

Mary Craig

From: Mary Craig**Sent:** Monday, July 04, 2011 2:02 PM**Subject:** Mary Craig Ministries July 2011 e-mail**Mary Craig Ministries****July 2011**

This is a God story. I was in college (so was our son). The class was Greek and Roman Philosophy. Next to me sat a young woman. One side of her head was shaved; on the other side, her hair came down to the nape of her neck. We had little in common, but somehow she was drawn to talk with me. She would track me down in the cafeteria. It turned out that she was a highly skilled cardiac surgical nurse, and she would tell me about how many “hearts” the doctor and their team had worked on and how it all went. We shared, talking and listening, over several weeks. I don’t know what did it, but after awhile she started letting the shaved side of her hair grow in. She looked softer, but I wondered about her heart.

One day Emily came bounding into the cafeteria, walked straight up to me and said, “I know you are a Christian. I know you know how a person can get saved. You have to tell me right now!” I went through the gospel of Jesus Christ with her step by step, and as she prayed to receive Christ, it was obvious that the Holy Spirit had already been working in her life.

Emily began telling her friends that I had been holding out, that I could teach the Bible. Soon I was given a classroom and led a Bible study in my “free” time. Oddly, the next semester, we found ourselves again in a class together—a class on The Family. Because of scheduling, I ended up spending quite a bit of time personally discipling Emily, teaching her about prayer, reading the Word, fellowship with other Christians, worship, etc.

One day we sat outside near a walkway on campus. The white table and chairs made it convenient to get out the Bible while we talked. Emily seemed somewhat nervous. I remember telling her about God’s holy elect angels as we went through Psalm 91. This verse really grabbed hold of her:

*For He will give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
Psalm 91.11*

That was a Friday. On Monday, she found me. She spoke rapidly, all excited. There was much about Emily I did not know. Having been in ministry for 16 years at that point and counseling for 7 years, I thought I had heard enough not to be shocked, but what she told me was jaw-dropping.

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Emily told me that she had gone to her mother's house. Her brother, she said, was a crack addict and had more or less confiscated their mother's house to use as a crack house for himself and his friends. Emily had gone over there to break things up; at which point her brother pulled a knife on her. He headed straight for her when suddenly she swung her arms in the air as if to make angel wings and belted out, "I have ANGELS." Stunned, her brother dropped the knife and took off. That was also the day that God began to move in Emily's family.



Wow. All I could think of was that you never know the impact of God's Word in someone's life, or the impact of another person in yours, or how God might work.

Emily may have learned the Word of God from me, but I learned something from Emily. She forever changed my life with her confidence and strength, her courage and self-control. God put us together for two semesters of college, two very different people, to help each other go through and grow out from whatever was going on in our lives at the time.



There's another God story, in Acts 4. Peter and John had performed a miracle, a notable miracle, undeniable, sure to be broadcast around Jerusalem. The Jewish leaders conferred among themselves, deciding to threaten Peter and John. They called them before the council and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

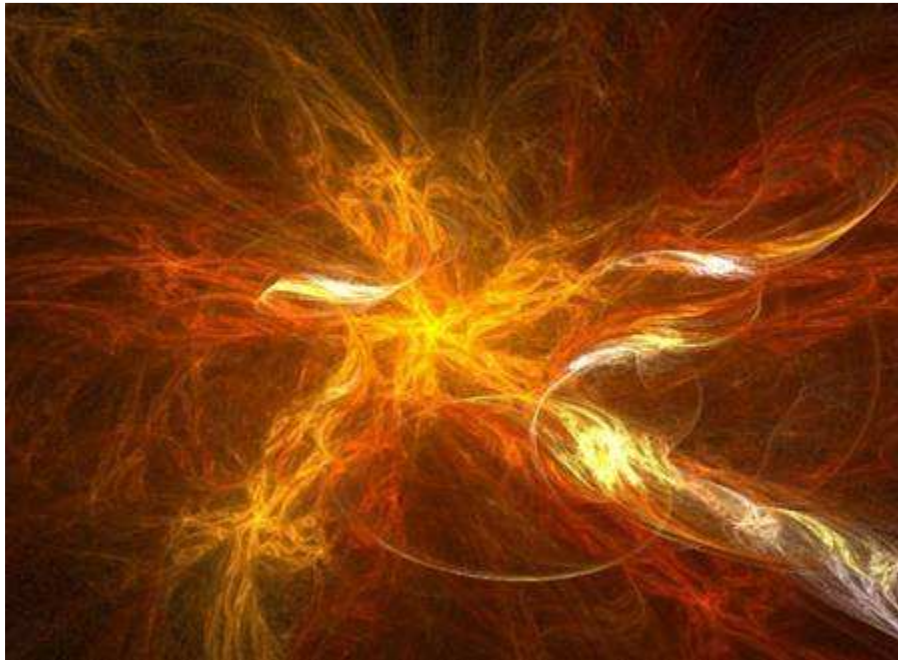
*Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken
Unto you more than unto God, you be the judge;
For we cannot but speak of the things which we have seen and heard.
Acts 4.19, 20*

The Jewish leaders couldn't find cause for punishment, so they threatened Peter and John some more. People were giving God the glory for the miracle and the lame man healed was over 40 years old and had entered the temple, walking and leaping and praising God with all the people watching, so Peter and John were free to go their way. They went to their own company to report all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. Then they prayed. Part of that prayer went like this:

*And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and
Grant unto your servants, that with all boldness they
May speak your Word, by stretching forth
Your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be
Done by the Name of your holy Child Jesus.
Acts 4.29, 30*

Emily came to Christ unchurched. She had had very little understanding of the Word of God when she squared off against her own brother, crazed with crack cocaine and threatening her with a knife. Yet she clung to every Word as I taught it to her, hungry and thirsty for the living God. She believed because she was a believer, a born again, blood-bought child of God. What she did took courage, a boldness that comes from God.

Walking with Jesus takes boldness. I learned boldness from Emily.



*And when they had prayed, the place was shaken
Where they were assembled together;
And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,
And they spoke the Word of God with boldness.
Acts 4.31*

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