

Pastor PHARAOH



By Phillip Bowers

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By

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Chapter 1

– Introduction –

This book reflects a real life personal experience that I myself partook of for many grueling and unbeneficial years. I had worked very hard, for a very long time as a minister of Christ; only to be rejected and left for dead in the end. For all of my years of service and dedication to the church, I was wrongfully repaid by excommunication from the church.

Just think about the word excommunication: “Ex” meaning, previous or past and “Communication” meaning, contact, message or statement. In other words, I was perceived as a person of “Previous contact” or simply put, “Shunned.” I became a thing of the past, nonexistent, even to those whom I thought would understand. But alas, none gave me such an audience as to hear me out.

My personal belief of what constitutes the basis of a Christian is repentance of an individual’s sins, which must be done by a confession of those said sins. Not just a confession to “Whom it may concern,” but a confession to “Jesus Christ” himself, for the remission of your sins. I’m a Christian, and even though this may be contrary to what others may believe about me, the throne of judgment will tell the tale, and eternal life will have become witness of my salvation and commitment to God.

I love my Lord Jesus Christ and I love the souls that He came to die for. I will (by the grace of God) continue to let my life speak for itself of the healing, gracious, and loving power of God. In this book, and others to follow, I will speak these words from my heart, and in these words, you as a reader will find that which has burdened me and scorched my soul.

For many years I thought that being a Christian was the best thing that ever happened to me, or anyone else for that matter. That fact hasn’t changed for the most part, but I did have some major setbacks that caused me to question even my own salvation for a season. As for my present stance on God? Well...He’s still alive and doing quite well I might add. If you don’t believe me, then just ask Him.

My salvation experience in God, as a Christian, came under fire because of what was and wasn't supposed to be happening in the church. Yes, I know, most of you have heard similar stories about people and their struggles in a church, and no doubt many of those stories touched your heart; because they were "from the heart." But this is my story, this is my book, and this.....this is my life; A life that you may also be presently, but begrudgingly living. If you're not spiritually and mentally focused on what's going on around you, you're stuck for life.

My objective here is not to perform the proverbial skipping record about church woes, because it's fair to say that we all have some sort of disagreement, even while in church. But at some point and time one has to wonder, I mean really wonder about their surroundings and present stance on what their church believes in, when, as a Christian, they spiritually cease to develop. My desire, aim and direction is to help those who struggle with their faith all because of this so called "Man of God" they call pastor; a man who is actually ruling and ruining their life more than nurturing it.

First off, for clarification, let me say that not all pastors are bad pastors, just like, not all people are bad people. There are some Pastors who really do love the Lord with all thy heart, with all their soul, with all their mind, with all their strength, and it shows in their ministry. In reality, some may be quite willing to lay down their own life for their flock. I have a great respect and reverence for men of such a caliber. These however, are not the type of pastors that I am referring to. I long for the day when I can meet a man of God of the same spiritual stature as Paul the apostle, and Abraham, our forefather. With that said, religion is good, God is good and His works are very good.

My particular plight is due to the many years of being under poor church leadership that was personified with, and motivated by pride, jealousy, and unscrupulous mannerisms. Being involved in such an atmosphere for nearly a century and a half had finally taken its toll on me, and I had to do something about my dire situation. I had wanted to leave the disorganization, I mean, organization, for many years because of their unbiblical practices; eventually this was made easy when they kicked me ouch! The church.

I've been asked the question, "Philip, why did you wait so long before leaving?" I do have an answer for that particular question, albeit a complex one. There are two reasons as to why I stayed so long: Well, one reason is because I thought that I could make a difference. Initially, going to the church wasn't that bad, and in my thinking, if I waited long enough, surely

time itself would be a reward and a savior for us all. I just figured that at some place and time, the love would come back and find its way into the core of the church. Maybe it would take error, persuasion, or even the death of a loved one; I just knew something would trigger the hearts of the church leaders. Yes, the leaders, because when the head is defiled, then so is the rest of the body.

We all have our idiosyncrasies, and what some may call an ‘infectious disease,” others may call a “Cure,” for the disease. In my folly, I figured that I could bring in and issue out a greater measure of goodness than that which had been so prevalent in the church. A goodness that would overwhelm the lies of the devilish spirit that had flooded the plains of the church.

If anyone has ever attempted such a near impossible feat such as this one themselves, then they can relate, and if not, then let me tell you that it’s not easy to uproot something that has been implemented and destined from the beginning to be unfruitful. I know, “I’m just one man,” why would I think such things? I really can’t explain it in words that everyone will comprehend, so please be understanding and at least grasp the gist of what I’m trying to share in this book. To be privy to what I’m trying to fully communicate, you must have also tasted of the true love of Christ and have a real burden for lost souls. Some do have this type of love and burden, while others don’t even know of it. Remember this, it’s “People,” and not “God” who goes bad.

I mean, seeing as I already had a lot invested in this company called church, why not continue onward? Only later to find out why! Incidentally, I eventually came to the realization that neither time, the people, nor the church leaders were on my side, front, or had my back. And this is only the first reason as to why I didn’t prematurely leave the church.

The other reason that I tarried so long in the church under these conditions, well, that’s what this book is about, now isn’t it?

Chapter 2

– The Struggle –

Yes, I struggled for many years with the idea of leaving a particular organization; as did/are others. And rightly so, it should be difficult to leave something that initially inspired and made you a better person. I got saved at the early age of eighteen years old, I am now thirty seven; it's been a long road for me thus far. I believed in my heart that my convictions (the religious way of saying “Actions and motives”) were pure and towards loving the people.

Though in all my years I never really got the chance to work with the people the way I felt it pressed upon me by God; I still had hope that one day a door would open up so that I could. I'm presently looking for that day to happen, which I don't believe is in vain. Dedicating yourself to a cause in which you wholeheartedly believed in brings some kind of merit and a certain dedication with it. After all, it is the work of God almighty.

I left the church because of the “Harsh,” “Slave-like,” “Build me a pyramid,” conditions. Conditions that I felt were not conducive to Christianity, and that were actually hurting the people more than helping them.

This is not just my personal, “Everyone should listen to me,” vendetta. I had a care and concern for those people, I still do, and that also includes the pastors.

As a result of me leaving, I was labeled a sinner (among other things). Why? Because, “The pastor didn't tell you to leave the church!” therefore, “God didn't tell you to leave the church!” This was the belief that every single member had about my wife and I, never even realizing for one moment that I was innocent and set up to take a fall. As far as the church was concerned, if it didn't come from the “Pastor,” then it didn't come from “God.” Truly the members were not as in tuned with God as was portrayed, because they let this preacher, their only true friend as pertaining to ministers, get kicked out and lied on. Yes, there were many who wondered, but none who cared enough to pursue the truth. There were some who got the

courage to go the pastor (as was custom) for information pertaining to us, but he was the source of the problem to begin with, so surely nothing good would come out of that. In fact, the spoken departing words I heard were, "He's the pastor here, and you do whatever he says!" And those words came from my pastor. What if he said, "Jump off a bridge" Would you do it? I believe some would.

So what if he lies? And we all know that he does lie. So do I still listen to him? No thanks, you can keep that "Anything goes" gospel. I promised my wife that I will never take her through this again, and I won't, not for anyone. People can believe what they want, and see things the way that they want to in that church; I for one had to "See" my way out before I became permanently blinded and led to a ditch where I would spend the rest of my natural life. It sure would be a hard pill to swallow, to be called a "Christian" for twenty years, then die and go to hell. Where are you going when you die, and how do you know?

My struggle for the most part wasn't that I had issues with their church doctrine, my ~~position~~ place in the church, or even the people. For I also believed in, on whom, and what they believed. The people, humph! They were just following him, they were just doing what he demanded, I mean, asked of them. And it was him, and others made after the same similitude that I had difficulties with; the one who successfully captured the title of Pastor-Pharaoh. And believe me, this is not a compliment, and far from it.

Chapter 3

– What’s really going on? –

I came up with this selfsame title for the book one day, when after we had been pushed out of the church, left shunned and forsaken. Anyhow, we were sitting down and discussing the reason for the error in the church that we had previously attended. During this discussion, God, yes, “God,” had showed me many things that I wasn’t aware of before that point in time, and I began to share what was on my heart with my wife and an unnamed friend.

At a previous workplace, there was a coworker who always asked the question, “What’s really going on?” As if to say, “What is it that you really have going on behind the scenes?” As a Christian, that really stuck with me throughout the years. And that’s what God began to show us that day and through the weeks to come.

After rehearsing and examining my previous encounters with the pastor, and looking back on the many events that had taken place in the church; we were able to locate “What was the matter” in the church. Mind you, this is not about how I see things, but what God himself had showed us. You should also know that there were, and are many others who had, and still have these similar involvements with the same church. Unfortunately, it will also take a tragedy for them to leave also.

All of the cover-ups, and misplaced dedications that had taken place, were now being exposed before my eyes. The true identity and spirit of the pastor that I was working for, I mean, with, had finally come out.

Our nightly discussions became a much needed enlightenment for my wife because she still wanted to attend the same church again, even after they just kicked us out days prior. This stuff here would make for an interesting case study for a psychologist. I don’t blame her though; I must have been crazy too. After all, she was just following me, a man who had also been hypnotized by statements like: “If you leave, God won’t bless you,” “You’re independent if you leave,” and “You’re going to die and go to hell because of disobedience.” Independent because

of.....What?!? Disobedience too.....Who?!? For crying out loud, seriously? The church that I attended was already a spin off (split) from another organization, and they said the exact same thing about members back then when they left. Just by saying that, I should have known better because I already knew this.

The Israelites had a similar problem, almost the same thing happened to them after they had already left from Egypt. Numbers 11:5 says, “We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic.” Ok, I see multiple choice letters “A-F” but where is “G” for “None of the above?” I’m not too sure that I would want to be a slave again for any of those items, even if they were fresh from the Pharaoh’s garden. More manna please!

How is it that they forgot about building for Pharaoh, being beat, shamed, bound, and enslaved as an entire society of human beings? Pharaoh didn’t care about them, so why did they care so much about the garlic and onions? Remember this, it wasn’t even their kingdom in which they were building. My goodness, God was getting no glory for anything that they were doing in Egypt. Now there’s a good question; “Just what does God think about what you’re doing?”

When we departed (put lightly) the church, they (elder, ex-fellow ministers) took our (my wife and I) life with them. They took my finances, vehicle, and they even purchased the house that I was trying to buy; right out from under me. God bless you too bother, I mean, brother.

That house that we were trying to purchase is now a home for single church members/the pastor, his wife and kids/and yes, a church. For weeks I pondered the thought of how it must feel to them, knowing how they acquired the house, and knowing they can’t tell anyone about it for the rest of their lives lest they get exposed. Though I still lament that this incident ever happened, I forgive them for what they did to me. They are now wearing a pair of shoes that I have no desire to even try on. They have put on fear, and the thing about fear is this; unless it’s faced and dealt with accordingly it brings about bondage. They are bound!

I’m not going to get into how I started getting paid (without W2’s) from the church, but they did always say that “The church is not a business,” not a legal one anyway. My getting paid (finally, after thirteen years in the ministry) actually had nothing to do with the pastor that I worked for, I mean, with; except him being forced by his pastor to reluctantly pay me a monthly salary. Love at its finest.

If left up to him, he would have “Paid me” no mind. Nonetheless, I did draw a salary for which I am/was grateful for; this also contrary to popular belief. I say this because, when I left the church, it was quickly (as in the next day) told to the members that I was independent, and unthankful (among other things) and that’s why I left. The church doesn’t know that I have that information, but I do.

It is also interesting to point out that after months of not being present in the services, that 99% of the members still have no idea as to why I no longer attend the church. Those who mustered up the courage to ask the pastor about our whereabouts; they received a spectacular “It’s none of your business!” reply. A bit strange if you ask me, especially since I ministered for years in the church by means of: teaching bible seminary, leading soul winning meetings, and preaching in services, among other things. I’m not trying to post my “resume” here, but just pointing out that I was very active in the church, and was doing my just duties.

If it meant not being an added expense to the church, I was content with just going to work on the job. I’m saying this to erase any prefabricated questions about my thoughts at the time. In fact, if you’re a Christian, the workplace is a very good place to witness with your life.

Actually, there wasn’t even a need for me to be full time in the ministry, because the church was small and it actually created more of a problem than a blessing. Had God been left to actually “Have His way,” this wouldn’t have been a problem. On another note: the bible also says in Luke 10:7 “The labourer is worthy of his hire.”

Chapter 4

– Love/Hate relationship –

In the churches eyes, I am not longer fit to bear the suffix of “Reverend” (Rev.) or even “Brother,” before my name. I have since become “Mr. Bowers,” or just “Bowers” for short. I guess it still beats “Hey you,” or a curse word. Either way, my name was turned to shame and I was considered an outcast. My question is, who called me when I didn’t show up that night for service? Who stopped by the next day? Who announced to pray for me? No one! That’s who. This too is remarkable because of the fact that I’m talking about a church who calls members if they are not there when church starts, and who visits new converts two days after they first attended service.

The bible says in Galatians 6:1-2 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” Surely there was at least one brother there who was spiritual and could aid in restoration. Obviously not, because the next day my name was tossed in, dunked under and dragged through the mud. The bottom line is that they wanted us gone, and had made months of secret preparation to carry out their fiendish plans.

They took everything that I was and buried it in the sand; “Like Moses did when he killed that Egyptian.” Exodus 2:12 records what Moses did to an Egyptian, who, I might add, was just as much a brother to him than the Hebrews, if not more. Talk about a sticky situation that he found himself in. “And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.” “Nope!” “Sorry!” You can’t just hide your sins in the sand like that and get away with it.

Surely he wasn’t at the chariot crossing looking both ways before he crossed the street; therefore Moses knew he was wrong when he was looking to see if the coast was clear so he could get away with murder. That’s what we in the real world call, “Conspire.” Conspire means:

to plot; to plan. To make an agreement, especially a secret agreement, to do some act, as to commit treason or a crime, or to do some unlawful deed; to plot together. I got that definition off of my ~~set~~ cell phone dictionary, but I think that it's correct. James 1: 20 "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." It never has and it never will.

I really can't say that Moses was justified by his actions, though I can understand what he must have felt after seeing the full spectrum of the bondage that his people were really in. I've personally never taken another man's life, but there were times when I felt as though I was killed and left for dead.

According to Pharaoh, the Hebrew people were a hindrance, and a threat. Hmm, now where do I remember that from? Exodus 1:8-10 "Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which **knew not Joseph**. And he said unto his people, behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, **let us deal wisely with them**; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and **fight against us**, and so get them up out of the land."

Three things here that I want to point out: #1 The new Pharaoh didn't know anything about the accomplishments of the man of God Joseph. Needless to say, if it weren't for him, Egypt would have already ceased to exist, and as for that Pharaoh, he wouldn't have even been there in that place of power to begin with. Let me say that again in slightly different words; "if not for others, where would you or any of us be?"

I find it amazing that after being the ruler of the known world, and with all of his might and prestige, Pharaoh couldn't pass on a simple message, that message being; "Bless the Hebrew people." For it was the Hebrew Joseph who prepared the previous generations for the great famine and without that preparation, all would have been lost.

A Pastor-Pharaoh is not thrilled at or about any of your accomplishments, in fact, he thrives at keeping you down in the dirtiest of gutters. In his opinion, this creates humility, and his reasoning is; "We don't need you feeling good about yourself and getting proud about anything!" Therefore, Pharaoh bound the people and put them to work for himself.

The Pharaoh had one agenda, and that was to prosper himself, even if it was at the expense of others. The Pastor-Pharaoh is quick and eager to conquer and build his own empire and this is all under the guise of "I love Jesus Christ."

#2 What? This was one sneaky dude. I wonder where he got his craftiness from. Genesis 3:1 “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

Pharaoh knew his trade well, and he recognized that the ability to deceive and take advantage of others was a gift from his gods.

Pastor-Pharaoh wants everyone else to be upfront, but for some strange reason, he himself doesn't have to be. Everything that he was doing, was completely unbeknownst to the Hebrews. “No Big I's and little U's,” he says; well, it must be “Big Me's” or something like that.

I find it interesting he knows everything about you, but what exactly do you know about him other than he's the Pastor-Pharaoh? What happened to his family? His friends? What happened to the other people in the pictures that he has? What happened to the Bowers family? That me, I'm Philip Bowers, the author of this book!

Pharaoh only cared about two people, and those two people were “Him” and “Self” (himself). Yes his child, but only because he was made in his image and a direct representation of his power and might. Without that child stepping up, when he stepped down, his legacy would come to a screeching halt.

#3 What I find absolutely mind boggling about this is; why couldn't the Pharaoh just ask for their allegiance to begin with? It seems that the two civilizations had already shared some hard times together, so why not prosper and build together? A classic “Stinking thinking” moment where only one party benefited.

How do millions of people just forget about a famine that would have wiped them off the face of the planet? They didn't, and surely someone, somewhere, was still telling their handed down version of that story. But you see, Pastor-Pharaoh never sees the good in anyone, and if he does, when he's done, no one else will see it either. Their first thought was, “fight against us,” but why not “Fight with us?” Maybe he knew they wouldn't fight back, perhaps he had taken note of their passive state and realized the “Easy pickings” that they were. There had to be something there that said, “We won't fight back.” Whatever it was, the Hebrews were enslaved and quickly put to work in Pharaohs (long hours with no benefits) unionized workforce. Hmm, things to ponder.....now get back to work!

Chapter 5

– That’s my favorite! –

A Pastor-Pharaoh has the outward appearance of true Christian love and concern for others, but on the inside, he is full of tyranny, abuse, lying, cheating, deception, and all while promoting “Jesus is Lord.” Amazing to say the least, and yet interesting, but very true.

His favorite scripture is Heb.13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

This has got to be one of the most “Misused and abused” scriptures in the bible. Don’t get me wrong on this, because obedience to the man of God is important, needful and biblical. But when that same demand for such obedience is forced and always put in your face as a penalty, it then becomes an undue bondage of manmade control. You will do well to see, and know the difference between the two.

Pastor-Pharaoh loves tapping into his conference notes archive, and digging out nifty little bits of information that the people may have forgotten about. Not that there’s anything wrong with reiteration; a reminder of the good and notable things of the past can be a refreshing and a refining for the people. I am however apposed of such things when Pastor-Pharaoh doesn’t even remember himself about the things that he is sharing. It’s not as impressive when those same notes he uses to exhort from are used in a way that makes him seem as though he remembered the setting perfectly, as though it was just yesterday.

“You mean that you guys don’t remember that conference three years ago when the preacher said...?” Knowing very well he just looked over the notes that he took himself, or it wouldn’t have been so vivid in his mind either.

Pastor-Pharaoh’s favorite phrase of the day is about; “Not using your personality in place of spirituality.” I think that something was really missed on that one, because the root word of “Personality,” is...(drum roll)...PERSON! You can’t be a “Person,” without a “personality,” but

you can talk to a “Person” while being “Personal” (private) about their business. Yes, that sounds about right, since Pastor-Pharaoh is not a people person, and is not, I repeat, is not careful about putting your life on display before others.

So what’s your preference, to clone everyone, or make robots? I hear they have a big market for androids, (oh, that’s cell phones) or perhaps hiring the Borg for total assimilation to capitalistic Pharaohism is another option? “Brother Borg,” yea, that kind of has a ring to it.

Chapter 6

– Rebuke before all –

The first phase of their plan to get me out of their church took place when they conspired behind the scenes with one another about me. The second phase, was the initial (so called) rebuke in front of the people in the church. Well, actually it was when the people were already leaving out the door after prayer meeting.

I already knew something was about to happen because I felt a spirit of dread come over me, and I knew that “This is going to be bad!” Afterwards, my wife confirmed what I felt when she told me that the Lord spoke to her last night, saying, “They came to throw you out.”

“Ok, I’m now done reading your book, because God only talks to the pastor, and by stating this, you’re implying he spoke with both you and your wife!” If you believe that, then you’ve never read the bible before. Additionally, there were others who testified of experiencing that exact same spirit.

Anyhow, the bible does teach in the book of 1 Timothy 5:20 “Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.” However, if it’s not a rebuke for sin, then he’s (rebuker) telling your (rebukee) business just because he (rebuker) can. By the way, a rebuke deals with the particular “Sin” that was committed, and it’s not “Hit or miss and diss,” or “Pin the tail on the Balaam donkey.” Its proceedings are not based on mere speculation or anything else off subject. Actually, anything other than what needs to be dealt with, gets to be “nobody’s business, unethical and unbiblical.”

My particular “Rebuke” came in the form of jokes, mockeries, putdowns, and fabricated stories of the past. Still till this day, I am unaware of what it all meant. It was as if I was being attacked, nay, bombarded by a variety weapons at one time, and that eventually one of them would sooner or later find its target. There were words of encouragement/discouragement, staying/leaving, and a general mass of confusion all at once. What was I guilty of? I would have

just liked to know so that I could repent and get right before God. Confusion at its finest, God is not the author of such foolish and indignant things.

A rebuke is more than just pointing your finger at someone and screaming in their face at the top of your voice, while yelling about all the alleged things that you're bothered at. I just wanted to "Point" that out to you, the reader.

Understand this: That even though a true rebuke is nothing to glory in, God will get the "Glory" when repentance takes place. However, when it's done in error, shame and unwillingness are the results, and the lingering conclusion of a situation destitute of true meaning clouds the recipients mind.

The following are examples of rebukes in the bible; examine and notice the distinctions between the three scriptures:

#1 "Error/excessive zeal" Luke 18:15-16 "And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

#2 "Caution/discretion" 1 Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren."

#3 "True correction/rebuke justified" Galatians 2:11-12 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision." There's that fear again!

Chapter 7

– The Magicians –

Pastor-Pharaoh only tolerates others, including his wife, because he has too. Even so, he'd much rather be spending time giving orders to his favorite magician(s) to carry out. Mind you, he or she will do anything at any time of the day that Pastor-Pharaoh request.

The church magician is the Pastor-Pharaoh's MVP: "Most valuable to Pharaoh," although it could mean "Most vile person," or "Most valued Pharisee," in any case, "The favorite church member." The Pastor-Pharaoh holds the church magician in very high esteem, because they act without question or the slightest hesitation to his every bidding. A lot of time and preparation is put into this persons casting, shaping, making, and molding.

This person has the unique ability of psychological persuasion, and will generally make your life miserable should you as a church member even think to miss a scheduled service. They act as though if you miss a service, then you also missed the rapture. Know anybody like that in your church?

I think that this scripture just about sums it up: Mathew 23:15 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Whether you're new to the church scene, or a seasoned Christian, the church magicians will not tolerate any excuse from anyone, period. If Pastor-Pharaoh didn't know about it before hand, your plea is invalid and the magician is coming for you.

The magician's favorite question is: "Well, what's more important, church or.....?" In their mind, family time has no value, (just look at their family) and to them, you had better get your priorities straight. There's always a dilemma if a church member wants to go out of town

for the weekend. Let's just say, a weekend consist of Friday and Saturday because you're not going to miss Sunday service; end of story, end of life!

Even if a missed service was as dead as a door nail, it would have been promoted as the best service in the history of man, second only to the Sermon on the Mount. "Maaan, you really missed out, God really moved!" Yea right, you probably didn't miss out on a crying thing. Any other time nothing significant is happening in service, but it's not until you didn't attend, that "God moves."

The bible teaches us that during the time of Moses, Pharaoh had two magicians, one named Jannes and the other Jambres. These two magicians were completely obedient unto their pharaoh, even to the point where they were willing to afflict pain and suffering upon themselves just to appease their master.

When Moses introduced the various plagues, the Magicians did everything in their power to duplicate Gods power by means of dark spells. **The plagues were afflicting all of the Egyptians**, so why would they continue to **plague themselves**? You got it, because of him. Now that's dedication, albeit, a bit misguided though. Remember this oh great magician, along with the others, you're also hurting **yourself**!

I've met people with this type of misplaced/misguided dedication, it's sickening. Many have even forsaken their sick loved ones, and just so they could meet the needs of their Pastor-Pharaoh. It's painful to see fellow church member's families torn asunder because they were not allowed ample time to spend with one another. And for the record, going out to invite people to church together is not considered quality family time (frown). Nor is taking your kids to the park so you can watch them play, as you stalk your prey, I mean, stop and pray, for a new church convert that is. "Hey!" I know, how about if you (you being the child's parent) actually spend time with the child, by playing/interacting with them? It's not a sin to interact with your child for reasons other than disciplining them. That's what human beings call "Parenting," go ahead and sound it out, par-en-ting.

A side note: even the magicians had to concede that "Truly this is the finger of God." But something tells me that they didn't have to wait until the end to figure this one out. The magicians knew it from the start, but they decided to follow the orders of Pharaoh instead of conceding a defeat by God.

At the church that I previously attended, they had a saying that was thought up by a pastor, for the pastors; “You will step on the toes of those with whom your closest to” You know, it actually made sense at first, but then I later realized that it too was a disguised cover up for the pastors Pharaoh-like mannerisms towards his, I mean, the members. I began to think, (oh, Pastor-Pharaoh doesn’t like that either because you may catch on to something that you shouldn’t know) I will only step on the toes of those who are facing me. Hint, confrontation! If we walk side by side, then how can I step on your toes? If I have a purpose and you have that same purpose, then we walk agreed. Well, I guess that’s the basis of this book, because I didn’t agree.

I know, I’m a sinner for saying that, I’m a sinner for writing this, I’m a sinner because you said so, and I’m a sinner for saying I’m a sinner. Perhaps I could have also put, “I’m a sinner because I was born a sinner, of a sinner,” no, that would have been too complicated to write. So then, what are they? Those who conspired against us and kicked my wife and I out of their church; what category do they “Fall in?” Exactly, “Fallen!”

Chapter 8

– He thinks he’s God –

“News Flash,” oh, I forgot to tell you, the Pastor-Pharaoh thinks that he is God. Not God of the whole universe, just god of your universe. Although he will never say it, he will display it by his subtle, yet forceful actions. Here’s the proof: #1 He’s never wrong, and he’s never right either. #2 He never admits to defeat: Exodus 14:6-7 ”And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.” So much for a time to mourn, all this preparation for a fight this took place just after his son’s death.

#3 He is never questioned: Exodus 14:9 “But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.” Even after all of the plagues, all of their first born dying, his army still had the gumption to pursue after the Hebrews.

So, I think that we can concluded from this, that the Egyptian people were more afraid of **one** Pharaoh than they were of the **One** true God, and all of the plagues put together. “Ouch!” AMEN (agree) or A-MAN(disagree)?

#4 You do as he says or else (you get earmarked, browbeat, tasked out). Actually, it’s deeper than that, when you do as he says, you die. Exodus 14:28 “And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.”

Not one of them was left to even tell a story to their children about what happened that day. Question, what are you leaving behind for your children?

#5 He’s all seeing and all knowing, (he knows everything about you) but not in the traditional sense that we know. In other words, he really can’t see everything and he really doesn’t know everything, he just wants you to think that he can and does.

All of his people/members are expected to be translucent with everything in their life. Their sex life, family life, financial status, occupation, feelings and emotions (which you shouldn't have to begin with according to Pastor-Pharaoh) must be made known to him. Wow, Pharaoh really did think he was God didn't he? And so do these pastors because of the control that they have over their, I mean, Gods flock.

And why does he need to know everything about you? He doesn't, he just wants to; it's just in case you ever get the notion to flee from Egypt to the promise land. This knowledge about you will help to serve in bringing you back, or should you choose not to return, it will aid in pushing you further away into the dry and thirsty desert. He will use the dirt that he has on you to plant his infertile seeds of doubt into your mind. Twisted scriptures, coupled with all the luggage (bad things) that he has on you, will be used to make it so that you can't leave without making yourself look bad in front of the whole congregation.

He loves to make examples of those who don't follow his prime program for life. "See, look at that, he left the church and now look at him!" Everyone who leaves the church is automatically a "Sinner" and must be shunned to be taught a lesson. Someone please tell me where that's at in the bible? How is this biblical?

1 John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." Um, nice try, but not applicable and highly unlikely unless for the last thirteen years I was a double agent Jehovah Witness posing as a Christian. I for one don't remember anything like that, but I do remember working for the Lord in sincerity.

Most people who I have seen leave the church do end up in total ruin, but now, I understand why. It's not that their not saved, it's just that they have lost their desire to do anything in the church. And after being driven half mad for so many years, simply put, they just went crazy! You know crazy, just like the way you feel half the time!

A pathetic sight that I not only witnessed time and time again, but the same thing happened to me when I left the church. After many years of service with them, I was counted as a dung hill left outside of the city. Shunned as a leper by the very students that I taught in bible seminary, forgotten in prayer, and made an unappreciative outcast. Not a good feeling. I know, I know, "What do feelings have to do with it?" More than you will ever know!

Chapter 9

– Why don't You do it? –

Unfortunately, I have seen some of the worse situations unfold in people's lives right in the church, right before my eyes. Pastor-Pharaoh is one interesting character indeed. He will make you do things that you're inexperienced in, and or unclear on, and when you mess it up, you get put on the spot for it. He will give you a semi-important task to perform, but when you give him the results, he changes everything around the way that he initially wanted it. Too bad he never tells anyone exactly what he wants done; does it always has to be in a parable form? Anything just to look good in front of the people I guess.

Is the mob boss guilty if he paid and sent someone else to do a shooting? After all he didn't pull the trigger, and the hired hand, they didn't really have to go through with the killing. Now, if a pastor preaches that the internet is wrong, sinful, of the devil, then one wouldn't expect him to partake of it. After all, he preaches about it being so wrong, therefore there must be something to it, right?

So what about when he sends a church member to go search for something on the internet for him? Or better yet, what if his wife does the task for him? Is he still guilty of partaking of the internet? Would that be considered a partaker of another's sins? It seems to me that he just told someone to do something that he himself doesn't even believe is righteous. What's worse, is not the fact that the individual has sinned because they did what was religiously and morally wrong to them, but also that they did it just to please a man; a man they call pastor.

Interesting how Pastor-Pharaoh gets away with sending people to do things that he wouldn't get caught doing. "Well, I'm the pastor brother, I have to remain spotless, but you're just a (expandable crew) member that doesn't have quite as much lime light focused on you!"

By the way, the mob boss never does the prison time because he's too smart to get caught. The Pastor-Pharaoh doesn't care whether he gets caught or not, a simple lie and a quick cover up always does the trick. It's real simple, who would have the audacity to walk up to Pharaoh and say, "Your wrong!" and I want an audience in these matters? My point exactly. If you dare make an accusation that he did something wrong, "Your next!"

Let's look at the type of people that the Pharaoh had thrown into jail: One was a baker and the other was a butler. I realize that we are talking about several different Pharaohs here, but they were all the same, just like all Pastor-Pharaohs are the same. Though they may have different preferences on how they rework the church, **The End** results are still the same across the board.

He was so angry at these two servants, that he had them thrown into the prison. Just how bad could their crimes have been to deserve this type of punishment? Was dinner five minutes late, or was Pharaoh's favorite sippy cup given to one of his guest by accident? What happened?

Now of course the Lord had some plans of his own for Joseph, but I'm not talking about that, I'm merely showing you the mentality of Pharaoh. The bible goes on to tell us that he threw a birthday party and made a feast for all his servants. A good time was had by all, except for the baker; which he hang by his neck. Once again we see a servant of Pharaoh honored by death, and I'm sure that someone was eager to quickly fill in the gap for the new "Chief Baker" position. Actually, it was probably more like someone was commanded to fill the slot. This part about the baker is actually ironic because my wife was well known in the church for her baking/cooking skills. Well, looks like I get all of those goodies to myself now, too bad for them.

My replacement was well on the way after we left the church. I'm sure that it was no different for him: The Pastor-Pharaoh assured him of success, great opportunities for spiritual growth, and promotion; all unbeknownst to him of what really was happening.

Now why does this whole story seem like something that I heard before? Oh, now I remember, because something similar happened to me, and it's happening to others also. We got booted out of the church, which we now see as a blessing because "WE'RE OUTA THERE!"

The pastor of the church did something rather odd when we left. Out of the blue, there was a get together at the church. There was no special holiday, they didn't do birthdays, and

needed finances were presently being ~~begged~~ solicited in the form of donations for carpeting at the new church. They had cake, pork chops, corn bread and all kinds of yummy foods. But why?!? We left the church on Thursday afternoon and they threw their little party on Friday evening. So what was Pastor-Pharaoh celebrating? What were they trying to get the people's minds off of? Hmm, gee I wonder.

Chapter 10

– There’s only one Church –

Pastor-Pharaoh says, “No one else on the planet has it as good as you do, because we are the only ones going to heaven brother.” Other churches, well, they’re all but out of the **Will** of God, and clearly not preaching the truth. Well, I beg to differ on that one. I sure haven’t met anyone that has visited every single church on the planted, and that knows about every new church that is about to start. Foolishness I say, foolishness personified to its fullness.

Revelation 7:9 “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” Enough said, I’m pretty sure that all of those people are not coming from just your church disorganization, I mean, organization, Pastor-Pharaoh. People need to stop with their, “I have exclusive rights to heaven” theories, which only help to compound that fact that you don’t have the goods that you’ve been saying you have.

Chapter 11

– Bricks with no Straw –

Exodus 5:17-18 “But he (Pharaoh) said, ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, let us go and do sacrifice to the Lord. Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.” My goodness, Pharaoh was no joke, when he gives you something to do, he really puts you to work. He was like, “You must be bored, stop talking that God nonsense, and get to work.”

Pastor-Pharaoh loves free labor, and about the only thing that he will pay you, is no mind. And why should he? After all, it’s for the work of the Lord, lord Pharaoh that is. Generally, people do things in the work of the Lord because God prompts them to contribute. It’s a little different when someone tells you and volunteers you to do something every single day of your life. I understand that “The Lord hath need of thee,” but if I can’t make it, then that means “I can’t make it,” and there’s no need to make me feel bad because of it. After all, there will be other days to do the exact same thing again, and again, over and over.

The Pastor-Pharaoh has perfected the art of multitasking, multitasking you that is. He always has a barrage of menial, and degrading tasks that he has church member do, just to keep them busy. Because after all, if you’re not busy doing something for the church, then surely you must be wasting your time sinning.

And for the record, the following things are considered “A waste of time” by the Pastor-Pharaoh: Family time, personal time, vacations, thinking, and taking your problems to God; when clearly you had him to talk to. Oh, and who can forget hobbies? Arts and crafts, fishing and gardening are also notable time wasting elements meant only for sinners, rot gut, good for nothing, time wasting sinners. Really? These have got to be the most harmless things to do on the planet.

Hobbies are not good, unless of course, you use the lettuce that you grew from your garden to make Pastor-Pharaoh a salad. Mind you, it's not a waste of time for him to sit and think about foolish time consuming ways in which to task you out. Why? Because he is Pharaoh personified. Honestly, how many times can you rearrange a storage shed in a month? Seriously, who deep cleans their home **every** Friday? Well, I guess I would too if I had all the free labor that I could handle.

Chapter 12

– The fear of Man –

Just to prove how powerful this man really was, look at the hearts of the children of Israel. Exodus 14:10-11 “And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. And they said unto Moses, because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?” Remember, “Fear is bondage!”

Right after a tremendous deliverance by the hand of God, they fell into a trance of total and utter fear. I wonder how many people fear their pastor. How many just “Do things” that their pastor says because of fear of some consequence? As a church member, you shouldn’t have to feel obligated to tell the pastor every detail about everything that transpires in your life. There’s nothing wrong with getting people to pray with and for you about certain things, but if I have a problem, I go to Jesus because He’s the problem solver.

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Yes this is absolutely **biblical** when done **biblically**.

Deciphered, this scripture means: to tell other trustworthy Christians about some weights/issues/sins that are in your heart, so that they can partake of prayer with you on those things. It’s no good if I just know your faults and don’t pray for you because that can easily turn into gossip. It’s even worse when I know your faults and I capitalize on them. Let’s not forget the last part of that scripture, because the bottom line purpose of the confession and the prayer is so that “Ye may be healed.”

WARNING: Be very careful with this one, know your audience for sure before you go exposing yourself before others. If put into the wrong hands, it can easily become a tool of

shame and mockery that will never go away. And commit to your memory, that Pastor-Pharaoh never remembers the things that you did right; but only the wrong.

By the way, reverence and fear are two different things. If you have a pastor who loves you and cares about you, then reverence (respect) him and give him the double honor due his name, and if not, then continue to fear him! Not many choices on that one. Psalm 56:11 “In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.” Are you afraid of what man can do unto you? I personally know of a family who allowed their 14 year old son to be taken from them and put in a church clear across the country. And because they listened to their Pastor-Pharaoh’s reasoning, he’s still there till this day, and yes, he’s still under age, and yes, she’s still heartbroken from the whole ordeal.

If he can’t get you to do something without first tricking you into it, then there’s a problem. And you thought his magicians were good, well who do you think trained them? If he’s trying to divulge some information from you, beware, because he will catch you when your mind is on something else.

He thoroughly enjoys asking confidential questions (that’s questions that he had no business knowing about) right when you walk through the church door; and he expects and answer “Right now.” This way he catches the unsuspecting member off guard, thus, spilling their guts with their private and coveted information.

Chapter 13

–The Spirit of God –

Well, the Holy Ghost actually showed up in one of the services last week, so does that mean God dwells there? No. People can get saved anywhere, even under the worse of conditions. But my question is, will they stay saved, grow and develop if they stay there? God is obligated by His own word to save souls. Jesus told his disciple to go out to the people and work the miracles with the power that he had given to them.

The bible says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13. That can be done anywhere, at anytime, by anyone who is seeking the face of God for salvation. God always has and always will admire true repentance and faith based prayers. If you want God to move, just come hungry, and he will show up.

Exodus 3:7-8 “And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large....” God will help the afflicted!

Not only this, but it definitely depends on the person who is preaching. God will use who, and what that person is. Throughout the years I have heard many evangelistic messages that motivated the spirit of God to move in service. At times, an out of town preacher would state that he didn't bring revival with him in a suitcase. Well, maybe not a suitcase, but he did bring God with him none the less. If that same spirit wasn't there previously, then you know it came in with someone.

For illustration purposes, I will share this story with you: There was one time when my wife and I were sitting in the car out front of a library checking over some things. At that particular time, there was a so called Christian rock group playing music. There were mostly

teens there that day, and they seemed to be enjoying it enough. What they were playing was a worldly song but they tried to mix “Jesus” into it. During the song, we were like, “This crazy music, let’s get out of here!” But something happened at the close of that song that they were playing. When the music stopped, one of the musicians began to have an alter call for anyone who wanted to accept Christ as their Lord and savior.

We were thinking, “Right, an alter call after that?” And then....something, nay, someone began to fill the space in the air, it was the Holy Ghost. The spirit of God grabbed our attention. My wife and I looked at each other, eyes opened wide and in utter disbelief. How could this be? There was no denying that God had just showed up to save some souls. Needless to say, a real lesson about God was learned by the two of us that day. It’s good to learn new things!

God feeds off of His peoples prayers: 1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.” It doesn’t matter what your title, creed or position is, God is for the righteous and still against those who do evil; even if they call themselves righteous.

Mathew 7:22-23 “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Chapter 14

– Buyer Beware –

Before you buy into what a particular church is doing, do yourself a favor and find out what the culture is. I define cultures as: social norms, traditions and customs. Every church has a certain way that they conduct business and it behooves you as a current or potential church member to examine and find out exactly what they are preaching, communicating, teaching, and living. This can be done by both up-close and personal talks, or just watching from a distance.

Another thing you want to do is find out what the conversion rate is. What I mean by this is, survey how many of the people that currently attend the church are actually saved. In saying this, I realize that none of us are God, and that He and He alone knows the very intents of mans hearts. What I'm trying to communicate with this is; are people at least trying to live for God? Or is there a bunch of plastic fakes, pretending to serve God. Again, not being judgmental of everything that moves or speaks, but there should be some kind of spiritual fruit that can be easily observed.

Mathew 7:20 “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” As you attend, just ask the people how long they have been saved and how long they attended the church. A new Christian isn't going to know much about church yet because they are babes in Christ. However, you shouldn't get the sense that even the elder Christians have failed to spiritually develop.

Watch the people, watch the pastor, and see what you're getting yourself involved with. You may be onto something good, or maybe not, either way you owe it to yourself to find out. See how the people intermingle, and observe how the pastor deals with different issues. See if he really is of God or of Beelzebub.

You should feel comfortable with asking the pastor questions about the church vision and doctrinal statements and not expect him to give you a bunch of rubbish indirect answers. This may signify and greatly increase the chances that you may be dealing with the likes of a Pastor-

Pharaoh: A man who will get you progressively involved in his, I mean, in the church, until you become deeply imbedded in their type of “Jesus saves,” theatrics.

Go to the church, socialize, and listen in to see if there are undertone gripes. Most church members will not outright disagree with what’s going on, but they will throw little hints that show their disapproval. And it’s these hints that you must pick up on, because they are showing you their true colors, but they may be afraid to express it lest they be sternly rebuked.

Chapter 15

– Get out Before it's too Late –

Exodus 14: 19-20 “And the angel of the Lord, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.”

These Egyptians were so bent on participating in a great slaughter, that they sat and waited in total darkness, “Again!” (Exodus 10:21-23) And this was all because of their stubborn/hateful hearts.

1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” And if you don't have love....I'm sorry my friend, but you're missing out something beautiful.

Church prayer meetings three times every day! Well how has that benefitted anyone if their heart isn't in it? It benefits Pastor-Pharaoh greatly because he now has you in a tighter grip. Nothing will ever benefit you until you get charity. Not prayer, not bible reading, and not church service after service after service after serv....I think you get the point.

Pet 4:8 “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

Exodus 14:25 “And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians.” “Flee?” “Flee where?” As they say, “The game is over,” and the fight was lost due to utter defeat.

It seems to me that a realization of the Lord's hand being against them was already quite evident and prevalent to say the least. Being under Pastor-Pharaoh really puts you and yours in a bad light. It's not like “The mighty Egyptian army” couldn't figure out that it was a trap. Surely

they knew that the Lord was in it all the way, and would take every opportunity to back His people. You've got to be kidding me, did they really think the dry ground was for them to take their horses across on? Not a chance, not even for Pharaoh. So why then did they run into the midst of a parted sea anyway? Because he said so.

Once again, let me reiterate that he never has your best interest at hand, and that there's always some kind of "Something" going on in the background. People that stay in these kinds of churches under a Pastor-Pharaoh, will end up the exact same way. Being mean, nasty and hateful towards one another will have become a common trait/culture. Meanwhile, love will slowly but surely be pushed out the door. As love gets pushed out, Gods spirit gets pushed out, and when the Lord gets pushed out, people get pushed out; and in the end, "Dead!"

James 1:14-15 "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

The end result of it is "Death," spiritually, mentally and believe it or not, physically. I've personally had members call me for help because they couldn't cope and was having a nervous breakdown, and some even had suicidal thoughts and tendencies.

When God ceases to dwell in the tabernacle, he takes the balm and salve that heals the wounds with him. Are you "Alive" or "Dead" in your church? If you are alive, then great, I'm happy for you, but if not, then it's time for you to get your salvation (back).

Chapter 16

– Stand Still and See the Salvation –

It's your salvation that you need to see. How do you view yourself? Do you see yourself as being saved? Mark 8:36-37 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

When was the last time that you thoroughly examined yourself? Have you actually asked yourself, "Since I've been saved, what have I achieved over the last several months/years of my life?" If you pray, watch, wait and listen, God will begin to show you some things. But once he shows you, then it's up to you to do something about it.

2 Kings 7:3-5 "And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, why sit we here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there."

What would you have done in this situation? What will you do in your situation? Shall we die? Shall we live? The choice really is yours.

Chapter 17

– Conclusion –

A special thanks to Pastor-Pharaoh for blaming, framing and shaming me. Your bullets still ricochet in my body. Rise above hate or one day it will be too late. I want to also thank all those who misunderstood me and never allowed me to flourish throughout the years. “My failure” was also “Your failure.” I do find it in my heart to forgive you, but vengeance is still the Lord’s and He will repay. Your hatred can’t keep me down, I’m glory bound. God bless you all and stay tuned for more writing from me. Lots more! Thanks for reading.

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