

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Sin of Wimping Out****The Sin of Wimping Out - posted by jmooney6 (), on: 2009/9/8 16:23**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I don't know if I mentioned that I'm a part-time college student, but I was on campus today for a music composition class. While I was waiting in the hallway, two students walk in, haughty, poking fun of eternal security and "these *expletive* Jesus people". (Unbeknownst to me, in the plaza, there were fellow Christians, evangelizing.) Right away, I felt a stirring inside me, like an outrage, compelling me to say something, but when I was about to, I choked up. It wasn't like I wanted to hold back, because I love Jesus and want to do His Will, but it's like I opened my mouth, and I literally became paralyzed, not knowing what to even say (other than "shut up!" which really wouldn't have been effective at all). Even though they kept laughing about my fellow Christians, they must've seen the look on my face, for they quickly changed the conversation topic.

Afterwards, I asked my mother about what I should've done, but even before I got to the question when I was telling her what had happened, she said, "I sure hope you didn't say anything to them!" and she said, "You can't handle confrontation well," and, "Some people were called to be ministers, others priests. We're not any of those."

Right now I'm absolutely disgusted at myself and disappointed, because here Jesus presented me with an opportunity (or at least I believe so), and I blew it! Being a spiritual baby Christian is no excuse! I'm also terrified now because I denied Him. I don't want to be unknown to Him, a worker of iniquity, the branch that produces no fruit and is cast out to the Lake of Fire. On the other hand, how can I be a good witness if my mother disapproves of it. Would I be disrespecting her by disobeying her? How can I keep both commandments without breaking either one? How do I overcome paralyzing fear that I may become effective? (And a side question, would God approve of me using the talent He gave me for music composition as a witnessing tool?) :-? Please help me. God bless and thank you again!

Re: The Sin of Wimping Out - posted by twayneb (), on: 2009/9/8 18:51

Jim:

Brother, I love the sensitivity of heart that you have toward the Lord. I hope what I have to say about this both helps you and encourages you.

First of all, don't be disgusted with yourself. You have not denied Christ. Saying that being a spiritual babe is no excuse is a lot like telling your 2 year old that being a physical baby is no excuse for not being able to ace your midterm exams. God is patient with us and longsuffering even after we are born again. He is not ticked at you because you failed to speak when you thought you should have.

Don't beat yourself up over the situation. If God deals with you and tells you that you missed it, simply confess it, repent, and go on. 1 John 1:9 God never beats up on us and makes us feel worthless when we miss it. He lovingly convicts us of sin and encourages us to run to Him, repent, and receive His forgiveness.

Just listening to this account, I want to suggest something. Since I do not know you personally, you can reject this outrage if you want. Perhaps you wouldn't have handled this situation very well. I want to suggest that perhaps what you might have said would not have helped the situation, nor have brought those two people any closer to receiving Christ. Just go before the Lord and ask Him to begin to train you to handle these kind of situations. Find some mature men of God that have been in this thing for some time and see how they would have handled it. If you are a new Christian, you may never have encountered a situation like this before.

Brother, without being disrespectful, I have to disagree with your mother. The Word of God calls you both a minister and a priest. You are called to minister to people all around you. You are called to live a life of ministry. You will not minister out of your own ability, but out of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. God will teach you how to do this. He works with us where we are and changes us into what He wants us to be. You are growing. You have a lot of lessons to learn. This will not be the last time you miss it in one area or another. You will bear a great deal of fruit as you grow in the Lord and live your life guided by His Holy Spirit.

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If you want to see how Jesus views these situations, look at how He dealt with Peter. He told Peter ahead of time that he would deny Him. Peter did not just keep silent in a moment of opportunity, he denied knowing Christ outright. Afterward Jesus did not chide Peter, condemn him, or even speak to him directly about the matter. He restored Peter and set Him on the road to ministry.

I hope this helps you in some way. Remember, the position of your heart is more important to the Lord than the outward actions.

God bless you as you grow in Him.

Travis

Re: The Sin of Wimping Out - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/9/8 19:22

Quote:
-----but when I was about to, I choked up. It wasn't like I wanted to hold back, because I love Jesus and want to do His Will, but it's like I opened my mouth, and I literally became paralyzed, not knowing what to even say (other than "shut up!" which really wouldn't have been effective at all). Even though they kept laughing about my fellow Christians, they must've seen the look on my face, for they quickly changed the conversation topic.

Brother, this may have communicated all the Holy Spirit wanted you to say at the moment. Ever think about that? Not all communication is done with speech.

Quote:
-----Right now I'm absolutely disgusted at myself and disappointed, because here Jesus presented me with an opportunity (or at least I believe so), and I blew it!

May I urge you to quit whipping yourself over your head. You said you did open your mouth to speak but it became paralyzed, you could not speak. See, you tried, but the Holy Spirit did not give you the words, except silence. When the Holy Spirit gives you words to say, you will speak and the probability is that you will then forget what you said. That won't matter because that way you will not depend on your own personal wisdom but God's who will be the enabler and speak through you.

Just stay in the Word and always ask the Lord to teach you to recognize his voice when he speaks to you so you can always be obedient to it.

Hope this helps...

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by jlosinski, on: 2009/9/8 22:18

Don't let it bother you, I've felt the same way many times, and the devil (or ourselves) will be quick to point out how we've failed. Rest in God instead, the worst thing you can do is feel so guilty over not taking that opportunity that you feel as though you must witness to someone to get rid of the guilt. That is not of God, but of our desire to ease our conscience by works.

Remember, the Holy Spirit is the one to convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment; The Father chastises with love, and never with condemnation, so if you feel as though you are in danger of condemnation, cling to the righteousness of Christ.

Take heart, our Master chose to remain silent before Herod as he questioned Him to satisfy his desire for amusement, see Luke 23:8-9

Joe

Re: The Sin of Wimping Out - posted by elharris, on: 2009/9/9 22:58

Dear Brother in Christ,

Perhaps, these scriptures can speak to your heart and give you the answer.

Of a truth, the circumstances led you to question yourself, as you had heard the first verse of what I am to share with you. But please read on to the context of what Jesus was talking about.

Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Mic 7:6 Mark 13:12

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Mic 7:6

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Your mother said: "I sure hope you didn't say anything to them!" and she said, "You can't handle confrontation well," and , "Some people were called to be ministers, others priests. We're not any of those."

In this case to respect your mothers opinion, would be to deny Christ. Of a truth Jesus says you are, and he has called you to be, and he will teach and equip you, for the very thing your mother said "you" are not.

REJOICE brother, the test was not those two who you met at school, but the very thing Jesus himself warned of, that a man's foes would be they of his own household.

Luke 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

22

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

I can tell you from personal experience, that it is those of your own household, that will be the most difficult to deal with.

My own mother, never said ONE WORD, durring all the years of my youth, that I spent in drunkenness and sensuality. But in 1980, when I cried unto the Lord to save me and by some very loving Christians was led to his word, my own mother came in one say while I was reading the Word and said; "Do you have to read that thing all the time?"

I remember I said; "Why is it that the whole time I was drinking and carousing and doing all manner of evils, you NEVER said a word. But now that I have quit drinking and am almost happy for the first time in my life, you're all worried about me reading the Bible too much."

You said: On the other hand, how can I be a good witness if my mother disapproves of it. Would I be disrespecting her by disobeying her? How can I keep both commandments without breaking either one? How do I overcome paralyzing fear that I may become effective? (And a side question, would God approve of me using the talent He gave me for music composition as a witnessing tool?)

Son, I just have to laugh, because on the one hand you are worried about disobeying your mother, and on the other hand you're already thinking about how you can do that, by using your talent as a tool to do so.

God has called you and in spite of your beloved mother, you will take a stand for him. This in turn will bring salvation to your mother, as you love her with the love of God, but OBEY JESUS.

Perhaps God will use your talent as a witnessing tool. But much more likely God will use your weakness. That weakness you felt when you could not speak.

The reason you could not speak, is because the holy spirit does not have enough to draw in in you yet. You see it is not you that speak, but the holy spirit of God that speaks within you and through you to the world.

the way this works is you do everything you can to spend time with Jesus in the Gospels. Do it just as if you were living back then and hanging out with the disciples following Jesus around to hear what he had to say.

Know that like them, you will not understand everything he says, and you will even misunderstand and take things wrong at times. But as you spend time with him, listening to what he teaches, and observing what he does you will become his disciple, you will know the truth, and it will free up that tongue of yours.

You see, the holy spirit does not speak of himself, rather he waits to see if you will take the yoke upon you and learn of him. Then as you read his words, commandments and teachings as is written in the gospel, then he will bring those things to your remembrance as you need them.

He cannot bring anything out that you have not put in. And that is not to say, that you should have even said anything that day. But it is to say, that what God can and does use the most is his word, when it is living in us.

Perhaps your talent will get you around someone who will believe God's word. But other than that what people need and what you need to be able to give them is the gospel.

I warn you, stay away from commentaries and theology, and just go hand with Jesus in the gospels. Learn of him, and you will learn from him. Then when the time arises he will put his words in your mouth, that you have put in your heart.

Regards,
El Harris

Re: - posted by jmooney6 (), on: 2009/9/10 15:55

Fellow Brothers and Sisters!

I forgot to mention that I do witness to Mom whenever I feel the compulsion. Like if Mom does something, all of a sudden words pop into my head with a command "say it". :-o I'm not sure if that is the Holy Spirit working within, or not, but I don't deny Him if it is! After all, Jesus is Lord, not Mom.

That being said though, El, reading your story and your quoting of Matthew 10:36 actually made me weep, because it's true, and I'm afraid my mother could be going to someplace she isn't expecting to go. I'm not the Judge Who knows a person's heart personally, so who am I to know, especially since I struggle with sin myself?

Since receiving Jesus, my mom sometimes acts 'funny' towards me. Don't get me wrong, she's still the kind, sweet person who raised me, no question, and I love her a lot! But, if I try to explain something to her, she'll laugh or get this look on her face (like pride or something), or she'll make excuses. I told her about being born again, and Mom said, "What's that? That better not be something to do with a cult!" I said, "No Mom, it's all about receiving Jesus Christ as Savior. I fell away from Him a long time ago, but now I have Him and love Him!" Mom says, "You never fell away. I made sure your salvation was secure by having you baptized when you were young." I explained to her that having a bunch of water dumped on your head when you were too young to realize what was going on wasn't real salvation, and she screamed, "What about John the Baptist?!" I said, "Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit, not by water. John the Baptist did his thing before Jesus shed His Blood for us!" She said, "I want you stay off of those (Christian) websites! They're turning you against me!"

She also believes in praying to "saints", and when I said, "Jesus is a jealous God and only He deserves to be prayed to. It's His Will and His Desire to know us! Praying to saints is basically multitheism in disguise," she screamed, "The religion (Catholicism) that churned me out sure can't be a bad religion!" I once asked if she reads her Bible, she screams, "It's not of your d*** business if I read it! It's personal!" It's funny, because everything else that we could disagree about is discussed in a reasonable manner, but when it comes to Jesus, everything has to be an instant yelling match (although sometimes I yell back when feelings take over reason, which then I ask forgiveness from Jesus).

My point for writing this isn't an exposé on Mom, rather, can you help me out fellow Brothers and Sisters via a prayer intercession? I've prayed so much over this issue myself during the past month. Please help me pray for my mom that her eyes be opened and she realizes God's plan, before it's too late spiritually. :-?

That being said, I would like to get into more witnessing right off the bat, even though I don't know everything yet (nor have much time thanks to college studies). Besides studying the Bible so that I may gain better Spiritual knowledge, would purchasing a set of tracts to leave in various clever places/hand out be a wise idea? Or would purchasing a bulk set of New Testaments to leave about/hand out be wiser? Being a part of the Body of Christ, I feel it's crucial for me to use whatever means I can to get the Message out (even saving up money to get tracts and New Testaments)! Now, if tracts, what would be some recommended ones to purchase? If New Testaments, any suggestions on a site with a good, cheap price (preferably NKJV, but NIV is fine too so long as it's not TNIV, and preferably under \$100, and preferably takes money orders as I don't own a credit card)?

I'm not saying that I'm not going to witness face-to-face some time in my life, as I'm doing that occasionally with Mom, but I think I'll know when my time to do that will come, because it will be the same Holy Spirit prodding me to do so.

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Sorry if my post is long, but thank you for having patience with me. Thank God for you all! God bless!

Re: - posted by Leo_Grace, on: 2009/9/10 16:38

Dear Jim,

I too was raised in a Catholic home. I was the second of seven children, the oldest of six boys. When I first became a true Christian (the first in the family), I boldly shared with my parents and siblings the way you are trying to do now, and I was rejected with a passion and ordered by my father not to try "converting" them again.

You have to first understand that among Catholics, there is an inbred dislike and distrust for "Protestants". Becoming a protestant to them is like betrayal of the catholic faith. So, in your mother's eyes, you have sinned against the Catholic church and, though she loves you, she will not follow in your "sin" - conversion will probably cost her the disdain of many friends and relatives.

It would be best not to aggressively confront her with doctrinal issues or even scripture. Be a true Christian in your home - witness to her with your life. Yelling back at her when she resists your efforts is definitely not the way to go about it.

In love, try to do things for your family that they do not expect from you --- like clean the yard, do the dishes, clean up your room, cooking for them, etc. If your mom can relate unexpected improvements in your character (willingness to do things for them unbidden) to your conversion, then she may eventually be willing to listen to the gospel.

I'm suggesting this because that was how I, a former Catholic, became a true Christian - not by "evangelistic" programs, nor by doctrinal discussions. It was because I saw people (Christians) whose lives were wonderfully different, and I became curious.

In Christ's Love,
Leo

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/9/10 16:56

jmooney,

Seems to me that Leo gave you some good advice. I suggest you take it to heart.

Now about your mom: ever consider that God may be using her to teach you something about yourself, and how to witness to others? and how rebellious folks will regard your witness? Instead of fighting it, sit back and take a long look, asking the LORD to teach you what you should learn from it, and be teachable. Remember Jesus loves her, too.

Will pray for you...
ginnyrose

Re: The Sin of Wimping Out - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2009/9/10 17:00

Quote:

jmooney6 wrote:

I don't know if I mentioned that I'm a part-time college student, but I was on campus today for a music composition class. While I was waiting in the hallway, two students walk in, haughty, poking fun of eternal security and "these *expletive* Jesus people". (Unbeknownst to me, in the plaza, there were fellow Christians, evangelizing.) Right away, I felt a stirring inside me, like an outrage, compelling me to say something, but when I was about to, I choked up. It wasn't like I wanted to hold back, because I love Jesus and want to do His Will, but it's like I opened my mouth, and I literally became paralyzed, not knowing what to even say (other than "shut up!" which really wouldn't have been effective at all). Even though they kept laughing about my fellow Christians, they must've seen the look on my face, for they quickly changed the conversation topic.

Saying nothing was probably the best thing to do because you would have blown it because of anger. I have blown it a lot through the years one particular time I was witnessing to my wife's sister and it ended up in argument and I through her

re out the house. When she went out I slammed the door so hard the glass broke in the door.

Not the way to win people for Jesus:-)

The next night I went to pray about the situation I was asking God if I should go and say sorry but the witness I was getting was that I should pray for her real strong.

So off I go and start praying the prayer got so intense there it felt like I had a pain in my stomach, then at the hardest point of the prayer it suddenly changed. God came into the room I nearly fell to the floor when he came as my legs buckled, I was praying loud before but the cry of celebration that came out of me was ten times louder than when I was praying.

After I stopped celebrating I sat down to read a book, I must have got through the first page, when God spoke to me in what I can only describe as a television but it was in my mind then the Holy Spirit spoke about what I should do and some words I should say to my wife's sister.

Today my wife's sister is saved and goes to church.

Looking back at my time as Christian I laugh at what I was like and how much I blew it, but I have learned and grown and you will too:-)

God does not choose the best of this world he chooses the failures, the weak the list could go on and on. Have a read of the verse in the link below and pray for those two college students and your Mother.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Re: - posted by jim, on: 2009/9/10 22:09

hi jim, this has nothing to do with wimping out but i am moved to suggest a few things to help with your relationship with your mom and other catholic people. this comes from a brother who has seen hundreds of rcs saved. read with alarm...
1st : buy a hardback full sized jerusalem bible with all the study helps for this is the Catholic approved bible. your mom or any other rc dont want to here from no kjv or any other bible. in John when it talks about knowing Him there is a footnote stating that this knowing him is not just a normal knowlege but an intimate personal love relationship ...example Adam knew Eve and she had a son...this is a good place to start.. go to the apostles creed and see how it agrees with romans 10 : 9,10 and pray with your mom. remember how paul ministered on mars hill. wisely as a serpent harmless as a dove.. jim

Re: - posted by elharris, on: 2009/9/10 23:09

Dear Brother Jim,

It is obvious that God has called you to him. And that he has called you witness for him and to stand on the truth.

Might I suggest listening to the teachings, by a man named Milton Green.

These are probably the most powerful teachings I've ever heard, and I listen to them over and over.

They will really help you to see your calling, and also to understand the battle better, and what you are dealing with.

I would suggest listening to these teachings, and also watching Milton's personal testimony on the links I'll give below.

He also said, that he could get just about anyone to listen to him but his family. And I found that to be true for me as well. But now after 25 years, my own mother is coming around.

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=milton+green+testamony&search_type=&aq=f

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid=521>

Regards,

El Harris

Re: - posted by elharris, on: 2009/9/11 9:40

Dear Brother Jim,

I am adding to what I wrote last night. I was so tired, I couldn't think straight, and God had given me a verse to share with you.

Did you know that you are BLESSED!

You are blessed brother, because you seem to have the same problem Jesus had.

John 6:1 And he went out from thence, and came into **his own country**; and his disciples follow him.

2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

3 Is not this the carpenter, **the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?** And they were offended at him.

4 But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and **among his own kin, and in his own house.**

5 **And he could there do no mighty work**, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

Now watch as the story of Jesus and the relationship with his mother, brothers and sisters and then friends changes as begins his ministry.

John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

2 Now the Jew's feast of tabernacles was at hand.

3 **His brethren** therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

4 For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

John 7:5 **For neither did his brethren believe in him.**

So what did his brethren do? Probably went something like this.

MOM....can't you see he's beside himself, going a little nuts, do you realize how this is going to make us look, and the trouble it could get us in with the neighbors and the religious leaders. We've GOT TO DO SOMETHING.

Matt 12:46 While he yet talked to the people, **behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.**

47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Get this into your heart and soul Jim, because it will be both your mother, and your friends which will try and persuade you to give up on what God has called YOU....YOU.... ""YOU"" out to him for. Only with YOUR STAND does any of them ever have a chance.

Please read this next record carefully, paying close attention to verses 21 and 31, where it shows that **the family and friends of Jesus, endeavored to work together to apprehend him, thinking he was beside himself.** This after he healed the man with the withered hand, and then chose 12 to send forth to do the same as he did.

Mark 3:10 For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

12 And he straightly charged them that they should not make him known.

13
And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

15
And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;

17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

18
And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth him out devils.

23 And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?

24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he

e will spoil his house.

28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:

29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

31 There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him.

32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, **Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.**

33. And Jesus said unto them, Oh MAN...I forgot to do the dishes. If only I'd done the dishes, I'd of been a better Christian, and they'd believe...oh wait a minute....no such thing as Christians till Acts 11:26...Nevermind.

33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?

34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Definitely sounds like a cult to me.

You know the way friends and family are. The Lord had the SAME PROBLEM.

I mean doesn't it just BLOW YOUR MIND, that his friends and family including his MOM did not believe in him. Well it was as after all EMBARRASING! What would it do to their standing in the community and "synagogue" (Church)?

Do you know that years ago, two Catholic young women, converted to a protestant denomination, like the Baptist church, and their parents had them kidnapped and deprogrammed, and these girls were adults, going to nursing school.

It's funny because if you were Baptist parents, and your kid converted to being Catholic you could hire the same people to kidnap your kid. Though I think taking people by force now is illegal. But it was a big money business in the 80's. Parents paid up to 15 to 20 thou. to have their kids kidnapped by a bunch of big thugs and held against their will and forced to renounce whatever it was they were choosing to believe in.

One man's cult is another man's church and visa versa. To the RCC every protestant denomination is a cult. And to the established protestant denominations every non denomination is a cult. Jesus was accused of being in a "cult", the SECT of the Nazarenes. Truth is, it's the COMPETITION, that's a cult.

Your mom is trying to put a fear guilt thing on you by just using the word "cult". Well buddy, you are in a cult, you are in a sect, the "sect of the Nazarenes". Your family, friends and the world will hate you and think you're a NUT!

They will think that you are beside yourself, and obviously don't have the brain of a knat, and are just being influenced by those crazy cult people.

Don't be surprised as this thing goes on that you don't come home one day, and sitting in the living room is good old Uncle Joe and Father Flanigan, wanting to have a nice little conversation with you, to talk some "sense" into you.

Don't be surprised if you continue to stand, that you see your sweet mother, become very much more unsweet, and even tell you, you cannot live there anymore.

I feel in my heart, soul, mind and spirit, that God has really called you to his service, and all hell is going to come against you, to try and dissuade you.

But if you STAND against the whiles and onslaughts of the devil, working through the people closest to you, you will defeat him not only in your own life, but in the lives of many others.

YOU ARE NOT NUTS!

YOU ARE CALLED!

You need to follow Jesus around, by going to the gospels and spending time, learning from him, to be like him! HE is your mother, your brother, your father, your sister, you Lord, you Savior, your all in all, and he is CALLING YOU.

Do you not think that if Jesus had problems with his friends and family that his disciples also had the same?

Look at what they left. Peter and Andrew left the fishing business...well they left it with the servants and their father. You think he was happy about that?

Jesus asked them to leave everything and follow him, because at that time, he was the only one speaking what he spoke, and in order to learn from him, you had to literally follow him around all over the place.

The written word is in your hand today and right next to you. You don't PHYSICALLY have to leave much of anything except the TV, and you can go and be with Jesus Christ and follow him around just like they did, to hear his every word.

The biggest thing Satan is trying to talk you out of is that WRITTEN WORD. What is it that causes the contention in your home? It is your speaking the truth of what you know the written word teaches.

What was the LIVING WORD? It was Jesus Christ in the flesh walking around TALKING and teaching what the spirit of God told him.

What is the written Word? It is that same Jesus talking, you reading, putting in your mind repeating, and bringing to life his SPIRIT once again.

It is not persay, your mother that is the problem, but the "spirit" in your mother. Because your mother literally has the same spirit that was in the mother of Jesus, his family and his friends. This is not the spirit of Jesus, but the spirit of the world the spirit that took over the Church many many hundreds of years ago. That spirit that loves Mary the mother of Jesus, more than Jesus.

NOT that it's literally the spirit of Mary the mother of Jesus, but the spirit that was working in her, her other children and the friends of the family, who were all in the SAME RELIGION. It's a religious spirit.

Here is your most basic mission from the Lord Jesus Christ, now that you have believed in him.

John 8:30 30 As he spake these words, many believed on him.

John 8:31 **Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.**

This would be a good record for you to become familiar with. Because right after he tells them this, they start to ARGUE WITH HIM!

You see, they finally just believed on him, realized he was the SON OF GOD. So he tells them to now continue in his word, which means to live and abide in HIS WORD. That is to learn and understand his teachings and do them.

But then they start to ARGUE. They believed in who he was, but did not want to believe what he SAID! This is that religious spirit that you are dealing with, that wanted to KILL Jesus.

As you read the record of his discussion of with THOSE WHO BELIEVED ON HIM, you will see that they finally got so mad they went after him.

It is the same, in that this religious spirit, would like to kill off the Christ in you. I can see it in what you have related in what your mother says to you. Father forgive her for she truly knows not what she is doing, in what she is saying to her son

You are basically a new babe in Christ, simply meaning that you are just now really starting to learn the words of Christ. **Christ is formed in you, as you learn and grow in his teachings.**

Just as the devil endeavored to kill Jesus as a babe, so will he do to the Christ that is forming in you.

Brother please take my suggestion to heart, when I saw that you need to leave all, by way of what is the **priorities** in your life, and get your head in the gospels, and put yourself with Jesus.

I do not mean quit school, sell all you have, leave home (**though you may get kicked out**), I mean that you need to prioritize your TIME, in being with the Lord in his WORD.

Not in the words of men, the traditions of men, the books of men and their opinions, but literally in the Bible, in the gospels, with Jesus following him around every day in his word.

LEARN FROM HIM!

If the devil cannot get you through friends and family, then next place he will try and get you is through the RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

By that I mean he will distract you, into thinking you have to read all these books by all these men, telling you what the word says, rather than just going with the Word itself, and letting the spirit of God teach and guide you as you read.

Please! Be careful of reading other men's books more than you ever wind up reading the gospels.

Even Paul's letters cannot be truly understood until you have the foundation laid of what Jesus taught in the gospels.

Brother I feel great urgency to warn you of all these things, for as I said, I sense a calling on you.

Brother, I realize this is a long response, but in ending, please it is most urgent that you become very familiar with the parable of the sower and the seed.

Jesus went through all the temptations that he mentions in this parable. **He teaches it so that as a young disciple, you can CHOOSE which kind of believer you will be.** It is in fact a warning to you and every other believer. We are warned, so that in being warned we can be on the alert and make wise choices, when these things hit us.

Matt 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

We must choose to have "root in ourselves" during those times. And this is also what you are enduring in your situation now.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

This will come at you too brother. Be warned, be alert, to recognize it, and make a wise decision, not an EASY decision, but a wise decision.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Brother before you can get the mote out of others eyes, you have to get the beam out of your own eye so that you can see clearly. Prioritize your time with the Lord, and he will make you see clearly, as to what and how you are to witness. For the witness is the testimony of Jesus and the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of prophecy is in his word, for he has said "THE WORDS that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life". Those words are at your finger tips.

Brother the big problem the Catholic Church has always had with the protestants, is that they put the written word before the Church and the Pope. Jesus also did the same with the Religious leaders of his time. He knew the truth of the scripture when they did not.

I am praying for you, that when you are tested, when you are tempted, you will STAND on his Word. This and only this is the true salvation for your mother, just as it was for the Lords.

Please look here at some more facts about Jesus family.

Luke 2:33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Luke 2:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Considering that Mary also did not believe in his ministry, and how she is lauded above him today, this is quite a prophecy. But as you know, at the crucifixion, his mother was by that time a believer.

Luke 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Pondered here, means she debated with herself over what she heard. Everyone else who heard was leaping and praising God, Satan was already at work on Mary getting her to doubt what all these things meant.

Jesus HAD to be tempted in every thing we are tempted with. This would include the unbelief of his own mother and father.

Were Jesus to grow up to be a mighty warrior that would rule Israel, usher in the Kingdom of God and restore it to Israel, by kicking the Romans out, they all would have been for him. They were all looking for a great political leader and king, not a physician and savior of the soul. They wanted someone who would make them look good, not someone who would confront the whole community on their sin.

Jesus was subject to his mother and father until he was 30 years old. Tradition had it that you were not your own man until you were 30

Luke 3:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with

us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50

AND THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT THE SAYING WHICH HE SPAKE UNTO THEM.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: BUT HIS MOTHER KEPT ALL THESE SAYINGS IN HER HEART. (AND AS WAS SAID, DID NOT UNDERSTAND THEM.)

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

So you see what you are up against here. The very person revered the most in the RCC, did not understand HER OWN SON.

You don't think that's the only saying he ever said, even after that, that she probably didn't give him a look or two for, or even argue with him, do you? I wonder as he learned the scriptures, how many times he said things that reproved her own attitudes of heart.

So that by the time he actually starts his ministry you have this going on between them.

John 2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

Believe me or not, but Jesus's mom may not have been that nice of a person. Not to have wine at a wedding supper was a social and cultural fopah. I personally think she was looking down on the people, as in Humph. they have no wine, what kind of wedding is this.

Jesus was probably use to her social climbing got to look respectable, ways. And once you realize how they tried to stop him in his ministry, because it would make them all look bad. You can then look back and see why he then said what he did and why she said what she did.

Mom, saying "FINE, whatever JESUS wants to do, he knows so much, just do it.

He was tired of having her contradict the truth, and she was tired of him contradicting tradition. The fact is when the truth is in your heart, you cannot help but speak it.

Pardon my heretic beliefs on the precious virgin here. And obviously she never stayed a virgin, since she had at least 5 other kids. I don't think that's something you might bring up with your mom though, at least not right away.

But again we do know, that she was there at the cross, and they Jesus hour had come, and that as a good son, he committed the keeping of his mother to another disciple. For it was the eldest sons responsibility to take care of the parents when they got older. I think that was very wonderful of Jesus to think of that while he was laying there in agony dieing.

Regards,
El Harris

The Bible and it's people. It's REAL LIFE, just like your's and mine.

Re: - posted by jmooney6 (), on: 2009/9/12 17:44

BLESSED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Before I continue, I want to apologize if I misled any of you. My mother hasn't gone to church for 8 years now, though she identified herself with the Catholic faith (and maybe still does, who knows?)

Below is a testimony to Jesus' Perfect Will and Timing.

Yesterday, I was urged to try and witness to Mom, and it appeared to be to no avail. It started with an argument about (<http://www.youthblog.org/archives/witness%20car2.jpg>) our own Witness on Wheels (a car similar to that, a fellow Brother spreading the Good News the way I believe he was led). Mom said he's nuts, I said I respected him. Anyways, one thing led to another, and by the end of it, Mom said, "I don't want to talk anymore to you about it." I didn't lose my temper this time, so is that a sign I'm maturing in the Faith? She's afraid that I'd appear nuts as well but doesn't believe I am nuts.

I also found out yesterday during the heated witnessing that Mom doesn't believe Mary to be number one, rather Jesus. She doesn't believe the need to confess sins to a priest, that confession is for God only. She doesn't believe in the "Holiness of the Pope", rather that he's simply God's representative. She was raised in a different kind of Catholic church it seems.

What seemed like a failure of witnessing actually turned into an inkling, perhaps like a seed, something irking Mom. But I wouldn't have believed it yesterday, as I believed I had failed. I just prayed that Jesus take over for me, that if she'll be far no further from me, a simple man, that I'll step aside and let Him further His work. I longed for Jesus a lot, and I wept.

So what happened exactly today? Mom has been reading King Henry the VIII's autobiography, a man's book no doubt. But who would believe that Jesus could use that as a witnessing tool to open her eyes to some things I've been trying to tell her about?

She still acknowledges Catholicism as the faith that got her through some tough times, but she realizes it was the people within her church AND JESUS CHRIST who pulled her through those times, and not church doctrines and traditions! She read up about King Henry the VIII's first wife, a devout and strict Catholic, who flogged herself ritually, who worshiped Mary as Queen of Heaven, who performed animal sacrifices (which are no longer required as Jesus became that once-and-for-all sacrifice), and a few other things that shocked Mom.

Through me, Jesus made me witness yesterday for some reason, and this was to bring forth things I've been trying to tell Mom. And today, she read something with yesterday in mind that opened her eyes to the faith she identified with! Who knows if she'll profess it once more or not, but we'll see. This is a testimony, dear Brothers and Sisters, to Jesus' amazing Will and Timing, that he'd make me a witness to someone who seemed unwitnessable and then open her eyes in an unorthodox manner (literally!)

I also forgot to mention that Mom sometimes sees things before they happen. Now Mom asked me today where she gets that from, and I told her that if it isn't from God, it's from somewhere else. She said she has a hard time believing that, but she didn't scream or fuss! I said that the way it works is two possibilities...

A. The demons know ahead of time what's going to happen and tells people.

B. The demons tell people the "future" and then work to create what was predicted.

No screaming or fussing, just an, "Well, I have a hard time believing that."

One hang up that Mom has though is that good people can go to Hell if they die without Christ. I truly believe she is coming around though, so if she becomes a united front with me for Christ, just imagine what could happen next!

Another miracle Jesus did for us. Another testimony to His Will and Timing and why we should trust Him in seemingly impossible times of need.

You see, since I go to college, I'm usually lent money. This is my first semester back since a year and a half, and I was offered a grant this time, not just some loan.

Be that as it may, I had to drop a class, because the workload was too much, and it required having knowledge from a previous class, a class I took five years ago and didn't remember much of at all. I didn't want to drop it, but had no other choice. I felt that this overburden may have come from God's Will, but why? What was He up to?

So, a couple days later, my Dad found out he has to go in and get an operation, and this will lay him up 3-6 weeks without pay. Mom and Dad despaired, not knowing where to get money from. The retirement funds are depleted since Dad was bouncing from job to job a couple years ago, and there was no extra cash on hand. I said to my parents, "Don't worry, because Jesus will provide for us! That doesn't mean 'be lazy and be waited on hand and foot', nor am I speaking the false prosperity gospel of Joel Osteen, but trust in Jesus, and He will provide what is needed until we get on our feet again. Since He loves us, He won't let us down."

Well, since dropping the class, my grant money dropped a little bit and I owed a little bit, but then I got money back from the school that was owed me (since you don't pay for what you don't take), and the amount I got back, let's just say is possibly enough to pay the amount I owe AND sustain us for 3-6 weeks! :-? What a perfect opportunity to further witness on Jesus' behalf to Mom today, to let her know Who worked everything out in His Will and Timing and Love.

So I have to assume there was a reason I choked when I wanted to witness to those two scoffers. A, I wasn't as spiritually mature (and still aren't, but getting there). B, temper temper. C, didn't know as much from the Gospels as I do now, yet still have further to go. HIS timing, HIS will, NOT mine.

Sister El, you have helped me immensely, and your words of encouragement only help build me up, edify me, and make me realize things that I didn't realize. I mean, I knew that Mary wasn't the Queen of Heaven, was simply Jesus' mother, but the things she did against Jesus amazes me. As it was said, "A student is not above his teacher," how true it is!

I'm shocked that in the 1980s, people would have their own children kidnapped that they may be "reprogrammed". You hear about honor killings within the Muslim communities, but nothing like that within the Catholic communities. Oh I believe it though, it's just that people aren't so ready to expose Catholicism like they are with other religions.

You said I had a calling, and that frightens me. What calling that may be, I'm not so sure, but I know it involves witnessing, because I love Jesus and want to promote Him using not only what He gives me when talking to Mom, but also the musical abilities He gave me. God bless you for helping me out and edifying me! Thank you.

And thank you for showing me Milton Green. What a powerful, fantastic, kind preacher. I've no doubt with Whom his eternity is.

Brother/Sister Jim (sorry), that's some good advice! I do have a Catholic Bible here at home, as it was one of my first Bibles. I actually have five Bibles, each a different translation, my main one being an NIV translation (one that doesn't mis-translate John 7:8 into making Jesus look like a liar by omitting 'yet'), and a pocket carry-along KJV (though KJV can be difficult at times to understand).

That being said, I don't believe the apostle's creed agrees with Romans 10:9-10 at all. The apostle's creed is a recitation, a motion as it were, and it doesn't necessarily reflect what's truly going on in the heart of an individual. Second, there are some things in the apostle's creed that I don't believe in - belief in the communion of saints, belief in the church itself, and some versions making claim that Jesus literally descended into Hell for three days instead of suffering spiritual Hell on the Cross when God forsook Him.

It's still a nice suggestion, so perhaps instead of saying "The Apostle's Creed agrees with Romans 10:9-10", I can say, "See how it differs from what Paul actually said in his epistle to the Romans?" ;-)

God bless you, and thank you for your help!

Brother Colin, your testimony to why anger never solves anything is a great one, because it's true! Anger only causes a person to move further from God. The broken door could be symbolic to a person's broken trust in Him when witnessing goes awry.

So, you probably knew I was going to ask this, but what was it like when God came into the room? :-D Was it just His felt presence, or did He appear to you as something, or His voice? :-) Or is it something personal, that God said to not describe what you saw or heard?

Anyway, thank you for your words of hope, that one day I will grow to and look back at my mistakes and laugh, knowing much more than I know now! God bless you and thank you again!

Sister Ginny, I didn't stop to realize what you had pointed out until yesterday, that indeed practicing on my parents can help fortify me and make me spiritually stronger. God bless you and thank you!

Brother Leo, I took your advice to heart, and did a couple of things after the witness attempt, like making supper for Mom and helping to pay the restaurant bill for lunch. I'm going to continue that way, since Jesus did tell us to serve others first. I never thought about setting an example, so this too is an excellent suggestion. God bless you and thank you!

Thank you all once more! Now I'm off to pray that Jesus thwarts Mom's plan to take me and Dad to see Harry Potter 6 tomorrow. Well, Jesus did it twice already, where other events overtook the place of a planned time to see it. :-)

Re: - posted by elharris, on: 2009/9/12 22:48

Dear Brother Jim,

What a wonderful story and testimony!

I tell you, you just have such a great heart for the Lord, and for his word. And I can tell for people too.

And you are so very good at telling a story. You use simple, yet elegant and yet honest words, you cut to the chase and don't mince words and have a real ability to communicate.

In truth I see also a pastor's heart in you. In the way you addressed each one of us that wrote to you. Seeing each person as a real human being behind the words on the page, and just blessing each one.

You know, we all need to be needed, you made me feel that way, and from reading what you wrote to others, I saw the same, and a real tenderness in you.

Oh praise the Lord for his goodness, in letting me see young men like you.

That is a wonderful thing that you have discovered about "temper". Anger is the downfall of many Christian men. You saw this truth, in how the wrath of man works not the righteousness of God. You saw it when you controlled your temper and then saw Jesus do some work too.

The Word says we are fellow laborers WITH God, we plant and or water and God gives the increase.

Your story was a great witness to me, for I need to be reminded of this every day, since I am prone to a temper myself. You see brother you sharing your life with us, is a witness to us. For we need the witness as much as those who have never heard.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Sin of Wimping Out

I have picked a theme song for you. Hope you enjoy it.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXD4rKExqLo&feature=Playlist&p=6F1E5D7D5E793984&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=15

Regards,
El Harris

PS Also if you are not familiar with this artist you might want to check out some more of his songs http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=steve+camp+&search_type=&aq=f