

From High-Roller to Holy Roller

Gordon Heuser, D.C.

I was raised in a Christian home in St. Louis, Missouri. We went to church regularly. In fact, my father was a Presbyterian Minister, but God seemed very distant as far as I was concerned. It seemed the church was just like running a business to my Dad. We said prayer at every meal, and every evening my Mother or Father would come in and I'd say, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the

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Lord my soul to take." I went to Sunday School, and so I was exposed to the Christian faith. In fact I went to two church services, Sunday morning and evening, as well as Wednesday night, Christian Endeavor. You name it, if there was something going on in the church, the four Heuser boys were there.

When I was twelve, the Presbyterian church had a catechism class you had to attend. Called the *Westminster Catechism*, it was about 61 questions to which you memorize the answers, like "What is the purpose of man"?. I was in about the seventh grade. When you finished the Catechism, you were accepted into the fellowship of the church. I remember very well coming before the two elders. They were to ask each of us two questions, and you had better know the answers. I didn't really know what it meant, but I knew what it would mean back home if I missed mine. When these questions were finished, I remember very clearly, one elder saying to the other elder, "Well Mr. Moderator, I make a motion we accept this class of Communicants into the membership of Normandy Presbyterian Church and we extend them the right hand of fellowship". I was "SAVED" by a committee vote. I joined the church, and I thought I was a Christian, but I didn't have the Spirit of the Living Christ within me - not at all. Because of that, I was powerless to really deal with what I had to face in life. All my life after that, I studied the Word and went to church regularly. I was very interested in religion. In fact, if getting into heaven depended on passing an examination on Theology, I believe I'd have had top marks. Knowing "about" Jesus Christ is not "knowing" Jesus Christ. I still didn't know Jesus Christ personally.

When I went to college, the scientific curriculum seduced what ideals I did have. I was enamored by science. Science was a religion and a god in itself. I quickly bought into the idea that if you can't taste it, feel it, smell it, hear it or see it, it's not real. The world of materialism got hold of me, but fortunately, the Lord blessed me with a keen mind. He blessed me with good health, and a lot of energy and I became quite successful by the world's standards. I practiced Chiropractic, invested my money wisely in real estate, and many different business ventures. I guess I was a "high roller."

There's only one reason I mention this. Many young people today are enamored with money. That's what life is all about. Today, I want to give you a testimony from someone who's lived on the high-end of the income scale and tell you where it can lead. I had everything the world said you were supposed to have to guarantee happiness. I had it all. Everything except the Spirit of the Living Christ in my heart. Everything except that which was most important. I had everything which money could buy, but I didn't have the most important thing that was free - Salvation by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. The goodies of the world didn't satisfy. I didn't know it then. I didn't know the only One who could satisfy the sense of fulfillment in life and alleviate the sense of emptiness and loneliness, the only One who is enough when nothing else seems like it's enough - Jesus Christ. Without the love of Jesus Christ in my heart, or in your heart, life will always be empty. Many times we seek this sense of fulfillment in life through money, through sex, through a career, or through a marriage partner, but without Jesus Christ even those things will be found wanting.

Then I compounded it all with another serious mistake. I sought answers elsewhere.

What happens when you don't have Jesus Christ in your heart? I'll tell you what happened to me. Sin ruled my life. I got caught up with the world, and I tried finding love in a series of affairs. Now the word "affairs" is a euphemism. I'm sure you've taken English and you know what a euphemism is. That's just a nice little word we use to cover up something else to make it look a little better. An affair is a euphemism which the world uses for fornication and adultery to make it sound better. That's all it is, there's nothing glamorous about it. It's sin pure and simple. Oh, the world makes it sound smart and upbeat. You can turn on any soap opera today and see somebody having an affair, but

it leads to the path of destruction. The emptiness remained because, you see, affairs can never give you what only Jesus Christ can give you. The love and the peace that passes all understanding. Sin ruled in my life without Christ, and I was disgusted with myself. When you do something wrong, you know it and your conscience knows it, and you become disgusted with yourself. Yet I was helpless to do anything about it by my own will power because our will power will never defeat Satan. He'll eat you alive. I didn't yet know I needed to use my will, not to try to defeat the circumstances of my life in Satan, but to use my will to choose Jesus Christ and let Him do the defeating for me. That's what was really important.

I did live good by the world's standards - big houses, cars, first class travel, best clubs, best Scotch whiskey, nice family, community leader and all of my business buddies who were what I called 'look the other way and wink your eye when I had a mistress on my arm'. I'm ashamed of that, and I want to make that clear, but I wanted to tell you because some are enamored by that lifestyle. It is the path to destruction. My guilt and conscience pained me. I knew I was wrong, but my pride kept insisting that I would get it worked out. I could manipulate things. I'd get it worked out. I sought answers everywhere, but from the Lord. I believe I took every course available on psychological coping mechanisms in an effort to rid myself of my guilty "*feeling*" without doing anything about the real guilt in my "life style". You can do that. You can make yourself "*feel*" a little better, but you're just fooling yourself. Conventional methods and psychological help didn't "save me" because I still had that emptiness in my heart.

Then I compounded it all with another serious mistake. I sought answers elsewhere by reading horoscopes and going to people who prepared horoscopes. It started out, oh, so innocently. I thought this was the answer. Pretty soon that led to tea readers. Oh that's just so harmless isn't it? No, it's NOT harmless. I want to tell you it's destructive. It's absolutely destructive. I went to card readers at psychic fairs. It was so much fun to go to a psychic fair and go to the card reader - spiritual counselors introduced to me by a mind control system. Then there were the Ouija boards at a friend's house. All harmless right? Absolutely not! Wrong! I'll tell you why it's wrong, because I realize now how it blocked me from seeking the Divine guidance I really needed. If you doubt what I'm saying, I encourage you to read your scriptures and see what the Word has to say about sorcery and wizardry and those kinds of things. Where did it all lead?

Where did it all lead? I lost my marriage. I alienated my family. Life didn't get any better by all of this psychic advice or these "wonderful" people who knew so much. Not at all. Actually, it became extremely destructive in my life. I awakened in the mornings angry at God. It's easy when you're guilty to try to blame someone else isn't it? I couldn't get rid of that sense of guilt. Angry at God. Blaming Him. Life felt like it was not worth living. Oh yes, suicide went through my mind. I never let it make a nest in my hair though. It was like a bird flying over head, but it went through my mind. I'm ashamed to tell you, but it also showed the mercy and grace of God when one day I sank so low I reached a point where I stood in a field and shook my hand up at God. I was so angry at Him, I said "*If you are real, strike me dead*". I shudder now every time I tell that story. I know God didn't strike me dead because He saved me for a purpose. A well-meaning friend then convinced me I needed to be more spiritual, and I started attending a local **Unity** church. I met some wonderful people who impressed me. It was associated with Christianity, I thought. The people were very loving. I have nothing against the people, but I very quickly learned what their philosophy was. They denied the reality of Satan. They denied the reality of sin. All there is, is good - like light. The absence of light is darkness. The absence of good is evil. Listen, when I denied the reality of sin in my life, sin had me right there. In your life when you

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deny the reality of sin, sin has you. Don't kid yourself in any way at all. By denying the reality of sin, it just tightened the grip it had on my life. Well, one marriage was gone, but I decided I really needed to whip that empty defeated feeling in my life with another marriage. Without Christ in my life and without Christ in

hers we went to Las Vegas to a Marriage Chapel. It looked just like a church. It almost made me feel holy as I look back on it. I see what an empty shell those marriage chapels represent. I knew in my conscience what I was doing was wrong, but I would have a "*counterfeit*" church certify that it wasn't. That marriage lasted eighteen months. Then my life started to change. One day a friend invited me to watch a week-long TV program on the occult given by a man named David Hunt. They talked about horoscopes, about Ouija boards, about tea reading, palm reading and card reading. Dave Hunt read the scriptures explaining what the Lord said about those things and how they are fueled by Satan. I want to tell you that program touched me. It brought me to tears. It convicted me. It made me realize I was on the wrong track. I didn't give my life to the Lord at that time, but I knew now the Holy Spirit was reaching out for me and starting to work on me. A month later my friend said, "*Gordon, are you afraid to die?*" I was 56 years-old then, and I said "No, I don't think I'm afraid to die. Being born is natural; dying is natural; everybody is going to die. I

expect to die. I'm not cheering and saying 'come on death', but I don't think I'm afraid. My friend said, "*You sound a bit defensive to me.*" I said, "*No, I don't think so*", but as I thought about it, I began to realize I had spent a lot of time studying how to make money in this life and how to live, but I didn't spend much time thinking about eternity. It dawned on me eternity was a long, long,

long, time, and it might behoove me to give a little bit of thought beyond what was going on in this life.

Well, I thought about it. A month later I was helping a friend finish trimming the lawn so we could go somewhere. A man from a Baptist church came by to talk to my friend. I stayed away because I really didn't want to get involved. I grabbed the weed trimmer and began running it on the other side of the yard. However, I could see I wasn't going to be able to avoid him. He was insistent he was going to say "*hello*" anyway. When he came over and started talking to me, he really seemed like a pretty decent guy. I asked where he was from, and he said the *Plaza Heights Baptist Church*. That was a Monday night, and I say thank God for Monday night callers, because if it hadn't been for that man, I might never have found Jesus Christ.

I started attending the church and the Spirit really worked in my life. Since I lived alone, one night I went to my bedroom, got down on my knees and I realized it was time to do business with the Lord. I want you to know I shed tears. I confessed to the Lord. He knew it all. Confession is nothing more than telling the Lord what He already knows about you. but He just wants you to know that you know the truth about yourself -you are a sinner - you don't like it - you can't help yourself and you want to do something about it. I got down on my knees and I know that prayer went more than an hour. When I got up, I had a sense of peace. The next morning all my problems were still there. They didn't disappear in some magical way, but I noticed something different three or four days later. I was in a situation when suddenly I realized, without thinking, I had responded differently. I was so surprised that I responded differently. I know now what was happening. The Spirit of the Living Christ had come into my life and He was shaping my desires. I didn't have to make resolutions by my own willpower, saying "*I won't act this way*". He changed my desires. Why? Because I meant business with the Lord. I said, "*Lord, I don't like myself, help me, I cannot help myself. Let me have Your Spirit within me,*" I committed to a regular prayer time and reading the Word. I did business with the Lord many times on my knees after that. The Lord honored that commitment and my life changed.

Later, I went to a Christian seminar in California to do the Lord's business. I really didn't give much thought to women any more. I had prayed and said "*Lord, I can't do anything about my first marriage. The second one I don't want, but if You want it Lord, I'll go back.*" I realize it was not anywhere in your Spirit at all. but I'll do what You want. Lord, if you want me to be single like Paul, I'll be single. "Almost as an afterthought I said, "*Lord, if there is someone else You want in my life, then You 're going to have to bring them into my life, because I am fed up with women.*" Still blaming. Well, I went to the *Naramore Christian Foundation* in California, and I met a very lovely and godly woman who God brought into my life, and she is now my wife.

I had prayed and decided to sell my business interests (*which were rather substantial*) and real estate and commit my life to serving the Lord the remainder of my life. So, I used to be a "*High Roller*" and now I guess I'm a "*Holy Roller*". I don't know where the Lord's going to call me, but I pray each day I will follow Him wherever He calls me, whatever it is. My wife and I have committed everything we own to the Lord. Our home is the Lord's house. If we get a new car we pray, this is the Lord's car. It's in His service. We don't want to do anything to dishonor it in any way. I've had a chance to witness to many of my old friends. We hear much about the "*down and outs*". I call my old friends the "*up and outs*". They're all affluent and they all do well, but I'll tell you this, the human heart has a need for Jesus Christ. At conventions and meetings around the country, several of them have been on their knees with me and my wife, Barbara, in prayer, giving their lives to the Lord.

I remember when I was a young boy about 18, I read an article in the paper about a Presbyterian seminarian who was denying the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. I said to my dad, "*What about this guy who said this?*" He said, "*Son, let me tell you something. It doesn't matter what anyone else says about Jesus Christ or what anyone else believes about Jesus Christ. All that matters is what you believe about Jesus Christ.*"

What about you? What do you really believe about Jesus Christ? Is He just a historical figure? Is He just a spiritual rabbit's foot you're going to try to rub the right way and hope you get something? Or, do you realize He is the living Spirit of God? He's the Christ. He's the Spirit who binds all the brothers and sisters together into the body of Christ. What about you? Is there secret sin in your life as there was in mine? It will defeat you unless you get right with the Lord. Is there duplicity in your life in some way? It will defeat you. Are you out of fellowship with the Lord? Are you unsaved? Does this make you squirm, for me to ask these questions? I hope it does, because if you feel uncomfortable with me asking these questions, there's only one reason. That's because the Holy Spirit is reaching out and His hand is upon you, and Jesus Christ is beckoning to you. Don't ever quench the Holy Spirit. In closing, I would encourage you to give up your pride, to give up your ego and receive Jesus Christ today. It took me a long time to learn, but I found it is the only way