

Episode 35. "Mickie's Story."

Tuesday, October 25, 2022. 50 Minutes Long.

The story of "Mickie's" Spiritual search for peace and how she found it. Her trek into the Spirit-filled Christian life included surviving a plane crash in a hurricane, and being attacked by a madman in a grocery store. With tenderness and sincerity, she explains her miracles and her final enlightenment.

John (00:00):

John Shields opens the episode by saying:

John (00:12):

Well, "Hello" to all of our friends out in Podcast Land! It's great to be back with you! This is Episode 35, and this is another episode in our "Tell Your Story" series of the "Saving Christianity" podcast – the podcast for listeners who want to return to the peace, the healing, and the hope that the Early Christians had when Christianity was founded. We're coming to you from Christian Family Online, and bringing you a new episode as often as we can. Until recently, we were publishing an episode every-other-Tuesday. But unfortunately, in recent weeks that's been impossible due to some circumstances beyond our control. So thank you for your patience with us, and we will get a new episode to you as often as possible.

John (01:06):

I'm your host, John Shields. I'm here in the studio with our co-host, Owen Allen, our producer Shannon Wolfe, and a very special guest that I will introduce in just a minute. We have frequent requests for more live interviews with Christians that we know who are trying to live "The Early Christian Lifestyle," and we have another such person today sitting here in our studio. And the title today of this episode is "Mickie's Story." And I want to introduce you today to our dear friend, Mickie. And I think that you are going to be inspired by this episode. In fact, I know you will. So let's bring in our co-host, Owen Allen, and after that, we'll speak with Mickie. Welcome to Episode 35, Owen!

Owen (02:00):

Yeah, John. It's a joy to be back. And frankly, a most sincere welcome to our loyal followers worldwide in all the countries, and across America. It's wonderful to be back again. And you know, John, I continue to be excited about our "Tell Your Story" series – we enjoyed so much "Tom's Story" several weeks ago – of friends that we personally know who are trying to live what we're calling "The Early Christian Lifestyle." And you know, as you said, we've got another "biggie" in the studio today. Her name is Mickie. And Mickie, I also want to welcome you to the podcast.

John (02:41):

Mickie, it's great to have you here with us this morning. Something, Mickie, you may have heard me say over the years is that I've always loved to do – whether it was a friend, or a stranger, or someone seated beside me on an airplane, whatever the case might be. I would say, "Well listen, why don't you take just a minute. I would love to hear *your story*." And people would ... off they would go. So I ... we'd just like to begin this morning just a little bit of – for our listeners – a little bit of the introduction to *your story*, particularly as it relates to your faith journey.

Mickie (03:21):

Thank you, John. I'm really happy to be here and to tell this story. It's interesting how you live a life and realize junctures at which everything starts to change. (Chuckles and agreement.)

Mickie (03:38):

And for me growing up, I had a very strong relationship with my church and my family, (my) entire family. We (laughs) we would drive 30 miles to church every Sunday, twice. Because the youth programs were amazing. And I enjoyed services, and singing in the choir, and all of those things. It wasn't until growing a little bit older and moving away that I realized that I didn't have a relationship with Christ. I knew *stories* about Christ. But I had never experienced anything in particular until it all starts to break down.

Mickie (04:30):

And once that started to happen, my search began, looking in every direction I could (chuckles). But not necessarily always the right one. And I think if I could coach anyone at all, I would say,

"Find the people you belong with. Find the place. It's not about who's delivering the message. It's because God's delivering the message to you directly. You just have to be in a place where you're comfortable, loved, appreciated, and can hear – and learning to hear – what God has to say is just ... has been the miracle. A huge miracle."

John (05:17):

Right. In *your* life.

Mickie (05:19):

Totally!

John (05:19):

So you were raised in a Christian home. But the reality of that in your life, in terms of relationally experiencing the Lord – just the relational peace and all those dynamics – came later in life. Is that correct?

Mickie (05:39):

Yes. As a young adult, it started. And out on my own, working, living, you know, getting married. You know, my family all dispersing in different directions as they grew. I just suddenly was alone wherever I went. And that emptiness is what began, really, the heart of my search. Because (chuckles) I couldn't find a way to feel whole.

Owen (06:10):

Well you know, Mickie, if I can jump in. I almost smiled when you were speaking because you reminded me of that old country song, "Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places." And I think we all did that. I know I certainly did it for many years. And the second thing, Mickie, that you remind me of is ... John talked about growing up in a Christian home, which I think all of us here in the studio did. But you know, there are Christian homes and there are Christian homes. And of course the whole theme of our book, *Saving Christianity* – the basis of this podcast – is that many people live in Christian homes that are *that* in name only. As John was saying, they're not that in *experience*. They're not that in Spiritual power in the home. So you gave me two good thoughts there, as you started out.

John (07:11):

Yeah, Mickie. I was thinking also. We've heard this little line so many times, "You can know all about the Lord and all about Christianity, and not know *Him*." (Laughter.)

Mickie (07:25):

Been there, done that.

John (07:28):

Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Owen (07:30):

Well, how – in fact, just to tighten down the focus a little – how *did* it happen for you, Mickie?

Mickie (07:38):

I think the biggest thing that happened was it was a "Decade Birthday Year," and lots was going on. A Lot going on in my family life. Living apart in a different city, and experiencing a plane crash.

Owen (08:06):

Oh, my!

Mickie (08:07):

I was in a plane crash at LaGuardia Airport [*New York City*].

Owen (08:11):

Oh, my goodness.

John (08:13):

Tell us a little about that.

Owen (08:15):

Yeah! Don't leave us dangling here in the wind!

Mickie (08:17):

Well, I can give you a timeline (chuckles). It was on the ... at the very beginning of Hurricane Hugo [*September, 1989*]. Having, moving up the coast to ... and I was in New York City. It monsoon rained all day. Everyone was drenched. Nothing was on time. Get to the airport where I'm coming home to try to reconcile some things in my family that needed to happen. And ended up my plane not being there.

Mickie (08:59):

So we waited like five hours. And eleven o'clock at night my plane arrives. And we board the plane. And there was a technical problem on takeoff. And I flew a huge amount at that time. And you feel that something's not right. But we lift off, and the engines cut off, and we end up nose down in the East River. And the plane broken in two places. And then where I was we had to of course exit the plane into the water under the runway, while the engines are roaring, still cooling down. And *that* began my enlightenment (chuckles).

John (09:57):

Oh, wow!

Mickie (09:58):

Because there are people that ... you know, you realize you have strengths you didn't know you had. Because someone's helping you deliver services and words and messages. And so for an hour and a half we were in the water in this storm. And it was ... they say when your life flashes before you ... my life was. I was alive, which was thrilling (chuckles), but at the same time I had this whole dissertation delivered to me about what was important in my life.

Owen (10:39):

Hallelujah!

John (10:40):

Wow!

Mickie (10:40):

And *that* was the clarity that I had been looking for. (It was) part of my delay in experiencing Jesus firsthand.

John (10:53):

Right, right. So obviously you lived to tell that, which is most often not the case.

Mickie (11:02):

Right. We were very fortunate. Sadly, the people behind me did not make it. And there were others that were injured. But I was not badly injured. I was traumatized. (Laughter and sounds of agreement.) But nothing else. And because it was in New York City, of course we got lots of the media coverage. And my friends could see me on television. My friends that live locally could see me on television. And one of them actually came and rescued me in the middle of the night. So that began the unfolding of this new life. So ...

Owen (11:53):

You know, Mickie, there's a whole area that pastors study in seminary called "Crisis Theology." And what that says is many, many people don't turn to Him until they're in the middle of a life-and-death disaster. Or you know, some other kind of hard point in life. And it's sad, I guess, that it's that way. That was true in my life. In my case, which we've told on other segments, other episodes. But the first time I was Spirit-filled was in New York in the Waldorf-Astoria. And it completely changed my life. But it happened because of a tragedy that was occurring with my company on Wall Street. So, same city crises, different "crashes," if I may use that term (laughs). You know, that's funny. I'll stop with this, Mickie, because this is *your* story. But I know three very strong Christians, all of whom had that crisis experience in a plane crash. Isn't that an amazing thing?

John (13:05):

It really is.

Owen (13:06):

I had no idea.

John (13:08):

So Mickie, you come through that, come out of that. And how could you *not* be changed?

Mickie (13:17):

Well, you could not be changed (chuckles) if the *trauma* stays in you. And so with the trauma, it's taken years to actually get it to leave my body. Because they say, they say that it lives in your body. And anyway, long story short, it's been a long haul.

John (13:43):

Yeah, yeah.

Mickie (13:43):

And it wasn't until ... and I traveled a great deal with my work. And I moved around to different cities. And it wasn't until I came home to North Carolina that I actually began to feel whole again. And that was a God thing. One hundred percent.

John (14:07):

So you felt a very deliberate, intentional if that, movement towards God after that. Is that right?

Mickie (14:22):

Yes. And I mean I suddenly could hear. And this is a naive memory. But reading ... I would read the Bible constantly through my traumas. And over and over again. And I could see the words. But I couldn't understand them. I couldn't understand the intention. Or the ... or how it fit me. Or what I was supposed to do with it. But I kept reading. And it's just amazing that when it's time to come home ... there are lots of "homes" (chuckles). You have to decide which one really works for you. And you can't do that until you can hear, feel, experience, Christ.

John (15:13):

So your life changed, as your Faith Walk just really began to deepen in your experience with Jesus, and with His Spirit in your life. Is that what ...

Mickie (15:29):

Yes. I meant I had a lot of health issues and those have passed. And it's ... you know, when you suffer – and so many people do – with all kinds of things whether it be psychological or stress related or they manifest themselves physically in your body sometimes. So I was experiencing nerve – the doctor told me at one point – complete nervous exhaustion from dealing with everything (chuckles) I was living with. And by the time I arrived in North Carolina, all the treatment unfolded. Everything was easy. And I found a *home* with my church here. And it has ... it's been a huge blessing. And hearing what God has to say also has been a huge blessing.

Owen (16:40):

You know, Mickie, let me jump in again. You keep giving me these wonderful memories. A friend of mine ... I used to have a friend. He's in heaven now. But he was a retired military officer and a professing Christian. But he tells the story that one day he was so angry that he knelt by his bed and he prayed and he said, "Lord, why did you write a book that nobody can understand?" Because he would ... he had your experience. He would read the Bible and he knew what the words meant and all. But he didn't see any point to it. And then of course, when he got deeper into the Holy Spirit, everything suddenly blossomed. And when I knew him, he was an incredible Christian.

Owen (17:31):

But John and I talk so much about what the apostle Paul writes in First Corinthians [*First Corinthians 2:14*] where he says that the man, or person, *without* the Spirit cannot understand Spiritual things – because they are Spiritually discerned. So my question to you, Mickie, is when did you get deep enough in the Spirit that the Bible started making sense to you?

Mickie (18:03):

Uh, well it happened through Bible studies. And where we dug a lot deeper into text. Being amongst people that I felt comfortable with. And where we listened to each other's stories, and supported each other through the things we were recognizing and learning. And that still goes on today. It's a really critical part of my life. And uh, I ... that's where it all starts to build. I already had experience. I knew *The Voice [of God]* when I heard it. But now I hear it all the time.

John and Owen (18:51):

Glory, glory. Yeah, yeah.

Mickie (18:52):

And that "takes a village."

Owen (18:56):

"It takes a village." (Laughter.) Well you know, let me say, Mickie, that I've known you several years now. And I've been deeply touched and – I don't even know the word – at your

growth. You probably don't know it, but you're almost a different person. When I first met you, you were sort of shy, withdrawn, and quiet. Now you are a *tiger*. (Laughter.)

Owen (19:28):

As I think that one experience – we're going to talk about at some point – proves. But isn't it a wonderful thing for us all to look at one another, and as the months and weeks and years pass, see *growth*. Isn't that because you see it so seldom. But to see it in people, where their actual behavior, their actual sensitivity, the things they do and say, are totally *different* from what they were three or four years earlier. Isn't that beautiful?

John (20:01):

It really is.

Owen (20:02):

I think the term is "Spiritual growth"!

John (20:03):

I think so! (Laughter.)

Mickie (20:06):

Well, coupled with being born-again. Being baptized [*in water*]. That was ... poof! ... an indescribable, unbelievable moment.

Owen (20:20):

Wow. You want to tell us more?

Mickie (20:23):

(Chuckles.) Well, it was just time, you know. And it was ... John had asked if anyone was interested. Because there ... well, there were people in our congregation that we wanted to join in the same experience. But everything changed in that moment. Just ... I don't have words, actually.

Owen (20:49):

Not surprising!

Mickie (20:51):

You come out of the water completely restored.

John (20:56):

Wow. So that really was a benchmark in your Spiritual ... in your Spiritual walk.

Mickie (21:04):

My whole life, yeah.

John (21:05):

Everything. Well, I love that. And as you're saying that, I'm picturing what it says in the Gospels, when Jesus was baptized (*in water*) in John's. They said, "Well, we see the Holy Spirit descending like a dove." And when He came up out of the water. Isn't that a beautiful ... that sounds very much like what happened to you!

Mickie (21:29):

Oh, yeah. (Laughter.) Uh, that ... so from that day you know we ... living sort of as a community and relying on one another, and openly discussing what the teachings are that we need to focus on, being part of the healing journey. Because in one of the Bible studies we were working on healing. And the results of that, for everyone that's participated, has been tremendous. But that we all are just lifted. You can see the room change. Every time that happens. And everyone in the room is affected by whatever's going on. That's experiencing Christ in the way I think, to some degree, the way the Early Christians did. And to have these small groups to share the messages and ... uh ... is a tremendous benefit.

John (22:37):

I love hearing you say that. You know, so often we talk about "community," and we talk about "shared lives." But there's not a lot of it going on. And which you're a living testimony here of how important that has been in your Faith Journey, in your Faith Walk.

Mickie (23:01):

Absolutely.

Owen (23:03):

You know, Mickie, we're tremendous believers in *small groups*. We write extensively about that in our book, *Saving Christianity*. And of course I think all of us here in the studio are members of active small groups. In fact, I was with my group last night. And saw some beautiful things happen. So you're absolutely correct. Though, just to say it here on the podcast: In the first three centuries of Christian history, the Early Christians met only *solely* in small groups. And that was where the spiritual – I call it the "Spiritual generator" – that's where the *Spirituality* was generated. It was in those small groups in those first three centuries.

Owen (23:53):

And then we won't go into it here, but it's all in the book. In the Fourth Century, the Roman emperors put a stop to that. They *outlawed* small groups. They built the first "church buildings." They designed the first large-group "church services." And frankly, Christianity's never been the same. But what we believe here in the studio is: We're trying to claw, and fight, and drag our way back to that original structure ... I call it Organizational Structure ... that the first Christians had, and was the "secret," if you want to call it that, of their Spiritual power.

John (24:33):

Yeah and Mickie, we see that in our own ... we are called ... we call ourselves a "Christian Community." And that's on purpose. That the things that I ... and it just grieves me. It grieves us, I'm sure. I see so many people who have never experienced it – what we're talking about here today. And we want them to experience, you know, to have that fix. The Scripture says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." [*Psalm 34:8*]

Owen (25:13):

Is *good*!

John (25:13):

And we know for whatever reason people shy away from it. They feel like they're going to be embarrassed, or whatever the case might be. They're not biblical. They feel like they're not biblically competent, or something like that. But if you could just push through all of that. And *you* are a testimony of inserting yourself in that. The benefits, and the growth, and the blessings are incredible.

Owen (25:47):

Well you know, John. Too Mickie, I think a part of your story that's an underpinning there is that – you mentioned it – is that incredible *peace*. You know when you think no matter what *happens* to you. And a lot happens to you!

John (26:05):

Yeah, it does.

Owen (26:07):

Life ain't fair, and life ain't easy, here on this planet. And so whether it's sickness, it's operations, it's financial distress. Whatever it is. It's a strange thing to have total, complete, *peace* during it. And so many people don't have that.

Mickie (26:28):

It changes your life in untold ways. Because you're not struggling anymore. You know, if you put your faith in God's hands, He *delivers*. (Laughter.) And you know ... it's not what ... may not be what you're expecting. It may. But it may be a whole lot better.

John (26:51):

Mickie, I was thinking. You have mentioned how close you have been to your family. So when all of this was taking place and your Spiritual growth begins to really take off. Your family had to kind of see you differently, the way your behavior, the *peace* you were exhibiting, etc. Is that correct?

Mickie (27:19):

(Laughs.) Yeah, it was interesting. I was ... my sister brought it up a couple of weeks ago. How my walk in faith has really changed so much about me. And she's one who would voice her dissatisfaction with my journey, my search, when I was early on in the search. You're "looking in all the wrong places," to go back to your song. And it's, you know, it's been good for me overall just to ... all of our relationships are very strong. I'm blessed that way. My siblings are all living and we all, you know, experienced the same things growing up. (Chuckles.) So we have a lot in common and ... except where we went after our family moved and we moved away from our first church. And then everyone went in different directions. So fortunately, everyone's landed pretty much where they need to be.

John (28:35):

Right, yeah. That's great, that's great. So they've seen just Christ in you in a whole new way, though?

Mickie (28:45):

Yeah, yeah. Definitely.

John (28:48):

So, Mickie. You had something happen a few weeks ago I think that our listeners would be very interested in. When you were doing a part-time job that you have. Is that correct?

Mickie (29:06):

Uh, this is just a testimony to, "You're not in charge!" (Laughs.)

John (29:17):

Yeah, that's right.

Mickie (29:18):

And you know, in this situation I had no *fear*. I had...

Owen (29:25):

There you have it!

Mickie (29:25):

... curiosity. But I had no fear. I was in a really nice grocery store, and helping them with presenting new products. And all of a sudden, an *uproar* happens on the far side of the store. But it's so loud. And this man is screaming in profanities I didn't even know existed. And he had a physical, real encounter, with one of the employees. You know, trying to *fight*. And I watched everybody move away on my side of the store. There, everyone was basically just moving out of the way.

Mickie (30:17):

Well, I'm in this position that I do part-time. I can't leave my station. And all of a sudden, I hear the voice moving across the store and coming closer and closer to where I am. And there's literally no one around me now. And as he's coming up towards me. I see him. And he is a huge man and had fire in his eyes. And as he's coming towards me. He's like, "What are you doing?!?" (Chuckles.)

Mickie (31:02):

And I said, "I'm serving tea. Would you like some?" (Laughter.)

Mickie (31:11):

And he said, "Yes. Yes, is it good?"

Mickie (31:15):

"Yes." I handed him the tea.

Mickie (31:18):

And he said, "You know, I don't understand what, you know, they think I've done!"

Mickie (31:25):

This and that. And he's yelling at me. And I said ... put my hand up and said .. "I'm not in charge here."

Mickie (31:35):

And he said, "Well, I need to talk to somebody about it."

Mickie (31:43):

And I said, "Well, God's here." (Chuckles and agreement.) And he ... it totally unnerved him. He was stunned. And I said, "Why don't I give you some more tea. And you can go outside and sit down and talk to Him about it. He's here for you right now." And those are His [*God's*] words, not mine.

Mickie (32:11):

And he did that. He went outside. He sat down. He was talking. I don't know his outcome. But when the people started to reappear, they were like, *I can't believe you spoke to him! Because he was ... you know, looks can be deceiving!*

Mickie (32:33):

(He was) certainly someone who's struggling in his life. And probably doesn't have a family, from his actions. And it seemed that way. But, yeah. God completely took charge of me. And offering the tea, putting me in that position. All of that was all *God*. And it was ... and peace ... I was *peaceful*, completely *peaceful*, through the whole thing.

Owen (33:05):

(Inaudible.) Mickie, I ...

John (33:06):

I love that!

Owen (33:07):

... it seems like I heard you mention some of this several weeks ago. Didn't the man have a weapon?

Mickie (33:14):

Um, in his pocket. Yes.

Owen (33:16):

Okay.

Mickie (33:17):

And he threatened with it earlier. In this ... this was all you know as with anything horrific like this, it happens in a really compressed cycle of time. And he ... it was one way he was trying to reach for some power or some control in his life. I see it that way anyway. And you know, hopefully God gave him peace.

John (33:50):

And, but in that moment, that you had presence of mind and a leading of God to say – of all the things that you could have said at that moment ...

Owen (34:02):

"Have some tea." (Laughing.)

John (34:02):

... Right! And then say, "You can," well, you know: "God is listening, you can actually talk to Him."

Mickie (34:11):

God was saying those words through me.

John (34:13):

Yeah, yeah!

Mickie (34:13):

And He ... (chuckles) ... so I don't know if I could have remained that composed without God there. I mean, it would've been a ... I would have been fearful. And I was not – was *not* – fearful. So ...

Owen (34:33):

And you know, Mickie. I hate to say it, but for the rest of us here in the studio (chuckles), if we could put ourselves in that position. We're standing in the middle of a grocery store, and for some reason we can't move away. And then a screaming, cursing person comes running at us. (Chuckles.) It makes you think, you know. What would we have done? And I choose to believe if we were filled with the Spirit as much as you were at that moment ...

John (35:04):

At that moment, yeah.

Owen (35:06):

... we would've done the very same thing.

John (35:08):

Because there is no way in the natural realm. And because everything that you saw happening is indicative: *Everybody's running away*. Right? Which is a natural response. And you're offering this kind of madman tea and a conversation with God!

Owen (35:33):

I love it. I love it. We need her in Hollywood, instead of the studio!

John (35:39):

(Laughter and sounds of agreement.) But that is such a story that just – I can't even think of the word – of just showing who God is and how He works in our life. And this is the *supernatural*. Just that we're talking about a *supernaturally* right moment. Exactly, yeah.

Owen (36:06):

You know, Mickie. One of the things that we've found doing these episodes, and then just in our everyday lives: *Any* Christian, and this I hope our listeners will think about, *any* Christian who's doing what the apostle Paul called "Walking in the Spirit" – and that means of course living a daily life being at least partially Spirit-filled, giving your life to God at that moment – has what we call, what Paul called, the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, all the rest of them. There are about 20 of them [*the Fruit of the Spirit*].

Owen (36:48):

(He or she) has all of those things. And a person who's *not* Walking in the Spirit, even if they're professing Christians, *doesn't* have all those things. So I believe through the power of the Spirit, any of us in this studio could have confronted that man the same way. But the point of the story is that *you* did. And you probably changed that man's life forever.

Mickie (37:19):

That would be a blessing for him, for sure. And for all those he comes in contact with. So I think it's ... one of the things is – it's enhanced in my life – is talking to people. Because I am in stores a lot, I'm doing my work. And you can just look at someone and know they have to say something that they want to say. Or they need to say. And they don't have anyone to talk to. And I'm not talking about just the lonely. I'm talking about concerns that are *high*. That are bigger than me.

Mickie (38:03):

And I've found that – not as dramatic as that situation – but I've found that I've been able to help ease the tension within a person just by listening. And you know ... (sounds of agreement) ... if they want to talk about the *hamburger* (laughs), talk about the *hamburger*! Just be there and listen. But I do have something else that happened to me this year that was a complete miracle. And I was ... so if I could tell you about that?

John (38:42):

Sure, certainly!

Owen (38:44):

Listen, we'll stay here until 4:00 pm!

Mickie (38:48):

(Laughs.) So once God's there, you see and feel and experience everything. It's such dramatic things as this happen. So I was coming home from a beach trip. And it was dark. And I was ... I had chosen that day and time to come home so I would not be in a rainstorm that was supposed to happen. And as I exit the road I'm on and I come up onto a bridge that's over a ... it's a multi- ... it was like five lanes across in each direction. And I'm sort of sandwiched in the right side of it. And I've had light sensitivity issues this year in my eyes, so all these car lights are coming at me. And it's pouring rain. You can't see.

Mickie (39:57):

So I'm just completely in prayer. "Help," you know. "Help me through this situation." And what was happening is ... it was such a ... it created a confusing situation with traffic because people were trying to move from lane to lane. There's nowhere to go. And I can't move. I'm locked in. I'm closed in on three sides. And I'm praying, you know. And I was ... my ... I do sometimes suffer from anxiety. And this was building. So I didn't want to go that far!

John (40:39):

Right, right.

Mickie (40:39):

Anyway, I'm gripping the steering wheel. Literally, cannot do anything from my own anxiety perspective. And the next thing I know, *my car moves to the lane next to me*. And I did nothing to make that happen. Just the car. (Laughter.) Literally, it was a *lateral* move. It was not – it was *not* – a turn-your-wheels move.

John (41:07):

Right, right, right.

Mickie (41:07):

The car picked up and moved, and got me out of that tight spot.

Owen (41:12):

Now see here, Mickie. (Laughter and sounds of agreement.) I've heard of these new cars that *park* themselves. But, you have to give them the commands. I think that was an *angelic* movement.

Mickie (41:27):

Well, somebody sent that angel to do that. And I wouldn't have believed it if it hadn't happened to me. And I mean ... so, more and more in my life, things like that. Maybe not that dramatic. But there are *miracles* every single day.

Owen (41:49):

That's right. That's true.

Mickie (41:51):

You know, the choices we make. If we are talking to God about our needs, and He knows it's just a matter of relaxing and trusting. And you can move through the storm. You can move around a vehicle (chuckles). You can be protected. And that gives you peace and joy.

Owen (42:16):

You know, Mickie. That's the best thing that we've heard. Something that I talk about – we call it "The Early Christian Lifestyle" in the book – is really a lifestyle of daily and weekly *miracles*.

Mickie (42:33):

Right!

Owen (42:33):

Supernatural things that could not have happened in your natural humanity. And every time I say something to people, and talk about daily and weekly miracles, their eyes glaze over, you know. But for those of us who are trying to Walk in the Spirit, that is totally true.

Owen (42:54):

I mean, sometimes I sit and think to myself: My goodness, look at all the things that have happened this week that are actually impossible but – to myself and my wife Joanna in our home,

and our car, and all our relationships – that are going on. And it's a totally a miraculous walk that I believe *every* Christian in the world should be experiencing. But so few of us *are*.

John (43:29):

And how ... and the difference that would make.

Owen (43:33):

Yes, can you imagine.

John (43:35):

If that were actually happening. You know, Owen, Mickie, I read an author who's in heaven now. A renowned author and professor at USC. [*University of Southern California*] His name is Dallas Willard. And this week I've been reading a book that those who knew him best wrote about him and his influence on their life. And there's a common denominator that relates to what we're talking about today. The impression that he made on these people: Everybody that writes about him was that he actually believed that God was *with* him all the time. And was involved in his life. And he lived as if that were true.

John (44:32):

And to these friends and colleagues that was somewhat shocking to them. That he ... they say he was the most *content* man that they ever met because that's how he lived his life. That he just lived with this sense that God was *with* him. And that God did miracles. And God did do things like move your car from one lane to the other (laughter) and those types of things. And I just see that in our conversation today. What we're trying to talk about is just living in that mindset, that understanding, that awareness, that the God of the universe is involved intimately in our life.

Owen (45:26):

Well, and you know, John. We've mentioned it a couple of times. I've been thinking about it a lot this week. Where the apostle Paul made that wonderful, wonderful comment about "Walking in," or "Walking by," the *Spirit*. [*Galatians 5:16*] And that word "walking" of course in the New Testament is a Greek word. But it can also be translated "behaving." Or "living." Or "existing" in the *Spirit*. So stop and think about that. Instead of living and walking in our humanity, which Christians *can* do, and *do* do, if that's good grammar.

Owen (46:04):

But by the same token, we believe that Christians should be learning how to Walk in the Spirit and not in the Flesh. And that's a wonderful thing. And lastly, I would say we talk about – you were talking about this, Mickie – about being in a *small group* and how it helps you. The reason that occurs, I believe, is something I call the "Amplification Effect." Psychologists and others call it the "Aura Effect." And it's a thing you can measure and study. And what happens

when *like-minded* people – which is something we talk about a lot – get in the same room and are in the Spirit: There's an *amplification effect* in power. And it changes lives. And it's one of the things that all of us Christians need and all of us Christians should be doing.

John (47:04):

Isn't it interesting when Jesus said, "When two or three get together in My name, there I am in the midst (of them)." [Matthew 18:19] So he could have ... suppose He would've said, "When you are alone in a room." Right? But He *didn't* say that. Now obviously, He *is* on some level. But He said, "When two or three are together." Right. Like-minded. Then or there, I am with you in that. And Owen taught me this little phrase. I don't know if it's original with him or not. Many ... twenty-some years ago. He said, "If you want to find out whether all crows are black, if they ..." Just say it for me. "... you find that there's one white one?"

Owen (47:54):

Yeah, yeah. "*All you need to prove that all crows aren't black is to find one white crow.*"

John (47:59):

Right! So when we're talking about Christianity and the Early Christian lifestyle, we're interviewing different people ...

Owen (48:08):

For white crows.

John (48:08):

... you're white. We're finding a lot of "white crows." Right. We're finding that what we're talking about has ... It's real. It's applicable. It's happening in people's lives. And it's ... uh ... it's just incredible.

Owen (48:24):

It's always awesome ...

John (48:25):

It is!

Owen (48:26):

... to use a worn-out word.

John (48:28):

Yeah, yeah!

Owen (48:28):

Well you know, John. The way I feel about it, I think we should have five sessions with Mickie. (Laughter.)

John (48:35):

Yeah, absolutely.

Owen (48:35):

But unhappily, I see from the big clock on the wall that our time is actually up for this episode.

John (48:44):

Yeah, Owen. I see it too. And we hate to have to close. But we do. This is Episode 35. And just a reminder, there is a *script* and a *recording* of it on our website at: www.goSCpod.com. It's important to review the recordings and transcripts of these episodes, especially the ones for this episode. We encourage you to do that.

Owen (49:11):

Especially this one (chuckles). I'm encouraged and inspired myself, Mickie. John, this has been for me a moving show. And I know that we're all praying that – and let's call it the "Mickie Story" – that she has shared here, will inspire, encourage, and uplift all of our friends worldwide. You'll be happy to know, Mickie, that several thousand people worldwide are going to hear your experience. And frankly, I just want to thank you for coming. And seriously, we hope you will come back for another session sometime soon.

Owen (49:51):

But until then, this is Owen Allen ...

John (49:55):

... and John Shields, along with Shannon Wolfe, our producer ...

Owen (49:59):

... and all of us are praying together with Mickie: May the God of our fathers bless you, and keep you, and guide you, and protect you, until we meet again.

Owen and John (50:13):

Owen and John end the episode.