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From: Dwain Evans

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THE CHURCH

IN WEST ISLIP

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May 31, 1966

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Broad Street Church of Christ
P. O. Box 574
Cookeville, Tenn.

Dear John Allen:

I really wanted to talk to you Thursday night but apparently you had a plane to catch. Familiar story, huh? I was interested in what you had to say in your lecture. I got the impression that maybe you were avoiding the issue. You listed as your first point as to why the church has failed to evangelize an absence of a thorough going experience with God. I am sure that you and I can speak very frankly with each other. There is no need for me to put on all the salad dressing. I think you are in a position to be used by God like no other man in the kingdom today. Although you said some very good things and some things that needed to be said about our experience with God, I still got the impression that you were not willing to say all that you believed about it.

I realize that you are in much better touch with our fellowship than I am. At the same time I feel that this is no time to sound the signal for retreat. Many of our brethren have been intimidated in city after city because of the uproar over the Holy Spirit. I really believe that this is the tragedy of our time. They're refusing to speak not because of a lack of conviction but because the guns of the hidden hierarchy have been pointed squarely at them.

You and I have talked about this before and we discussed it as one of the dangers you would confront in the position you have assumed. I love you and am greatly concerned about your ministry. At the same time, I firmly believe that so long as we spell out our failure in terms of strictly a lack of personal response or personal effort that we are

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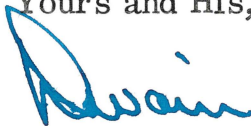
going to miss the mark miserably. Until we can see that our total sufficiency is in God -- is in His Spirit dwelling in us, providing us with the power which is above all we can ask or think -- until then, we have no hope whatsoever for evangelization.

Brother Harper called me and wants to meet with me in Nashville with the Highland elders paying expenses. I'm going to meet with him but I don't think it will be in Nashville. I'm not afraid to meet with Brother Harper but I do want witnesses to be present when I meet with him. I think this is essential so that things can be clearly understood. At the present time I don't see any hope whatsoever in my satisfying Brother Harper. I think he looks upon this as a kind of a "last ditch" effort to save me from total apostasy. I think the most ideal situation would be for me to meet with Brother Harper in the presence of the Highland elders and this is the meeting I am going to suggest. Otherwise, the elders here have suggested that Brother Harper come here and meet with our elders and myself.

John, I think you know that a great number of our brethren are waiting for the right kind of leadership. I think we have to recognize honestly and candidly that we have not had it in the past. This is not to take away the great good that has been done by many of our brethren. It does mean that we are on the verge of great things, provided men with boldness will assume this leadership. I am praying for you continually that you will manifest this boldness and this confidence and lead us in the power and the strength of God.

God bless you in your ministry.

Yours and His,



Dwain Evans

DE/dh