

HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED???

How did this happen to us? How, in only three or four months, did our lives change so radically, some more than others?

If you have ever doubted whether spirits are real, doubt no more. Sometime in February or March of this year, a massive spirit took shape and engulfed this nation and the whole world. Where people one day were living their lives routinely, using well-established habit patterns, the next day or week, they were overtaken by this tidal wave of panic. Routines changed abruptly.

Where one day, one spare pack of toilet paper in the cupboard was plenty, the next day, a closet-full was required.

Where one week, a family could go to the beach or see a movie, but the next, all of that was out the window, and subscriptions to Netflix soared.

Where one day, one could walk into the hospital for a scheduled surgery, the next, you found you could not enter into the building without answering a bunch of questions, wearing a mask, and having your temperature taken. And you were lucky if your surgery was even allowed to move forward.

Where one week your buying dollars were keenly solicited by the various supermarkets and retail stores around town, the next week you were greeted by gestapo-like door guards refusing you entrance unless you complied with the rules of the business. And when you did enter, you found your movements were strictly supervised by lines and decals on the floor, arrows to go this way or that, and punishment by both customers and employees if you violated the directions.

Where one day you went in for your hair cut or hair style, in pleasant anticipation of that friendly social experience, the next you had to go around shaggy and disheveled, or sneak through the dark morning to someone's home to get your hair and grooming done.

Where one day you had a decent living from a small business you created, the next you were required to shut it down, possibly ruining it permanently, and cutting off your daily living.

How did this happen to us??? So suddenly? So completely? What possibly turned so many people into cowering sheep overnight? What is it that causes so many to duck their heads and cover their faces just because some official said so?

Why all of a sudden does our store look so awful, with disorganized shelves, huge voids empty of product in certain areas, and replacements and refills very spotty and unreliable? Why cannot Coke and Pepsi and the beer companies and the grocery companies keep up with demand anymore? Where was this demand four months ago? Did people all of a sudden start drinking Coke, Pepsi, Gatorade, and bottled water, when before they didn't? They what did they drink, and where did they get it?

This whole phenomenon is a mystery! Explanations are hard to come by. The only one that makes sense is: SPIRIT. A spirit.



What is "spirit"? From the almighty internet, I find a couple of definitions that seem to fit what we are seeing and experiencing.

1. A pervasive or essential attitude, quality, or principle: as in "the spirit of 1776".
2. Prevailing tone or tendency, as in "spirit of the age".
3. The fundamental, emotional, and activating principle of a person or society, as in "the experience changed his (its) spirit."
4. The prevailing element or feeling, as in "a spirit of joy pervaded the atmosphere."
5. A state of mind or mood or attitude, as in "he did it in the wrong spirit".

Spirit springs out of intangible, invisible reality. It involves motivations, thoughts, moods and attitudes. It emanates from the core of the person or the originating being. It is every bit as real as the tan-



gible, visible "reality" that we can touch, feel, smell, hear and see. But because we cannot detect spirit with our five senses, but only with our own spiritual senses, we can pretend that it isn't there.

My dad's favorite example of spirit was this. Talk to your beloved dog (mine is Rocky). Tell him he's a bad dog in the affectionate manner you would normally use with him. He'll come to you smiling and wagging, expecting petting and treats. Tell him he's a good dog, but yell it at him like you would if he had doo-dooed on the rug. He will cower and run, thinking you're mad at him. Yes, even our doggies can read and respond to spirit.

In one of the most well-known stories of the Bible, Nicodemus the Pharisee comes to Jesus at night, to ask Him who He was and how He could perform the signs and miracles He'd been doing. Jesus cut to the chase and answered him: "... no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Nicodemus was shocked at the idea that Jesus might expect a person to be born a second time out of his mother's womb. Jesus explained, "... no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it come from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3:1-8)

The spirits of panic, of rage and violence and destruction, of deception, confusion, muddled messages – the spirit that has swept this nation and the whole world are real, radically changing behavior and tearing apart societal structures. Obviously these are EVIL spirits,

emanating from the EVIL ONE.

The Spirit Jesus speaks of emanates from the Creator of the Universe, our God and personal Father, if we will choose Him. It is the only antidote and protection against the evil spirit of this age. It provides stability, security, and peace from knowing that His Holy Spirit will prevail over this evil spirit gripping things.

That wonderful, wholesome, joyous Spirit, the Holy Spirit of Truth is available to you. I hope and pray that you already have signed on with Him, or will do so now. The time is short.

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

PSYCHIATRIST VS. BARTENDER

Ever since I was a child, I've always had a fear of someone under my bed at night. So I went to a shrink and told him, "I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared and I think I'm going crazy." "Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink. "Come in and talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears."



"How much do you charge?" "Eighty dollars per visit," replied the doctor.

"I'll sleep on it," I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street. "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?", he asked.

"Well, eighty bucks a visit, three times a week for a year is \$12,480.00. A bartender cured me

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for \$10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought me a new pickup truck. "Is that so?" he said with a bit of an attitude, "and how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody under there now!"

CAN YOU HEAR ME???????

An old man went to the Doctor complaining that his wife could barely hear. The Doctor suggested a test to find out the extent of the problem. "Stand far behind her and ask her a question, and then slowly move up and see how far away you are when she first responds."

The old man excited to finally be working on a solution for the problem, runs home and sees his wife preparing supper. "Honey" the man asks standing around 20 feet away "whats for supper?" After receiving no response he tried it again 15 feet away, and again no response. Then again at 10 feet away and again no response. Finally he was 5 feet away "honey whats for supper?"

She replies "For the fourth time it's lasagna!"