



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The Alpha Course: Satan's latest device to deceive believers, Part 2.



Continuing on from last month's issue, we wish to set before our readers some evidence of the falseness of the religion promoted by the Alpha Course, by showing you some of the testimonies set forth as evidence of conversions under this deceitful course of instruction. Before we come to that, I wish to reproduce some comments by Rev. Paul Fitton of Dungannon Free Presbyterian Church, in a sermon entitled: "False Fire."

'A faulty message will invariably lead to a false profession. Notice that those referred to in Matthew 7 had the right expressions, (verse 22) "Lord, Lord." They were earnest for they said, "Lord, Lord." They endeavoured to serve the Lord (verse 22) "... Have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Yet they were not known of Christ for He says to them (verse 23) "I never knew thee." Why did Christ not know them? Why when they appeared to say the right things and do the right things did He say to them, "I never knew thee?" He didn't know them because they didn't come His way. They heard a message that was faulty and entered Another gate and walked an Alternative road which was more Appealing to them than the gate and road that Christ proclaimed. Consequently they had a false profession. They sincerely believed that they knew the Lord but they were wrong. I fear that many participants in the Alpha Course are actually entering in at the wrong gate. They are being pointed through the wide gate and on to the broad road of false profession by the faulty teaching of this course.

Look carefully at the majority of testimonies that are given and they will bear witness to everything that we have said.

Alpha News July/October 1998, page 4.

Eric Page -- "On the Holy Spirit Day I prayed a prayer to accept Jesus as my Saviour. It was so easy to say and I was powerfully touched by the Spirit."

Alpha News Nov 1997/February 1998, page 6 . Douglas Cunningham -- "As the course went on, I had a sense that this was the truth. It was a gradual thing from hearing others speak and doing my own reading. I began to go to church and to sing the worship songs. By this time I knew I was well on my way to becoming a Christian - I just needed a final act of confirmation - something that I could feel in the physical sense - and I went along to the Holy Spirit Day mainly out of curiosity. When I received the Spirit, I just wept and then I felt so peaceful."

Alpha News March/June 1998 page 3.

Ravi -- "The Holy Spirit Day was marvellous. I knew I'd met Jesus."

Alpha News March/June 1998 page 8.

Keith Prestige -- "They laid hands on me and I knew release you know. Then that next day, when they prayed to bring the Holy Spirit upon you and stuff, I have to say that I knew that kind of unconditional love that you so rarely see from God. It was like being in a



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

really good fight and then getting blacked out. It was good! But, uh...it was cool."

Alpha News March/June 1998, page 8.

Mark Walker -- "On the Holy Spirit Weekend, late in the evening, I lay in the back of my pick up truck and asked God to stir me and fill me full of the Holy Spirit. Late in the night, I was awakened by God and I felt as if He opened my heart and poured all the stars of the universe in me. I didn't know you could laugh and cry at the same time - it was the most powerful thing that I've ever felt. I've done every kind of drug that you can imagine and the feeling that I felt that night was the feeling that I've been looking for." (Mark and his brother attended Christmas Midnight Mass.)

Alpha News July/October 1997, page 9 . Alex Livingstone -- "I still needed some physical evidence of the existence of God. Part of the course was the Holy Spirit Weekend at a camp, which I wasn't looking forward to. I went and maintained a stone wall approach until the second day -suddenly a feeling of joy came over me and I began to laugh uncontrollably. At that point I knew that I had become a Christian." broad road

There is no mention of repentance, just a relationship with God, or an account of saying a little prayer, or what happened at

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the Come Holy Spirit weekend. This is not entering in at the strait gate; it is entering in at the broad gate. It is entering in at the gate that is appealing to the flesh but not the way to life. They have entered the wrong gate and they are on the broad road and it leads to destruction.

Former British Cabinet Minister, jailed for perjury, did Alpha

Former British Cabinet Minister JONATHAN AITKEN wrote recently of his experiences doing the Alpha course in his book *Pride and Perjury*.

"Happy-clappy evangelicals in the congregation listening to Bible-bashing fundamentalists in the pulpit ... easy-believism and instant salvation ... bringing down the Holy Spirit by turning up the volume of the electric guitars ... I had read all about Holy Trinity, Brompton, in magazine articles, which portrayed it as a charismatic circus for the Hooray Henry brigade from SW7, who allegedly swooned in the aisles, confessed their sins in public, put 3 million a year from their City bonuses into the collection plate, and saved the souls of celebrities." "So how on earth did I find myself walking into a crowded Holy Trinity Brompton one Wednesday evening in September 1997 to enrol for the first night of the autumn Alpha course?" "The electric guitar playing was good once you got used to it. As I listened to the sermon, or 'talk', from Nicky Gumbel, the energetic priest in charge of Alpha, I was struck by his sensible, mainstream theology and by his powerful presentation of the Gospel message. 'Everyone can have a second chance through Christ,' was a phrase that I remember from that evening. I needed one myself. So I condescendingly gave Alpha a second chance, then a third, then a fourth, and ended up completing all 15 sessions. About three weeks into the course there was a certain amount of chatter about 'the Holy Spirit weekend'. Apparently it was being suggested that we should set off in groups for two nights at a



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

seaside hotel where someone would call down the Holy Spirit into our hearts. Never had I heard such codswallop! This part of evangelical Christianity was certainly not for me. . . . "The early part of the weekend passed peacefully and agreeably. The talks were good and the walks in the South Downs were even better. The keynote talk on the Holy Spirit was given by the leader of our group, Bruce Streather, the founder and senior partner of the solicitors Streather & Co.

His talk was as far removed from Bible-thumping or hot-gospelling as the Chatsworth Hotel is from Claridges. When he brought his preaching of Scripture to the climax of an appeal to the Almighty with the words, 'Come Holy Spirit, come,' his tones sounded so monotonous that he might as well have been reading out the small print of some dry-as-dust contract in a commercial court. "So I listened respectfully to his mumblings and obeyed his instruction to stand with hands out-stretched at waist height, palms upwards, praying that the Holy Spirit would come. Nothing happened. After two or three minutes of standing awkwardly in this posture, the young tax barrister in our group, Tom Adam, came over to me, put his hands on my shoulder and whispered into my ear that he was praying especially hard that the Holy Spirit would descend on me.

I cannot now remember exactly what Tom said, but the gist of it was that he knew I needed help, that he and others were grateful that I had contributed to the course from my heart, and that he knew the Lord would now send the Holy Spirit to me. At this point my palms suddenly began to tingle with a strange physical sensation which strengthened until my hands and wrists became hot and uncomfortable, as though they were being charged with an electric current. Then I began to cry. . . . To my surprise I felt amazingly warm and good about those tears. The more they flowed, the more I recognised that they were tears of happiness. I smiled, beamed and physically shook with silent laughter. Something extraordinary and uncontrollable was going on inside me. . . . Shedding all inhibitions, I hugged both of them with passionate gratitude and joy. . . . After about another 10 minutes of high emotion I calmed down, cooled down and reverted to normal.

In all the circumstances there was overwhelming evidence (with two lawyers as my chief witnesses!) that I had received a genuine manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit."