

# John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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## Being in the Presence of God Real Life Incidents and Insights

Many disturbing things are happening around us as we move closer to the return of Jesus. I think we need to step aside at times and reflect on the wonders of God, on just who he is and how he relates to us. This newsletter does just that using examples from my own life and an account of what just happened this past weekend. I hope it encourages you as you go forward in his name in this difficult world. We are not alone.

Years ago on a dark night on the southern New Jersey Turnpike I cried out, “Help me Jesus! I don’t know what to do!”

Instantly the car filled with an overpowering presence. I could not move. My hands were frozen to the position they had been on the steering wheel. My arms did not move. I stared straight ahead, but I really did not see the road or anything.

God had come into the car. Instantly he had answered my call. The air was intense, electric. It was as if a giant hand were on my back, from my shoulders down to the end of my spine, and it was hugging me. It was warm, and pulsating. The feeling of love in that car was overwhelming. And for perhaps thirty minutes it continued. I know it was thirty minutes, because when I suddenly was able to move again, I looked down at the odometer and I had gone thirty miles. God had been driving the car. Certainly not me.

The anointing came that night, and the gifts of the Spirit. Gifts like the gifts of healing and miraculous works and prophecy and faith and more.

Following that night God came often, and began guiding me specifically. He began giving out assignments, and as I would do them he gave more. Gradually they moved into the major statements I refer to as the call on my life.

That was God in the car. Whether Jesus was sitting there beside me I do not know, for I could not turn my head.

It was overwhelming, a direct, enormous encounter with God. Now I had had a couple amazing things happen to me before, like the intercession of the angel in the car accident in Beverly Hills when a giant truck fell on our car. Or a time many years ago in Houston when suddenly a voice spoke a prophetic word into my heart and mind, one I was shocked by and didn’t understand completely. But this experience in the car was life-changing.

I had encountered God. He was there. He was real. No going back into the old standard life with church on Sunday for an hour but no real spiritual thoughts otherwise. I knew first hand God was and is real and that he answers prayer and that he communicates now, today, with us. The Holy Spirit had come in force and power. It was as Ephesians 1:3-4 says. I had been marked in Christ with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing my inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession.

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*Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!*

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I was like the born again, spirit filled Christians of the early Christian centuries. They willingly would go to their deaths rather than deny Jesus. Why? Because they knew God was real. They had met him. They had the Holy Spirit.

The world today likes to refer to some Christians as fundamentalists, and they deride those who just won't let their Biblical principles be moved. But you see, the world doesn't know God. Those who do can't be moved and won't give up their faith, which is absolute. You can read more about this encounter in the car on our web site. Just click on the testimony button in the menu column. Or watch the testimony video in the video section there.

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Encountering God is wonderful, life-changing! A word, a sentence. A verse of scripture suddenly coming alive as you read it, made real by the quickening power of the Spirit. All this changes a person instantly. It is worth more than gold. Far more. Just one such incident can lift a person high for days and weeks, and drive him forward for the rest of his life. And the more received, the further the person goes.

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The Lord comes close at diverse times and incidents, often of his own choosing and not while you are specifically sitting quietly in prayer. Sometimes while you are walking down the street or working on something else.

A few years back I was attacked horribly by the evil side. As we stepped out ever further in ministry, I had experienced attacks from the devil or his demons in various forms, and we had learned to apply the truths of God, to stand on the word, to cast out demons, to protect ourselves. All that. But this was much more. Some of you know about it. The attack was physical and direct and severe. The pain was enormous. There were moments I was not sure I would be here longer. Several prayer warriors prayed and interceded. Help came from the most unusual sources. For several weeks I was dreadfully weak, so weak I did not even shave. And I even conducted meetings unshaven, but the word of God coming through was strong. I learned a great deal through all this. One thing I learned is that someone in great pain and distress cannot pray, other than shouting out help me Jesus and short phrases like that. The pain is so intense.

So a couple months after this happened I had just finished a time of reading the Bible and praying at home, and I walked into our kitchen. Suddenly I was aware of the presence of the Lord on the other side of the counter that separates our kitchen from our dining area. And he spoke: "I'm never going to lose you, John," he said. My eyes filled with tears. My whole body was overcome by his presence. My eyes are filling with tears as I write this even now.

And I said, "What did I do wrong, Lord?"

He replied, "Nothing."

That was it. No more words. I have never forgotten that conversation. I learned that attacks come in this life from the evil side even if I did nothing wrong, and I needed to learn as much as possible as to how to protect myself and my wife and family and friends and partners and so on. And to fight evil. God has shown me much in that area.

But you see, the Lord was there and just began talking as I walked into the kitchen.

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### **We have a 3 AM Service! And in Pakistan!**

Sunday morning at 3 AM I preached to a church in Punjab, Pakistan. No, I was not there. I was in my home, and the church was in its home in Pakistan at the time of 12:00 noon there. The pastor of the church some time ago invited me to do this, and we spent a while putting it together. Early Sunday morning it came to pass. We used SKYPE to bring it about. The video camera in the church focused on the congregation and at times on the pastor, while the video camera here focused on me.

The church consists largely of widows and orphans, in itself a very moving thing considering the Bible's comments about ministering to orphans and widows. The significance of all this happening where the church is located cannot be ignored. As I spoke, the pastor translated into the Urdu language. The children and women waved fans to keep cool in what apparently was great heat. At times the children waved to me. They all sang praise songs at the outset, and even I understood when they sang Hallelujah!

I spoke on Jesus and who he is and what he did, and on the need for faith in him and all he did and said. And I talked about how they must have faith if they hope to receive all our wonderful Lord has done. At one point the pastor seemed to focus especially in translating and making clear my words about Jesus' taking away shame and rejection, two things Jesus did not discuss much here but two things highly important to widows and orphans! And then I spoke on Jesus' imminent return and prophecies fulfilled. At the conclusion, I prayed for all present. A couple girls were each brought forward to the camera for healing prayer. And three boys for prayer for resources and provision.

God is moving and active everywhere, even in difficult and dangerous areas. He finds a way and he moves. We must all give him praise always, keep our eyes on Jesus always, and be ready! Be ready to stand up for him anytime anywhere. Praise God!

#### **continued from page 2:**

Especially for a period of a few years some time back, God would speak to me in the middle of the night. I would wake up about 3 or 4 am, or maybe 5, and I would go into another room and sit in my favorite chair with my favorite Bible and begin reading. Usually I read Isaiah. I have found that God comes often when I read Isaiah. I started one night and read through the ninth chapter when he suddenly came. In such times I have found he is sometimes open to conversation. Not only does he pass on something he wants me to know, but I can ask a question. Even about seemingly lighter matters.

One night we were talking about healing, and I said something about his healing in the temple, his healing everyone. "Not everyone," he said. And in a minute he said, "the Pharisees," and I knew instantly he was referring to their religious spirit that blocked the healing of some, a situation we have encountered in various places, those who pay attention to man's religious rules and ideas of how things should be rather than to being open to God's truths and his presence and actions.

That particular night for some reason the subject of golf came up, and I remember Jesus saying, "It's a silly game."

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A last example of a close encounter with the Lord: We were sitting in a ministry meeting in Charlotte. A large crowd was present, and a famous minister was teaching on the Holy Spirit. Suddenly I heard the voice, "What are you doing here, John?" and I realized I should not have come. I don't really seek out such sessions anymore, unless directed by God to do so. My neck was hurting some at the meeting, and the Lord

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put his hand on my neck. I said something about his hand being rough, and he said, "you don't know how many times I hit that hand." Of course Joseph had been a carpenter, and no doubt Jesus had worked as a carpenter for years and had hit his hand many times!

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God is real. Jesus is real. The Holy Spirit is real. The Bible is true. The Lord is returning soon. He is. He really is.

Do you know him? Have you been in his presence? He tells us we will find him when we seek him with all our heart.

When you have a personal encounter with the Lord, everything else in the world recedes in importance. It is as if everything else becomes shadows, and God is in brilliant color. And you realize just how insignificant all the issues of the secular world are.

Don't miss the Lord. Don't let Jesus pass you by. He is coming very, very soon.

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*Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.*

**John**

**PLEASE NOTE!** We do ask as always that you prayerfully consider how and whether you should support this ministry. Only a small percentage of those receiving these newsletters and other materials ever contribute, and to those is our unending gratitude. Just a small contribution by all would mean a great deal and enable us to do more.

*[Contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation.]*

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