

Spirit, & some of the other disciples had some rather remarkable changes.—And of course St. Paul, his Damascus Road experience turned him from a self-righteous, proud—I mean, that was his problem—persecutor to a preacher of the Gospel. But it seemed that you take some of the people who had been in the way for some time, like Peter who compromised & joined the Circumcision & had to be rebuked before all. (See Gal.2:11-15) He never seemed to attain the same heights of leadership again, ever. He was never used like Paul, never wrote like Paul or guided the church like Paul. It seemed almost that he went downhill from the time when he & Paul had that confrontation, & it looks like the Lord anointed Paul instead of him to lead the church. It's almost like Peter missed the boat with his self-righteous circumcision, the legalists who said they were willing to believe in Jesus as long as they still kept the Law of Moses.

**11. If we'd agreed to receive their church circumcision & keep the Laws of Moses & the church, well, the churches might have been willing to tolerate us.** But to go as far as we've gone, that's just absolutely intolerable! And that was in essence the spirit of her crack that night: All this foolishness & fun & dancing is fine, but we'd better have another talk, we'd better be a little more religious, a little more pious, have a little more sanctimoniousness, be a little more spiritual, not so carnal!

**12. She wanted to let me know that night that she hadn't forgotten to be spiritual in spite of all her antics & the dance, that she was still spiritual.** She would still rather have a talk. "I'm not really this way, I really prefer talks." And I think it was an absolute lie! She was enjoying herself as much, if not more, than anybody! But see, even if they like it & they enjoy it, because of that rut of tradition that is ingrained in them, they have a guilt complex, & if they do enjoy it they feel constantly guilty about it. Like my Mother used to say about things that were good to eat, she had a crack where she'd say, "It tastes so good it must be a sin!" That sums up the church attitude beautifully! Anything that's enjoyable, anything that's that much fun, anything that tastes that good, anything that is that great a pleasure, to them, they figure it must be a sin! So she just wanted to let me know that she knew better & that she would prefer a talk! It was

an absolute self-righteous display!

**13. So we'll let her have her talks while we have our fun!** The rule will be that any night I'm going to go to dinner, she's to be shut away with her talks before I put in my appearance & she's not to be let out until I've gone. I don't want to see her face again until we know that she has really changed & stood the test. That will be her penance.

**14. Let's see if she can take the penance now.** We have to often put people on probation to see if they really are sorry & really mean their repentance. Even the government does that, & God certainly did it plenty! So we'll put her in solitary confinement, probation, with nothing but talks, & see how she gets along. What do you want to bet, if she lies down on that bed to watch'm, she's going to go to sleep! Poor woman!—She's so tired! (Maria: I don't know, I think she'd be in fear & trembling. Anyway, we can give her a chair to sit in. She doesn't have to lie down.)

**15. She has a hard enough time staying awake in my meetings when I do talk,** she has a real struggle. She often can hardly hold her eyes open, & that's one time I've actually felt sorry for her. I even mentioned it, I think, in the meeting. She was one of the people that I made the cracks about: "I don't mind if you go to sleep, just so you keep your eyes open." I think I even said I don't even mind if you shut your eyes & take a cat nap if you're that tired.

**16. I think those churchy sort of religionists really feel like they have to suffer to be spiritual!** I think she thought perhaps she deserved to suffer a little bit, suffer some talks, in order to hang on to her spirituality. She was beginning to have too much fun & enjoy it too much. Whereas I think that the talks were almost a trial for her. I know she has a hard time staying awake. You can't kid me, I've watched people & audiences & classes too many years, & I know when people are tired & exhausted & can hardly hold their eyes open & their eyes keep shutting & they have to shake their heads to stay awake. Maybe she feels like she deserves that kind of torment & torture to earn her merit & her righteousness. GHH!