

Introduction

People ask me how I changed from being a brash, wild, loud-mouth sinner to being a brash, wild, loud-mouth Christian wacko.

Okay, admit it: You thought I was going to say “sinner to saint” or “pompous to pious,” right? Sorry to disappoint you, but I decided to write the unvarnished and somewhat embarrassing truth about myself. I’ll give you my reasons:

In addition to my day job (running a house-painting company), I’ve got a radio program, Called2Action This Week. My listeners range from the mildly awake, marginal believers (and, truth be told, that covers the vast majority of Americans) to the sold-out, hard-core Christians who choose to speak out in the public arena of opinion and activism. I’ve been both of these types myself, but I’m the latter now (thanks to God). As such, I’m known as something of a radio shock jock because I tell it like it is without apology. God put some of His people here to comfort the afflicted... He put me here to afflict the comfortable.

Also in addition to my day job (I don’t sleep much), I speak to audiences large and small to wake them up to the realities of what’s going on in America today, both inside and outside the Church. Many leave these talks energized and mobilized to participate in changing not just our country but also their lives, families, and churches through truth and action. Hopefully, many of them leave with a renewed commitment to the Lord who *is* the Truth and who calls us to follow Him (and not by being “pew potatoes”). Others, I’m told, leave with a first-time commitment to Christ, which I hope leads them into an active pursuit of His will in their lives.

Besides all of this (refer to sleeping comment above), I run a grassroots activism organization entitled (you guessed it!) Called2Action. Yeah, “house painter turned political activist” doesn’t exactly strike fear into the hearts of liberal politicians and waffling conservatives, but that’s my secret: They usually don’t see you coming! Here’s another secret: Often you have to figuratively shout at these people to be heard. I’m willing to do that, although most people aren’t. But radicals have been with us since biblical times. Think of John the Baptist crying out to the masses – people thought he was a wild-eyed wacko too. And remember how blunt Paul could be? Sometimes he was an annoyance, but he *had* to be to get people’s attention.

I’m not comparing myself to John the Baptist and Paul (remember what I said about not being pious or a saint?), but you’ve got to admit that their methods were successful. So I’m willing to try them, even if I don’t come across as the polished college grad brought up in a solid family where my parents modeled success and prosperity to my siblings and me.

As you read this book (which is part autobiography, part kick-in-the-rear of your average pew potato, and part activism playbook), I hope you’ll overlook what a pompous jerk and clueless idiot I was when I was younger. Hang with me as I eventually explain how God transformed me to somebody He could (and does) use. It’s hard to get to the good stuff without going through the bad stuff, right? Well, the same is true for writing a book about your life.

You’ll read some things that are ugly, that are raw, that make me cringe today. I thought about leaving them out. But then I thought: *What’s the fun in that?* No, seriously, I thought about Jesus’ words in John 8:32, *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* He was talking about the truth that we Christians call the gospel – *the Truth*.

I see this written record, *The Making of a Christian Wacko*, as my calling to be truthful with you, my readers, just as I am with my listeners on radio, in audiences, and when I don my suit to talk to other people in suits. Read the words about my youthful (and not so youthful) screw-ups as my

commitment to be real and authentic, so you can learn how God changed me – *how far I came because of Him... and not because of me.*

I hope this book blesses you, instructs you, and – yes – even makes you uncomfortable. That's what God's earth-shaking, bone-rattling, mind-boggling reality will do.

As His servant, I hope to do the same.

Steve Noble
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