

Chapter Four

The Analysis

The Analysis of what happened to me, and how I arrived there is critical. The starting point and assimilation of facts that followed deserve careful illustration and attention to detail. I want to review the circumstances preceding my transformation, and then carefully analyze my thought process as God put the pieces together. I began *The Journey* to find ammunition against hypocritical Christians, which I felt were not practicing what they preach. I was looking to find evidence of hypocrisy in their Bible. I was not out to prove Christianity true. I repeat. I was not out in any way, shape, or form to prove Christianity true.

I was the biggest skeptic of all time, and had no reason or need for religion in my life. I wanted to use the Bible, the book that was so revered by others, to illustrate their own failure to follow it. I would vindicate what I knew was true all along. Church people act holy one day a week without carrying what is preached into their daily lives. It's a charade of righteousness and social morality only exists in the pews and the mind, but not in the real world. That was the goal and nothing more.

My starting point was as close as possible to zero experience or knowledge of religion or the Bible. This is an important distinction I would unknowingly discover later. I maybe believed in a god somewhere, but only in an abstract way. The idea of a real and active personal God at work right now in the present day was not even a possibility in my mind. I was the gemstone of a modern society permeated with and reverent of tolerance, relative truth, evolution, and God as unknowable.

What happened next was a gradual and unnoticed entrapment into the subject matter. The search for ammunition quickly became a quest for truth with the artillery long forgotten. I did this alone with almost no outside influences, *Just The Bible* and commentaries on it. My fallacious traits brought a strong conviction of guilt with an unplanned surrender to Jesus Christ in my room one night. Self-condemnation took on a life of its own that caused a confession, repentance, and plea for help that unknowingly triggered a transaction of immense proportions with unforeseen eternal implications.

I thought I had in a moment of weakness turned temporarily "soft", and planned to bury it forever. What internally was a weird and embarrassing occurrence would prove to be the most life changing and eye opening event I will ever see as long as I am alive on this earth. I had no idea what had happened to me. None. The thought of finding Christianity tangibly real was impossible.

As I went to bed that night there were no expectations simply because they did not exist in my mind. The best case scenario consisted of regular church attendance. People that knew me might say 'that boy needed a little religion in his life anyway'. I had found a religion that was believable, but any present reality or tangibility was not a consideration. I only expected church, because this was the only thing I had ever seen except from the woman at work. As I went to sleep my universe created by the modern world did not include anything more.

I remember reading Josh McDowell's testimony which described his anger dissipating over time after accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. I distinctly recall not understanding how this was possible. How could his personality change from prayer? My medical degree and knowledge of science precluded any

link between a single prayer and complete change of personality and emotions. These are deeply wired within the brain and nervous system in biochemical pathways that are poorly understood. Socialization from the modern world eliminated any ability to understand the relationship between the two. In my mind it had to be a self induced psychological change powered by a religious belief, a self induced euphoria.

I had found a God I could believe was real by historical analysis and faith, but I left Him in the realm of intellectualism. Nothing I had ever seen or heard in the world suggested a knowable reality to God. Growing up in the absence of God in a society ignoring God does not lead to any expectation other than religion. This had been ingrained in my mind for thirty six years. My faith would be based on my own personal journey comprised of the detailed examination of the evidence, since I trusted my own judgment.

I had planned to tell my wife that week “Ok. I’ll go to church. I have examined the evidence and it seems to be believable.” The outline for the future was comprised of a weekly church service, learning from the pastor, and a few hours of quality family time. I was even glad it was all over so I could catch up with my other hobbies. I never did.

The fact is I awoke as a completely transformed and new person in everyway. My brain, personality, emotions, thoughts, and neurological wiring were changed overnight. This was a fact that I had to sort out. I knew something was indescribably different, but I walked around for at least three days not knowing what had happened or how. It didn’t enter my mind that there could be a relation to my surrender since it was just a weird experience that night.

I decided to read the Bible and look for answers which led to the most startling realization of my life. It went far beyond my concept of reality and the universe that I had known, studied, and lived in for thirty six years. God actually heard what I said that night! *He Heard Me* and acted upon it! I was saved and didn’t even know it. It was amazing and comical at the same time.

I found in the scriptures what I had missed the first time through. The Holy Spirit of God Himself is put into the body at salvation. Salvation is not just a prayer to God, but triggers an actual transaction from God. The moment I cried out to God He forever changed the very nature of my existence. I was reconnected, alive, and restored by God now living within me. This was incredible! This is personal proof that Christianity is reality not religion. Faith becomes based on a new existence and not intellectual acceptance of doctrine. This was shocking and completely unexpected to me in today’s age of reason dominated by tolerance, agnosticism, and naturalism.

I kept thinking “You mean God is *that* real and knowable?!” I literally could not believe it, but this was just the beginning of *The Analysis of The Awakening*. I had stumbled into this and still had a lot of sorting out to do. The realization became evident that I was a walking miracle and proof of Christianity. It was also quickly evident that many people didn’t want to see or hear about such proof either. I found this was especially prominent in some people who go to church which was beyond perplexing for me. Why wasn’t everyone as excited as I was?

Now I completely understand why. The implications of that kind of reality to God are staggering and difficult to a world that is largely raised so far from this paradigm. It’s much easier for God to be distant and Jesus a fact that happened almost two thousand years ago. My mind was saying “Whooaa! I didn’t expect Jesus Christ to be *that* real and present. No one told me that His Spirit is put inside you at salvation.” Everything I was doing in life and had ever been taught were so far from this truth that I

understand why it is naturally avoided. Church on Sundays is much easier. I had no choice though since it was too late. The fact that I had never heard about this proof with so many Christians all around was *A Clue* to what I would find.

I carefully thought this through step by step.

1. The God of Christianity is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. He see,hears, and knows all. This had to be the case if *He Heard Me* in my own bedroom. How this worked I didn't know.
2. The Bible is true cover to cover from every word to every sentence as the inspired and authoritative word of God as it claims to be. One part is not true and others false. Anything less is an internal contradiction with the definition of God. If He is alive and real then His book claiming to be His word must be so. Omnipotent God can certainly make sure a book is exactly the way He wants it. This has many consequences, and would lead to a plethora of other questions needing resolution. This was in addition to the objective proof of scripture from prophecy, the nation of Israel, and the historical soundness of the Bible.
3. Jesus Christ is the only answer to being made right with God as the New Testament states.
4. All other religions about God are false in ways that they contradict the Bible. Truth is exclusive by nature. This is a strong statement, but there are no other logical conclusions.
5. Heaven is a real place. This was exciting.
6. Hell is a real place. I was on my way there and had no idea. Thank God.

At this point that was all I could conclude. I did not know how it worked or how God *Heard Me*. Each conclusion would lead to many more difficult and complex questions that had to be reconciled. The most profound aspect that I thought a long time about was that *He Heard Me*. *He Heard Me* and acted upon it! **The reader needs to stop here and think of the implications this has for what we think of as reality.** The world is a very big place. Let the implications of this sink in.

This one undeniable fact began to change the way I thought about everything past, present, and future. The implications would change the very nature of everything I would think about, do, and say. It's not like I pushed a button saying "Ok listen up now because I am going to talk to you God." I did not fire a flare into the air or go up on my roof and scream for God to listen. The reality of the world changes by an infinite degree from this one fact. I still think about it everyday.

I also quickly understood exactly why this is a God that man doesn't want to be real. All secrets go away and full accountability instantly appears when you realize just how profound the implications of *He Heard Me* are. I could not reject or escape by unbelief, because it was already proven to me. I had to deal with it even though it was a very uncomfortable thought. I think this one aspect can tell a lot about why Christianity has been rejected and why stories like mine are explained away. These six points will now be reviewed in detail.

1. The God of Christianity is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. This means God is aware and active over the entire earth for all people at all times. Yes billions of people. He heard my prayer and acted on it. What if one thousand people over the whole world were doing the same? How could He hear and act on all of them or be aware if another five hundred would do it ten seconds later? I was not told to call back because the line was busy. What does this incomprehensible truth mean? How did He know the heart behind the words!?! This is even more profound.

Our concept of reality is far from what really exists. God is infinitely more complex than our minds can even begin to comprehend. The converse of this is also true. Humans are infinitely less complex than God. Mankind thinks he knows and has mastered a lot about the world, the universe, and science. I quickly realized I knew nothing at all. Nothing.

My initial self elevated status went from near the top of intelligence and knowledge about life, the earth, medicine, and science, to a creation of God who is infinitely more complex than my “complex” brain could ever imagine. I had been rewired at the cellular level. I knew the human body inside and out, and somehow my brain and neural connections were completely rearranged. What did this mean? I was a miracle, a real present day act of God miracle. I was walking and living proof that Jesus Christ existed and was right there in the room when I prayed that night. Suddenly, I believed all of the miracles in the Bible.

Any God that is able to rewire a human being can do whatever He wants, like walk on water, part the sea, and heal the blind. Give me “In the beginning God” and *He Heard Me* and all miracles disappear for they are nothing. A vast and endless universe suddenly shrank down to nothing. Man went from being master of the universe to a creation of an awesome power called God. The human race went from being the intelligent scientists running the experiments to the amoeba in the water being observed. What was my reaction as I reasoned through this?

Joy, excitement, and a mesmerizing euphoria beyond any words all filled my heart since I was now a creation of God. Before this I was convinced of being nothing more than a cosmic chance event that evolved from a Big Bang. I came from cosmic soup through apes into a human. This was a transformation from the definition of meaningless to a divinely created and valued being. I was awestruck. My life suddenly had so much more meaning and importance. I wasn’t just cosmic dust that organized itself by chance over billions of years as I had learned in school. Suddenly, I was a creation that was important to Someone awesomely powerful.

The four big questions were answered:

1. Where did I come from? 2. Why am I here? 3. Who am I? 4. Where do I go when I die?

The answers now had meaning instead of the emptiness and fear of being a random event in space with no purpose, afterlife, or intrinsic value. Somehow the thought of death was always troubling to me especially when I hugged my children, and watched them lay innocently asleep in *A Moment of Silence*. I wondered how my intense love for them could only have meaning and origination from my own mind. If they tragically died then the source of this love would become matter without life that would decay back to its pre-evolved state. How does a child that inhabits the heart and soul only represent evolved matter?

This was another *Clue* that I had overlooked for so many years after being indoctrinated into evolution. Death went from being a cold and meaningless recycling of matter to entering eternity with my Father. I never dreamed of such a radical reality change! Now my entire family was the creation of God who promised love and eternal life. It was too good to be true and yet it was true.

It was then that I realized everything I had ever believed and been taught about my existence and purpose was a lie. I had been living in *The Great Deception*, a deceived state of reality that man has made to protect his heart from the truth of his fallen and separated existence. Yes, the genius doctor knew nothing about his world, the universe or existence for one third of his life. This

shook me to the bone. I walked around wondering how I could have been deceived my entire life.

God and the Big Bang is an insulting attempt to merge oil and water. God does not need evolution over millions of years to make His divine creation. This theory which I will explain later also contradicts the basic doctrine of the entire Christian message, the resurrection. If *He Heard Me* then I am created in His image period. This presented absolutely no problems for me at this point. I also began to ponder do people really believe in evolution, because it is logical or because evolution destroys the creation event, the power, and accountability of *He Heard Me*?

As I thought about creation and *The Ski Trip* incident I had to admit to myself this was true. I rejected this story in part because the creative power behind it spoke of ownership, sovereignty, and accountability that I did not want. I always hated admitting that I was wrong, but I was about to splurge into being wrong in every aspect of my life as I worked my way through *The Analysis*.

Paradoxically, once I was on the other side the fear of accountability and God's all knowing presence was replaced by comfort and relationship. I was so lonely most of my life I was ecstatic that He was there and so personal. I have never felt lonely, empty, or disenchanting since the day I was saved.

The next logical step led to a more difficult and frightening conclusion. Could money, power, and prestige motivate not only the creation of evolutionary theory, but the suppression of creationism? The nature of man proclaims an astounding and horrifying yes. This was very troubling because my entire education and framework for understanding medicine and life on earth was being turned upside down. How could I have lived for thirty six years and have been taught evolution as the only theory from grade school through medical school if creationism was true? Man wouldn't really do this on purpose or would he? All of it becoming a lie will rattle the very core of a persons past, self identity, and meaning from hundreds of hours of study. What I would find would do just that but on a grander scale than I could have ever imagined.

2. The Bible is the inspired and authoritative word of God – God by definition would not have a revelational book for His creation that contained any errors or truths that only modern man could figure out. Does a God who creates the entire universe have trouble inspiring a book exactly the way He wants it?

The Bible had already passed all of the historical and reliability tests for me before I was saved. It was clearly the word of God by its cohesiveness despite many authors over such a long period of time. The preservation of Israel and the many prophecies of Jesus clearly proved its divine authorship.

Now that God was also personal and tangibly present within me how could I doubt His word? If He changed the nature of my existence why would I question His ability to make a book? I also realized that since I was saved with the Holy Spirit within me the Bible came to life in a brand new way. Now the Author was inside me to instruct and teach me. He witnesses to you that it is true. You cannot understand this until you are saved.

3. Jesus Christ is the only answer to being made right with God as the New Testament states. Jesus claimed to be God, proved to be God by historically rising from the dead, and will answer your prayer as God changing you just like me when you call on Him. He is just as tangibly knowable

today as he was 2000 years ago. He is the only way because he is God. The only way for man to be saved from the penalty of sin, which is death, was for God to die in our place. He is the only way because there was no other way even for God Himself. To complain about one way instead of rejoicing for there to actually be a way is illogical. Jesus gives mankind the righteousness of God that allows us to enter heaven.

I must also issue a warning worth remembering. I have found that every cult denies the full deity of Jesus Christ. If you pin them down and ask them “Is He fully God eternally equal to the Father who always was and always will be?” then they will deny Him. They will play on the word “Son of God” and use all kinds of wrangling schemes. They don’t realize they are blaspheming the work on the cross of the eternal God. Run from them.

4. All other religions are false in ways they contradict the Bible. Truth is exclusive by nature as Ravi Zacharias taught me in his books. All worldviews when carefully studied are exclusive and cannot all be right. This is applied in every setting except God by our society.

This was a very difficult fact that I was forced to swallow. I researched other religions and found they were not all the same and are not all worshiping the same God. They were all exclusive at many points and filled with internal contradictions. I did not understand how this could have happened at first. I had always viewed a world of religious pluralism as proof there is no answer. If there was an answer then man would have not run off in so many directions. A world of religious pluralism perfectly reinforced my notion that the real God was unknowable and manifesting Himself in many different ways.

I quickly began to realize that if man didn’t want accountability, but felt a need to be religious and quiet his conscience I just might have reversed the logic. We must be seeing the results of man running from the truth or inventing his own.

I also realized all other religions are man reaching out to God when Christianity is God reaching out to man. Other religious figures are dead while Jesus is alive. No other religion has a Savior that comes with the answers to sin. Jesus not only speaks the truth, but gives man the ability to actually carry it out by indwelling the saved believer. No other religion has God on earth saving man and then inhabiting mans existence to change him. Other religious books also fail to pass almost any of the historical tests that the Bible sets the standard for.

5. Heaven is a real place – I had always worried about and feared death. The peace, relief, and comfort that emanate from an absolute certainty of eternal life cannot be described. The fear, uncertainty, anguish, and lack of meaning that characterize death in today’s world all vanish. No single question has plagued mankind more than death. Conquering death with a tangible heaven does more for the human mind and spirit than anything else conceivable. I could not believe that eternal life starts now on earth before I even get to heaven!!
6. Hell is a real place – I never considered while growing up the possible reality of heaven or hell. They were imaginary places created in the minds of humans seeking a meaning that did not exist. God proved the Bible and Jesus Christ are real in one mighty demonstration of power and healing in my bedroom that night. Jesus spoke more about hell than heaven when I looked at the Gospels. I remembered hearing about pastors who did not believe in hell, but this made no sense to me since Jesus so clearly talked about it many times. They had better inform Jesus about their modern interpretation.

The reality of hell also made sense. Man is born separated from God due to sin and simply stays separated if he dies in his sin. God does not send anyone to hell. They choose it by denying His own personal sacrifice. What more could God do to save us and convince us? Man cannot enter heaven without the righteousness of God imparted to him. If people don't want a relationship with God now then he won't force one in the next life. God proved his love in that while man was still sinful He came and died for us. The cross shows Gods heart to save mankind. I think it will take eternity to understand what he actually did on the cross.

The next area that needs explanation is the transformation itself. How does it work? What happens to someone who is saved by accepting Jesus Christ? How did God hear my prayer in my bedroom that night? How could a human be transformed in such an unimaginable way? Without this radical transformation of my very being I would have awoken the same person the next morning. I would have nothing but faith to go on. This is exactly what I expected so it wouldn't have been a surprise anyway.

What exactly did happen? The complexity and reality of the transaction cannot be understood by man except in the simplest of terms. When such a prayer is spoken from the heart several critical things occur as God hears and answers by His grace. First is the forgiveness of sin which leads to a new verdict of "not guilty" with God. Jesus Christ now pays your penalty for sin, and this enables you to be reconnected to God when His Holy Spirit enters your body and joins with your spirit to make you spiritually alive. This aspect is the rebirth of the spirit. The results can be dramatic and immediate like I experienced or more commonly a gradual process that occurs over time.

The Holy Spirit brings the power by which a person is changed. Not only did God want to save us from the penalty of sin He also wanted us to have power over sin. God in His awesome plan knew that simply forgiving sin would not be enough since the same individual making the same mistakes would remain. In my case, the same Greg Viehman would roam the earth with all his bad qualities still in place. God knew that help, guidance, and power were needed, since we couldn't change on our own. The Holy Spirit is the answer to this problem.

The Holy Spirit personally proves the Christian message is real and the only true answer. What other world view has the Spirit of God dwelling in the body as evidence? This is one of the most incredible and awesome displays of infinite power. He is *The Forgotten Evidence* that Jesus is here and alive today. Today's culture not unlike Jesus' time demands miracles, but doesn't realize the miracles are real and alive today via the Holy Spirit.

Entire personalities are changed with the reversal of lifelong outlooks and desires. Radical alterations of character are occurring that are not possible or explained except by divine intervention. Emptiness is quickly filled with a deep sense of warmth and peace felt inside your body. The crucial sign of true conversion is God's love which can be defined as unselfish giving. Man is naturally selfish and a taker. Only God can give man unselfish motives to serve. When God's love is seen through one of His children it is clear that something is different. Other religions claim to have experiences but they don't have transformations emanating in love. This is a test that begs every skeptic to be very careful about rejecting.