked toward the place where a huge crowd was gathered, pressing in around him. She pushed and shoved, convinced that if she could just get close enough to him to touch his clothing that she'd be healed.

She made it and sure enough, she was instantly healed. Jesus, sensing that it had happened, asked his disciples, “Who touched me?”

His disciples retorted, “You gotta be kidding, with this entire crowd milling around?”

The woman, now seated nearby, heard their conversation, and shakily told him what she had done.

“Don't worry about it,” Jesus assured her, “It was your faith that healed you.”

In both instances, Jesus could have said any number of things, but instead told them that their actions indicated faith and that was what had healed them ...one frame of reference.

Another “faith frame” Jesus talked about was that anyone with enough faith could do the very same things that he did.

Think about it, instead of making grave pronouncements that God caused the blindness for whatever were His purposes; or trusting God to help him make the best of it, Bart exercised what Jesus referred to as “faith.” He yelled and yelled even when all around him people here hushing him. He kept yelling *until* he got Jesus' attention -- and received his sight.

What can we learn from this? We can learn a number of things if we want to get *enough* faith. Certainly the word *until* stands out as a prime prerequisite to getting what we want.

One of the inherent messages of “What Now?” is to continue asking *until* we know we have the connection and then pursuing the SOURCE each step of the way *until* we know we have received.

One of the things that has been obscured by some of Christianity's various emphases is this little gem from Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” Is this true? ASK. Hint, if it is true, go to Jesus, NOW!

I've seen so many people give up their religious belief systems in favor of just going to Jesus, who is the “*same yesterday, today and forever.*”

Rather than I tell you my perspective, this is the perfect time for you to jump into a relationship with Jesus.

Which, from my perspective, has nothing to do with Christianity?

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Nineteen

WAIT A MINUTE! NO ...IT ISN'T OVER

How can there be a chapter 19 when, at the close of Chapter 18, we declared the end(ing)? A wild and crazy ending to be sure, but well, it was even signed off with a “that's all folks.”

What Now?

What do we want to deal with first, the wild and crazy part? Or the fact that we're ignoring the words that declared it all over and done with (“the end”)?

...Neither and both.

I've been reading a book about physics ...the classic physics of Isaac Newton and the new variety called quantum mechanics.

Reading? Actually, stumbling through it would be a far more apt description of my activity.

This is an embarrassing admission, but here goes: I've read the book, cover to cover, four times, over the past five months ...and keep it handy to make reference to a variety of terms I don't begin to fully comprehend. Here's the

embarrassing part: I woke up this morning realizing I didn't understand a word that is basic to physics ...”mass.”

$E = mc^2$ in quasi-English: Energy equals mass multiplied by the speed of light squared. Einstein's formula which opened the door to the atomic bomb, you know, Hiroshima and all that horror.

But “Mass” ...what is that?

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Twenty

THE DIFFERENCE IS IN YOU

What I had planned to do for this chapter was write a very long thesis providing chapter and verse from the Bible that demonstrates two things.

One – that Jesus was a man, all man, fully and completely human.

Two – that the Creative SPIRIT part of Elohiym who created the universe and everything in it became the man Jesus ...this fully completely human, all-man.

In other words, I was going to provide Biblical proof that the predominant doctrine of Christianity which declares that Jesus was not merely a man, but somewhere in between ...a “God-man,” if you will, is baseless.

For anyone who wants that kind of proof, and it is that for those open to it, I'll point the way, chapter and verse with some rather compelling translational notes. However, it does not mean I will debate the issue. I won't.

I was also going to raise the spectrum that, just as Jesus claimed, the words that came out of his mouth were not his words, but those

of SPIRIT ...and now that I've written that intention (past tense, though it is), it seems like a huge contradiction ...so I suppose I should be relieved (?).

Instead, I asked: What Now?

Paul, the previously referenced writer of several “books” of the New Testament, in a letter to some of his converts in an area called Colossae: “The secret, the mystery of the ages is Christ in you.” Yep, that's what generated the title of this chapter, “The “Difference is *in* YOU.”

Christianity is a religious belief system that, for the most part, contends Jesus is the “Christ,” the Messiah prophesied by Isaiah and other Jewish prophets. It is safe to say that what I am about to write – to the vast majority of Christians, is utter and complete blasphemy ...which I would not and do not dare to do!

The difference between what Christianity teaches and practices and the *real* thing is in *you*. YOU are the difference.

“What you have seen me do you will do, and more of it, if you believe enough.” -Jesus-

In other words, I didn't say that, Jesus said it.

“Nothing will be impossible to you if you believe enough.” -Jesus-

Again, I didn't say that, Jesus said it.

Jesus also said that there is no point in referring to him as, “Lord,” if we don't DO what he said. To that, Jesus also said that if you give a cup of water to somebody who is thirsty you won't lose your reward. Many Christian organizations are at work providing food, clothing and shelter to those who need it. Okay.

But we're talking potential here. We're talking about the difference between teaching a belief system about the uniqueness of Jesus – when he said to BE *who* he was, as a man – that is, controlled by SPIRIT and, therefore, do what he did as a man.

Now, here's the kicker. Jesus did not perform any miracles, “The Father in me,” SPIRIT, performed the miracles. That is our destiny when we believe enough. We will say, “I didn't do it, Daddy in me did it.”

Blasphemy isn't saying that... although a good many Christians would level that charge against those who say it, but blasphemy is teaching that it is impossible.

Here is a dichotomy and paradox: Doing what Jesus said to do is impossible. it is why millions of Christians live in defeat – trying, but always failing to follow the commands of Jesus to, “Love your enemies, pray for those

who abuse you,” etc., etc., all things Jesus said to do, but which take SPIRIT ...Christ in you. “It is no longer 'I,' but Christ.”

Going to Bible study, sitting on pews, making a show of praying over your meals and other such religious “stuff” are the things of Christianity.

See the difference? Our potential is raising the dead, casting out demons, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf and giving all glory to SPIRIT because SPIRIT did it through you and me (rather than under the banner of “Whatever Ministries”) is the demonstration of Christ in you – the difference.

Jesus Christ really is the “same yesterday, today and forever” because he lives in those who see the impossibility of living any other way.

How do we get SPIRIT to take control of our lives? We have to want it ...DESIRE. We have to BELIEVE it is possible. We have to EXPECT it. Jesus said to knock on Dad's door and keep on knocking with total impudence, that is, the total impudence of a small child – a lack of awe ...Daddy, I want, I want, I want, UNTIL Spirit has taken over.

When we sense that we are not under the control of SPIRIT ...that is, going through the prescribed motions of Christianity, instead of *being* Jesus – and *doing* what he did as a man.

We must get reconnected. How? Bang on the door some more – UNTIL we know that we are connected, totally!

That's the difference. Christ in you! Is this the end, finally? There is no end. This is eternal life.

WHAT NOW? I asked my first of many “What Now?”(s) this morning, I just HAD to look up “mass” in the dictionary. Let's see if it makes any better sense to you than it did to me:

“...Mass - in physics, the quantity of matter that a star, planet or other large body contains, not dependent on gravity and, therefore, different from, but proportional to its weight.”

There, that cleared up everything, didn't it? At this point I succumbed to man's age-old folly and asked “why?” ...excepting that I went directly to the SOURCE, “Why, Daddy, why?”

As you most likely recall, I dealt with this issue blithely sometime back with the reminder, “It is not ours to question how or why, but ours to do or die” (more or less).

The Lord, in His mercy, because I went to Him directly with the question, showed me why. As you recall, just a few paragraphs back, I had a two-part question/answer – what do we deal with first, the wild and crazy part of the ending, or the declaration of it?

An either/or question to which the answer was “neither and both.”

What does this have to do with the above referenced definition of “mass?”

A classic case of the word “assumes” which means to make an ass out of you and me ...well, especially me! Another embarrassing admission:

As I said, I've been stumbling through, albeit with intense interest, a book about physics for months and now still referring to it almost daily – all the while assuming that “mass” equaled, more or less, the weight of any particular astronomical body.

The definition was a mind boggler to me! Again: “Not dependent on gravity, therefore different from, but proportional to its weight.”

Oh my! Ready? “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” and going to him directly has nothing to do with Christianity, as you remember, was the wild and crazy way we ended the last chapter.

My tendency, no, proclivity, that is, my overriding inclination, at this point, normally, would be to interject: “My apologies to those Christians who would say that going directly to Jesus in the NOW has EVERYTHING to with Christianity.

That may be their frame of reference, but my contention is that Christianity, as broadly practiced today, is not the frame of reference Jesus provides – and why he says to anyone who has the ears to hear: “Come out of the

Whore of Babylon” (and all her daughters who are even more seductive than their mother!).

Oh my! WHAT NOW?

Understanding the definition of mass and having it register so profoundly (if embarrassingly) upon my consciousness as that definition did earlier, did not transform me into a nuclear physicist – it only provided a missing link to my understanding.

That is, mass *involves* the weight of the matter contained in the earth, but neither equals it nor does it make it synonymous with weight ...although it is proportional to it. Since mass is directly proportional to weight – there is a significance to the connection. Ah, but how is any of this analogous to Christianity, Christians and Jesus Christ? ...and what difference does it make to me?

Perhaps a more meaningful way to ask the question is: What difference *can* it make? In other words what is the *potential* difference? ...and here is the crystal clear answer: ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

Mass involves weight – but is different from it. Christianity involves Jesus, but is different from him ...a misunderstanding of just what constitutes mass makes the equation, “energy equals mass multiplied by the speed of

light squared” (multiplied by itself), of no effect related to its usefulness in conversion to nuclear energy.

The foregoing is not as abstract as it may appear at first glance. Let's take a quick look at our friend Albert Einstein's equation a little more closely and then move on. Energy (that force which lights and heats cities and can be contained in a bomb – if you correctly apply the formula) equals or is the result of the speed of light (approximately 186,000 miles per second) multiplied by itself (186,000) or a little less than 35,000,000,000 that's almost 35 billion – get your calculator out – many of us mortals would call that “instantly” until we factor in how long it takes the sun's light to travel to the earth (eight and a half minutes) and realize, “hey, that's not instant at all!

We're not finished, we have to multiply that by the amount of matter contained in whatever large body we are using here (no, not one of those fat Japanese wrestlers) as the basis ...all this equates to what energy is – and which can blow up a lot of stuff when applied – just so.

Hopefully, we've illustrated that the equation expressed by Einstein is mind boggling IF we look at the RESULT of its application, that is, nuclear energy.

Now then, the analogous parallel to what Jesus said and did and then with the question: Does this equal Christianity?

Jesus clearly said that anyone who believes *enough* will be *who* he was as a man and perform the same (and even greater than the) miracles he performed as a man. Does that formula equate to Christians, collectively referred to as Christianity?

Does that depend on your frame of reference or perspective? Does writing down or talking about $E = mc^2$ produce nuclear energy?

This *is* the frame of reference. Without knowing what the correct definition, according to Newtonian physics of mass is, you can still make an atom bomb.

Some high school kid in Lansing, Michigan figured that out and scared the wits out of a lot of people. But then, somebody else from the same general area proved you can mix fertilizer and diesel fuel and put it in a rental truck and do one hell of a lot of damage.

Ah, now ...and so, who and what is Jesus and what can that mean to me, potentially? ...and how is who and what Jesus is/was different from Christianity?

That's next.

WHAT NOW?

Chapter Twenty-one

WHAT/WHO WAS/IS JESUS?

If we use as our reference source, the Book many Christians look upon as their “handbook” – that collection of writings they commonly refer to as the, “Old Testament,” coupled with the collection of writings which, for the most part are, by Jewish authors who believed that Jesus was the embodiment of the promised Jewish Messiah, revealed in the Old Testament – the latter part referred to as the, “New Testament” and both of which (“New” and “Old”) comprise the Christian Bible ...we'll discover some inconsistencies between what Jesus said and what Christians declare they believe.

We will also discover some pronounced inconsistencies between what some of these different writers say in the section called “New” from one another.

We can also put our heads in the sand of denial by saying there are no inconsistencies; and many certainly make this claim. Now, I'm not saying they are wrong, but we obviously have a different point of view.

[NOTE TO ALL] The purpose of what follows is to BUILD faith in Christ, not to demean.

Scene: Two attractive ladies, each in her fifties, standing at the door of my office. One immediately exclaimed, “Brad Cullen!”

As soon as she spoke I remembered her. “Rochelle!” I exclaimed in response.

It had been about fifteen years previously, in the little settlement of Ke’eau, about ten miles south of Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii ...three thousand miles distant and what seemed like a lifetime in the past.

She quickly introduced me to her friend and said, “Now it all makes sense. I should have known it was you. A friend of ours was at your meeting last night and was so excited about some of the discussion – she didn’t remember your name, but she did mention your business and this office ...and, well, we were driving by ...is this a bad time for you?” She managed to get this all out in one stream, seemingly in one breath.

“No, no,” I assured them and led them into the small conference room. Just inside that door the easel and flip chart we had used the night before was still on the same page where I had written with a bold black marker, “Jesus Hates –“ with a list of several things under it.

I do not remember the name of the other lady, but she stopped - and said, pointing to the words, “No, no, no, Jesus doesn’t hate, Jesus is all love.”

"Maybe you want to hear what Brad has to say about that," Rochelle interjected.

"You two are going to have to tell me what's going on. Don't take this wrong, because I'm glad you're here ...but why?" I said with a laugh," then told them to please take a chair at the conference table.

"How about this is a divine appointment," Rochelle said with a wide grin, as she slid into a chair.

"I'm positive that it is," I responded, waiting for whatever would unfold.

"I'm going to have a mental block about anything unless you can help me get past this," her friend said, leaning over and tapping her index finger on, "Jesus Hates." She said this very pleasantly, but also quite seriously – "Would you mind?"

"What would accomplish that for you?" I asked, after a few seconds of silence.

"Just show me anywhere in the Bible where Jesus said that he hated anything."

They had both been carrying Bibles, rather conspicuously, I had noted ...so I said, "Why don't we start with Revelation, Chapter 2 and verse 6..." and with my hand indicated they should look up the passage.

They both quickly thumbed through their Bibles, with Rochelle's friend saying finally, "I've never seen that before," sounding stunned after finding and looking the passage.

“I can't tell you how many times I'd read it, perhaps a hundred, before I saw it for the first time too ...a real mind blower, isn't it,” I said.

“I've easily read it that many times too,” the friend said, still sounding stunned and a bit subdued. Rochelle simply nodded.

“If you don't mind, one of you please read it out loud, and tell me how it strikes you.”

“Rochelle began immediately, “But this you have in your favor, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

The three of us sat there quietly for a moment ...I finally said, “So we have to know who the Nicolaitans are and see what their deeds are, to really understand what Jesus is saying, wouldn't you agree?”

Rochelle and her friend told me later that they and their husbands had already “come out” of organized Christianity – and I told them that I felt that was the reason they could so readily understand; also it was why they had made the connection of the so-called “church” with the “Nicolaitans.”

What is amazing is that in the word, “Nicolaitans,” is the clue. “Nico” means “having control over” ...and “laitans” is the same word from which we get “laity” – meaning the “common people.”

The Nicolaitans were – and as this word clearly indicates, still are – a group of people separated into two classes, that is, “leaders” and “followers” ...clergy and laity – or the more blatant blasphemy, Shepherds and sheep; pastors and parishioners.

Once the connection is made, all you have to do to make the list of deeds, “Jesus Hates,” is to look at a variety of things about which he was critical. And there we get into some of the inconsistencies of some New Testament writers.

The writer of several “books” in the New Testament, Paul, makes statements about spiritual leadership that are contradictory to things Matthew, in the first Gospel, by his name, remembers and records Jesus as saying ...basically not to even allow anyone to call us by any title which implies spiritual authority or superiority nor to call anyone else by any such title.

You have only one Leader, Teacher and Spiritual Father is what Jesus said and none of us are that.

We are to be (one and all) just as physical brothers and sisters –equal to one

another— and to minister to one another from that position of spiritual equality, is how Jesus put it.

The list of “Hated” deeds is long – and a case can easily be made that several practices which are common among most of the branches within the system of Christianity should be included – among which are these two examples:

Public Prayer: After a rather long discourse, Jesus urged his followers to pray “secretly in their own closets.”

Bible Study: Jesus told a group of conservative, religious Jews that they thought a study of the Scriptures would lead them to eternal life, but that such an intense study does just the opposite. It leads *away* from that life!

An argument can be made, “But don't you have to study the Bible in order to see what it is about which Jesus is critical?”

Back up ...Rochelle's friend and I admitted to reading Jesus' words in Rev. 2:6 at least one hundred times each and it didn't even register that Jesus *hated* the practices of the Nicolaitans which are common to and insisted upon by Christianity.

If the foregoing is illustrative of the difference between just a couple of things Jesus said not to do that Christians, en masse, teach and practice, perhaps we're prepared to scrutinize some common Christian dogmas

about who and what Jesus was/is and see if the Bible doesn't paint a different picture.

Almost all English versions of the Bible most certainly use the terms “Son of God” and “Only begotten Son of God” in reference to Jesus ...so no apparent difference there.

If, however, you scratch below the surface by asking Christians what they believe is meant by the term, “Son of God,” the difference becomes quite distinct and, to me, importantly so.

Some Christian teachers commonly refer to Jesus as “God become man” ...others “God in the flesh” The Roman Catholic reference to Jesus mother, Mary, as the, “Mother of God,” reveals that perspective clearly. Let's be very clear – the perspective that the man Jesus was the complete human embodiment of God ...expressed as “God in the flesh,” as some anti-Catholic (Protestant) groups insist upon expressing it.

In other words, the predominant Christian view, whether Catholic or Protestant, is that the historical Jesus, the man, was not merely *special* as other religions accede, ala the already referenced Hindu and Muslim belief that Jesus was, respectively, a great teacher and prophet, but Christians obviously believe in the deity of Jesus as a man and, therefore, not “man” (“special” or otherwise).

WHAT NOW?

Postlude

(FINALLY)

It is here that I answer every important question for any reader who is still left standing and who may want to ask ...with this:

Remember that my stated purpose, again (drum roll – please), is to be in continual, never ending, fellowship with my one and only, perfect SPIRIT-PARENT SOURCE ...and under His/Her/Its control.

What now?

This is it. The keys to the kingdom have all been distributed ...and to each individual who DESIRES to enter, the key has already been given.

The key is the question, WHAT NOW? To all who want to enter, they may. There are no restrictions. NONE!

I started to ask, “But what about...”

“What is that to you? You come, follow ME. Yes, this is eternal life and it is NOW, where there is no beginning or ending.

With Love, I AM.”

“In a world of change, the learner will inherit the earth, while the learned will find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.”

-San Francisco longshoreman/philosopher, Eric Hoffer-



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About the Author



Brad Cullen is an internationally recognized author of several books about spiritual topics, particularly related to physical and emotional healing.

Brad's writings are purposed as an aid to finding your own connection with the Source of all that is. You can connect with what you need...now.