

Letter 09
**Collegiate Level Training
AND
Introduction To Warfare**
2011-08-05

Dear Dan,

There are two other things I need to bring up that occurred along with the "Summer of '73".

Firstly.

Both before and after the events that transpired in the Summer of '73 I was "sent to college". This occurred while I was finishing my 8th grade year in junior high school and then at the beginning of the 9th grade.

Here's how this happened.

My mom had discovered something called the Seminar in Basic Youth Conflicts run by a guy named Bill Gothard.

She went once and really liked it. So, she saved up some money to pay for the pastor of the church we attended, and she wanted me to go too so she saved even more money and paid for us both.

The seminars if I recall ran for a week with the weekday seminars occurring after work/school, and all day on Saturday.

The first time I went was at the end of my eighth grade year, and the second time I went was at the beginning of my ninth grade year. Both happened in 1973 when I was 14. It turned out that after paying for the seminar the first time, one became an alumni and could go to any subsequent seminars at no further cost. It just so happened that in the fall of that year some college age kids at church were going, so I asked if I could ride along. Yet another adventure. Cool.

I learned a lot at those seminars and had fun going. But especially I remember Gothard's emphasis on authority and obedience thereto.

That training has stayed with me to this day, and was a key factor in one of the most recent attacks from the enemy, just a few months ago, as he tried to take advantage of my obedience to that doctrine to dislodge me from my current place of employment. But I will write about that at the appropriate time.

The second thing is something that occurred at a small convenience store called Yakipa, about 8 miles east of Redmond on the Redmond-Fall City Highway. It was not far from the

house I grew up in. I remember being at the store with a friend in the same grade level, so we were both in the 8th grade and 14 years old at the time.

My friend smoked and would try to purchase tobacco whenever he could. So there at the store he asked the clerk if he could purchase a bag of Bull Durham tobacco.

The clerk looked at him and decided he looked too young for tobacco, and said "no".

Then the clerk said to my friend "I'll sell it to him", referring to me since I was standing right next to my friend at the checkout counter during this exchange.

Now, while this dialogue was going on, I was oblivious as I was thinking about something else. So when my friend started asking me if I would buy his tobacco for him, I had to ask, "What?". After he told me what he wanted I understood many things all at once, (i.e. the Holy Spirit gave me gifts of knowledge)

I understood that:

1. what my friend was asking was wrong , illegal since he was a minor.
2. the clerk wanted to make the sale, and would sell to me because I looked older. But that would be wrong also in that I was the same age as my friend.
3. that the clerk was also attempting to circumnavigate what would have been his own guilty conscience if he sold tobacco to one who looked less to be a minor than to one who did.
4. Satanic forces were there promoting the whole thing.
5. I could choose to not participate, which I did. I said "No".

My friend was somewhat flabbergasted at my unwillingness to make the purchase, and tried to get me to change my mind as we were leaving the store..

And while I knew all the things listed above, I did not know how to articulate them.

But these words came out of my mouth in response to his lobbying effort:

"THERE'S A WAR GOING ON".

So Dan, that event was what I believe to be my first evidentiary exposure to spiritual warfare.

Blessings...

Romanus Theophilus