

digital spirituality

The Search for Spirituality Amidst the Artificial Realities of Global Materialism

Acknowledgments

I am a poet who works at writing. In my life, I studied and worked in many different areas of teaching academia, investments, advertising and information technology. Partly this broad variety was due to interest, mostly due to necessity. In this book, I have borrowed from many sources coming out of my life experiences that I cannot remember with a specific association of credit due. My objective here is to acknowledge that I have learned from many teachers and have no desire for anyone to think that everything in the book flows from my original thinking. I do take sole credit for the particular synthesis and presentation of the written expression of the concepts found in these pages. The readers will be the judges of its usefulness and unique contributions to the open ontological discussion group of public knowledge.

I wish to apologize to professionals in science and industry if my big picture approach to understanding how everything fits together neglects, misstates, oversimplifies or otherwise important facts, corollaries and details of how a discipline truly operates in its own research and explanation of reality. I have taken an intuitive approach to these matters based on my experience and education. With the exception mentioned below, I have just written what comes to mind about these questions and issues without engaging in any directed research.

In general, I wish to thank all of those who have contributed to my education. Besides a Bachelors Degree in Theology from Ambassador College, Pasadena, CA, I earned an MA in the Archaeology of the Land of Israel from The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel and an MBA focused on International Management from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. I also completed two graduate courses on the Ancient Near East at UCLA towards Ph.D. I am a licensed Evangelist with the International Ministerial Fellowship. None of these organizations has endorsed my writings.

From my youngest days, I had experienced uninvited and unintentional ESP. During my teens, I oscillated between career paths in astrophysics and parapsychology. In the 60s, I read a great deal about Extra Sensory Perception (ESP) including books about unsolved mysteries. Taking that information, I embarked on some years of personal experimentation in these borderline areas of human consciousness with some tangible success, as far as I could determine, in the conscious choice to force anomalous events. I purposefully do go into detail here on how I did what I did because I do not want others to try to duplicate my own methodology.

For example, I became quite adept at controlling dice. I could "call" a specific number better than two thirds of the time, as I recall. On several occasions, I rolled an unbroken string of 7s over 20 times successively, only stopping by choice and not by failed roll. However, I would not want anyone to experience the severe intensity of emotional stress that I imposed upon myself to attain those successfully predetermined outcome dice rolls.

I had a variety of other experiences with the "other side" that I draw on in these pages. Not all of them were pleasant, and some were very dangerous. By God's grace, I did not succumb to the great temptations of power, but I did have some years of struggle to get my life back within spiritually safe parameters. The cautions regarding the spirit world and what to avoid about ESP that I have included in these pages were learned personally the hard way. Please take the principles presented seriously, although you may find a slightly different way to apply my lessons in your own life because persons and contexts vary.

Recently, I updated my exposure to the field of parapsychology after about a 40-year hiatus by reading **Extraordinary Knowing**: science, skepticism, and the inexplicable powers of the human mind, by Elizabeth Lloyd Mayer (New York: Bantam Books, 2007). I wish to acknowledge that I have borrowed terminology and some broad concepts from this book in order to improve the chances for successful communication. I recommend its reading to those unfamiliar with the issues, documented data and history of parapsychological research.

Christopher J. Patton, President

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Faith in the Future Foundation

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Faith in the Future Foundation is a private charitable, educational and religious organization dedicated to the evangelism of nonbelievers. The foundation also seeks to encourage and expand the horizons of those who already accept the Bible as God's Word and revelation of His mercifully loving and righteous plan for humanity. It is a railroad train dedicated to delivering the oracles of God to any and all who would receive them for as long as God gives us the means and ability to do so. This is the vision shared by its original directors.

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understanding of the biblical texts are founded on some basic assumptions that are either only discernable spiritually at this time or may turn out to be incomplete.

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You may contact us by mail at:

Faith in the Future Foundation

PO Box 6384

Minneapolis, MN 55406

Online at:

<http://www.faithfuturefoundation.org>