

## ...CHRIST SHOWED ME ALL.

I was the leader of many rock and roll bands during my teen years, playing the nightclub circuit from the age of thirteen. I found it extremely difficult to keep the bands together because of disagreements, ego and foolish arguments. When I was twenty, the finest group I had ever put together was about to break up. That night, lingering on the fact that death could take me at any time, I feared dying without reaching my long desired goal of recording and releasing a hit record in order to achieve recognition and significance in this world. "How terrible," I thought, "to die and just be forgotten." What I didn't realize was how much worse it would be to die without knowing Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

Hebrews 9:27 says, "...IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT." "SO THEN **EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD**" (Romans 14:12). Had I known these **TRUTHS**, I would have been more concerned about my relationship to God, but I continued striving to fulfill my own desires.

I began my musical career when, as an eight-year-old boy, I learned to play the accordion. A few years later I put together a small combo. When rock and roll came into the picture I had a strong desire to be a guitar player and singer. I bought a guitar, taught myself to play, and like many young people I got **HOOKED** on the exciting, driving sounds of rock and roll.

Early in my career I was like many young people today, I always said, "I can play in the nightclubs and hang with the hippies or freaks." Nobody was going to get me to use booze or drugs against my will power. But before I knew it, I was drinking, using drugs and was involved with people, parties and places I never dreamed that I would be a part of, all the time just thinking I was having fun and pursuing my career.

Later I formed the band I had always longed for. After being together for eight months, we recorded our first album in one of Philadelphia's finest recording studios. My record was finally released and we began to appear at large concerts and on TV and radio.

The band was a great success and growing more and more popular every day. Two and one-half years later we were approached by a larger and more well-known

recording company. They wanted to promote our second album and release it on their label with the chance of national distribution. Music and entertaining became my whole life.

I actually lived a total life of rock and roll. I ate, drank, slept and lived rock. I really loved it!

But oh, how my eyes were blinded!

In our day there is more open sex, perversion, drug use, Satan worship, alcohol problems and other sin in the world than **EVER BEFORE**. I've lived and seen **ALL** of these rotten things advocated and very powerfully promoted through rock music. There is a blatant and even subliminal message in rock and roll that many do not understand. It has a way of taking hold of the listener and arousing sensual, sinful desires with its driving beat. It sends a message, usually urging free sex, drugs, perversion and rebellion. The influence of this music has already spread throughout the world and is contributing to the destruction of today's youth.

Shortly after being approached by the new recording company to record our second album, I was performing out of town. After the show I had a party at my motel room. There I met a man who possessed satanic, psychic powers so strong that he controlled the minds of my friends and acquaintances to a degree that you would have to see for yourself to believe. Everyone there seemed to be able to read each others' thoughts and led me to believe that every **NORMAL** human being could do this. They claimed to know **ALL** about **ALL**.



Many of my friends actually read my thoughts and told me exactly what I was thinking. They told me that all I had to do to be like **EVERYONE** else was to relax, and let my mind wander into their level. Then according to their counsel, I would fully understand **ALL** things: eternity, infinity, where I came from and where I was going.

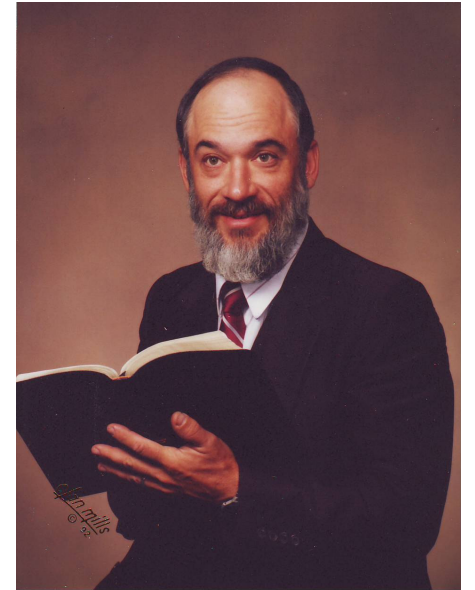
I could actually feel an unbelievably strong pull on my mind and thoughts. I remember thinking that maybe this strange man was some sort of god, yet as I looked around the room, I saw only wrong and evil. At this I decided that he must be the anti-Christ, or even Satan himself. I had little knowledge of the Bible, but I had walked the aisle in a fundamental, Bible-teaching church to "receive Christ" at about age twelve.

I never forgot that morning many years ago when my conscience was deeply troubled as the Word of God convicted my heart. I knew I had sinned and needed Christ's blood to save me. I **VAINLY PROFESSED** salvation, but just went on doing my own thing, not really coming to genuine repentance and sincere surrender of my life to the Lord, the rightful Owner.

I believe it was only the grace of God that kept me from this strange power in my motel room in spite of my **VAIN PROFESSION** of faith in Him. After all, **IT IS ONLY BY HIS GRACE THAT YOU ARE ALIVE TO READ THIS STORY.**

That night in the motel room, years after "**professing**" to believe in Christ, I fought desperately to keep my mind from yielding to this strange power. Ephesians 6:12 says, "...WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES." The devil is not somebody or something we can see, but he is a powerful spiritual being that works on our minds and thoughts. He will do his best to keep **YOU** from turning to Christ. God tells us that this is true in the Bible. II Corinthians 4:3-4 says, "**BUT IF OUR GOSPEL (good news of Christ) BE HID, IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST (or perishing in sin).**"

...IN WHOM THE GOD OF THIS WORLD (**SATAN**) HATH BLINDED THE **MINDS** OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT, LEST THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, SHOULD SHINE UNTO THEM."



All of us "wrestle" in one way or another against Satan's power and his will. Some of us don't want to admit that this is true, but the fact of God's truth remains unchanged.

In the midst of such spiritual darkness I was heartbroken. Some of my closest friends agreed that they were all of one mind. I stood alone, but would not give up my conviction that this was not God's way but evil. Many hours later to my surprise, my friends gave up trying to convince me. As the fellow with the "knowledge and power" left the party, he and one of his friends assured me that I would have more opportunities to join them. When they were gone, everything seemed to go back to normal. My friends were acting like nothing happened. Some of the people who were present that night will not accept the fact that they were under total control. In fact, they refuse to believe that any of these things actually happened! Others realized that something strange took place and acknowledged the fact that they were helpless during these hours in my room. Three of these people have since professed to trust in Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Upon arriving home I began to linger on the events of this strange weekend. God began to take all the glory out of my life. He poured into my mind the memory of all the sin that had overtaken me. For the first time in my life I saw myself as I really was. Nothing I had done or gained seemed to be good at all.

Many would possibly think at this point that I was simply scared into a change of life. I would like to remind you that throughout my 10-year career in the entertainment world, I ran into many strange and frightening situations and experiences. No! This involved much more than just the strange experience described above.

I was experiencing what Jesus Christ spoke of in John 16:8-11: “AND WHEN HE (the Holy Spirit of God) IS COME, HE WILL REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGMENT.” God’s spirit was convicting me of the overwhelming deceitfulness and sinfulness of my own heart. He was showing me my total inability to please a Holy God because of my lack of righteousness in His sight. And finally He was convincing me of the sure judgment to come upon me due to the state I was in because a Holy God **MUST** punish sin. I saw myself the way God sees **EVERY** human being before he is saved: **LOST AND WITHOUT HOPE!**

I felt a strong sense of God’s love calling me to yield myself to Him. I knew I had lived my life for my own selfish reasons, completely excluding my Creator. The minute I, by God’s Grace, yielded to the Spirit of God and genuinely put my trust in Christ, He immediately took over and changed my life in a very real way. “THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE. OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY, BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW” (II Corinthians 5:17).

We may claim to live a pretty good life, but God’s Word says, “...**ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD**” (Romans 3:23).

Don’t compare your life with my life. Don’t test your goodness by comparing yourself with other people that you know in this world. But ask yourself how would you look if you were compared with the perfect Lord Jesus Christ. **GOD DEMANDS PERFECTION!** How do you look matched up with **PERFECTION?** That is the question to ask yourself!

Your sins may not be as bad as the next person’s; you may think that yours are only little sins. Or you might even think you don’t sin at all. However I John 1:8 says, “IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US.”

God doesn’t look at your smoking, drinking or cursing. Nor does he take a sum total of one’s vices to see who sins the most. God searches the heart and in Jeremiah 17:9 He tells us that “THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS AND DESPERATELY WICKED...”

God searches the heart and finds it repulsive and full of sin. This is a very serious matter in God’s Book. “FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE **GIFT** OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD” (Romans 6:23).

If all have sinned and if the result of sin is death, then what can we do? Is all hopeless? Not when you come to realize that **GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON**, (Christ is God’s Son who suffered, bled, died and rose again as the **ONLY** sacrifice or payment for our sin that could ever satisfy the justice of our holy God) **THAT WHOSOEVER** (that includes you) **BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE**” (John 3:16). The first step towards hope and true salvation is to recognize that **YOU** are lost and forever separated from God. The second step is to recognize that Jesus Christ is God the Son, and that He shed His precious blood as the only sacrifice that God will accept for **YOUR** sins. I am not talking about religion. It was not religion that changed my life, for I hadn’t been in a church for many years.

Religion can’t save anyone. You **MUST** receive the Person of Jesus Christ into your life by the grace of God, repent of your sin which is against Him, and accept the fact that He died for **YOUR** personal sins. The Bible says “...**BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD ...**” (John 1:12).

When He comes into your life, you can **KNOW** that you have everlasting life (I John 5:13). **HE** will change the direction of your life and give you peace and joy you never dreamed existed. You don’t have to give up things or change yourself to have Christ save you. There is **NOTHING** you can do to change or save yourself. Titus 3:5 says, “**NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US...**” Jesus will take care of the changes. Your part is to cast yourself upon the mercy of the true and Holy God, repenting of your sinfulness, realizing by God’s marvelous grace, your **TOTAL** inability and helplessness to change yourself or to please God by any human work. Trusting **FULLY** in God, you must then confess Jesus Christ as **LORD** of your life and believe that He is God the Son, that He died for **YOUR** sin, that He was buried and rose again. Romans 10:9 says, “...**IF THOU SHALT CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH, THE LORD JESUS AND SHALT BELIEVE IN THINE HEART THAT GOD HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, THOU SHALT BE SAVED.**”

As I look back on my wasted years remembering how I thought I had it made, I think of this verse in Scripture, “AND I WILL SAY TO MY SOUL, SOUL, THAT HAST MUCH GOODS LAID UP FOR MANY YEARS, TAKE THINE EASE, EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY, BUT **GOD SAID UNTO HIM, THOU FOOL. THIS NIGHT THY SOUL SHALL BE REQUIRED OF THEE: THEN WHOSE SHALL THOSE THINGS BE WHICH THOU HAS PROVIDED?**” (Luke 12:19-20). What about **YOUR** soul, friend? If God were to require it of you today, where would you spend eternity? All the riches and possessions a person can collect in a lifetime won’t buy peace of mind and total satisfaction in this life, nor will it buy eternity with God. “FOR WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?” (Mark 8:36). Don’t put it off, tomorrow may be too late.” **BEHOLD, NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME: BEHOLD NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION**” (II Corinthians 6:2). Friend, you don’t know for sure where you will be 10 minutes after you read this story. Won’t you just bow your head right now and receive Jesus Christ as **YOUR** God and Savior! ” ...**TODAY IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART...**” (Psalm 95:7-8).

If you have made a decision for Christ and would like more help or information concerning these things, please contact:

**ELKDALE BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF WEST CLIFFORD  
45 State Route 2014  
Clifford Twp. PA 18470 (570) 222-4997  
Pastor Frank Bissol  
bissol@nep.net ElkdaleBaptist.com**

**Evangelist Peter Accardi is an independent, fundamental Baptist preacher. He is presently engaged in a full-time preaching ministry to Bible-believing local churches worldwide. For more information concerning this ministry, to schedule evangelistic meetings, or for complete tape, book and product list, contact:**

**P. A. EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES  
1521 Upper Fords Pond Road  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411**

**Copies of this tract may be purchased at \$.10 each, minimum order – 50 tracts. Quantity prices available at above address. Other tracts and taped messages are also available. Send for**

## I WAS ALL SHOWMAN

‘TIL ...

