

# THE EPHIPHANY

BY: BRAD CULLEN – JANUARY 17, 2003

## THE EPIPHANY – (whatever the word really means)

I had lunch with a business friend yesterday. Over the past several months I have watched the faith he already had increase tremendously.

During lunch, Larry had what some would describe as an “epiphany”... Two definitions of “epiphany” in a dictionary source on the Internet: 1) A sudden manifestation of the essence or meaning of something. 2) A comprehension or perception of reality by means of a sudden intuitive realization.

He expressed it as, “I knew that... but the way you just said it now, made me realize it in a way I had never quite understood it before.”

Larry has believed for a long time that what we often think of as “miracles” are possible... but over the last several months he has begun to experience some “miracles.” Such experiences tend to increase a person’s faith. I am not talking about religious faith here. Religious faith has a tendency to express itself in believing in the possibility of “God performing a miracle” – such as healing someone of a disease or a painful disorder. The kind of faith I am talking about is an understanding of spiritual principles that create the atmosphere in which such a healing or other manifestation can take place.

About a year ago I began working with the company for which Larry has worked for some twenty years. Early on in the relationship, he was somewhat put off by some of my criticisms of what Christians traditionally refer to as the “church.” Larry’s faith is anchored in a very simple belief system. If Jesus said it... he believes it (period). I began to document that the church, as we know it today, is a severe departure from what Jesus actually said, in the original language, about a variety of things. Larry began to see that some of my criticisms are valid.

He also began to see the reason that the “church” is rarely the place where things that could be termed “miraculous” occur. There are exceptions to be sure... but I’m talking about the norm... and it is a conversation worth having if anyone wants to move beyond believing in the possibility of healing... to an understanding that God’s stance is always, “Of course I want to.” What Jesus taught has very little to do with “church” or religion. In fact as I stated above... much of what is referred to as the “church” is a severe departure from what Jesus actually said in the original language.

Speaking of departure... I have departed from Larry’s epiphany... which is what started this little treatise. Here is the conversational trigger for Larry’s revelation: He had just said, “I guess I had better pray to God for that.” My response was, “That’s not God’s department... and that particular prayer cannot be answered.” I elaborated a bit and Larry saw the truth... the epiphany. You too can have an epiphany – and it’s FREE. What I’ve been freely given, I am also instructed to freely give.

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