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From: Robert Potter <rmpw1953@gmail.com>

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Subject: My Testimony About Nic Patula

To: Craig Kalkofen <Craig@ssremnant.org>

Cc:

At long last, here it is...my testimony about my experience with Nic.

When you first asked me to participate with this, I struggled to come up with the right way to express the truth about it all. I don't take testimonies like this lightly because I know I have my own faults that can get in the way and color my approach to such things. So I prayed about this, first, and tried to come up with the best possible way of moving forward. You can see it below and edit it however you see best to do so.

Here goes:

There are many different ministries out there which claim to have more light from Heaven than any other. For some time, I've been checking them out as they come to my attention. There are quite a few of them of which I have looked into.

Often things look WONDERFUL in the beginning. I have become acquainted and even friends with many different people who are members of these various ministries. We have associated with each other to the point where it seemed as if we were like family--never to part. But then something would happen to alert me that things weren't quite as they should be. Such was the case with the SDR movement.

Unlike your average church member who seems to just 'go with the flow' of church member traffic, I have dared to ask questions of others--even of those in leadership. Often this leads me into uncomfortable situations. This is how it started out when I was a member of the mainstream SDA conference churches. It eventually became evident that they weren't really supporting Biblical truths that were so necessary for their flocks to be aware of. So I left the Conference Churches behind--never to return.

Since then, as stated earlier, I have looked into many independent movements. By the time I encountered the SDR movement, I felt like an expert at weeding out wolves in sheep's clothing. But the SDR movement was different from all the others I had been involved with before.

My first awareness of SDR came from one of Nic Patula's informative youtube videos. There was a link to his website and, from there, I contacted him from another link to send a message to him. I left him my personal phone number and he eventually called me.

Our first conversation seemed to be very good. I told him about my past experiences with OTHER independent ministries and told him they all turned out to be cults. (Little did I realize

how Nic might have been interpreting this information>) But, at the time, I had no reason to be suspicious. I gave him the benefit of the doubt.

We had several other good phone conversations, since the first one, and I made the decision to become one of his followers and to start paying him tithes. This was back in 2018, I believe.

For a while, I was quite happy to have found out about this particular ministry. Since I could only listen to Nic's sermons online and since his followers seemed to be spread out all over the country--as well as the world--the only way I knew to communicate with any of the other followers was through the live-stream during church services. So I left a message for all to read, introducing myself as a new follower. For some reason, nobody responded to my post, which seemed odd. I decided it could be that others were too shy to respond to someone they didn't know. Yet they all seemed friendly enough with each other.

I didn't worry much about this little detail at first because, in the grand scheme of Life, it didn't seem to matter. I did mention it to Nic at one point, during our next phone conversation, just interested in his thoughts about it and he said he didn't know why my postings weren't showing up in the live stream. He said he would look into it and we left it at that. (Yet he never did get back to me about this until I brought it up again months later.)

In the meantime, I continued to listen to his online sermons and didn't even try to leave any more messages during the live streams.

For the most part, I was very much appreciative of Nic's sermons. There was, however, one thing that bothered me. Often he would start to make a specific point about something, only to interrupt himself with some unimportant detail that led him far afield from the main topic. Sometimes he would come back to his original point but, by then, I was unable to remember what the original topic even was and sometimes got lost in all his words. There were other times he didn't seem to come back to the main point at all--which was even worse.

Not feeling comfortable with this situation,, I decided to send him an email, telling him about my reaction to this, along with a tactful suggestion about how to avoid doing it so much. To be honest, I have been guilty of doing exactly the same thing in my own conversations with others. I admitted this to Nic, hoping it would make him feel more comfortable to know we both had the same fault in common.

His response was brief and not particularly reassuring. He seemed to not be taking my concern seriously at all. He was polite enough in what he said. But just seemed to be unwilling to seriously consider how his technique could be losing the attention of his listeners. To make things worse, he continued to do the same thing in his future sermons. He DID make mention of the fact that someone--meaning me--had advised him to stop interrupting himself so much during his lectures. But he never actually got control of himself in any noticeable way that made a difference. So I continued to struggle through his sermons each Sabbath, hoping to benefit from them despite his faulty presentations.

Another thing I began to notice was that he spent so much time talking about various problems with his computer equipment that it ended up being a WASTE of time to listen to him. Why was he taking up so much valuable time with talking about mundane problems to his flock? Did it have anything to do with present truth? Did it give hope to those who needed to be fed the bread of Life?

Nic and I continued to exchange emails instead of talking so much on the phone. There were some things I wanted to clarify with him and that's when things between us really began to deteriorate. He didn't seem to like answering my questions. Often his answers were unsatisfactory and would lead to even MORE questions. This seemed to annoy him and he came across as being impatient.

In Matthew 18:15 it tells us we are to go to a brother if he trespasses against us and to tell him his fault between ourselves. But Nic doesn't seem to have the patience for this. Instead, he becomes angry and ends up dismissing the other person after a while. (At least that's what he did with me.) He would tell me to not respond to any more of his emails. There was one time I dared to violate this order and he chastised me for it.

So I began to see a very unChristlike side to him. There was no way we could solve our differences if he didn't want to communicate. I was tempted to doubt myself and wonder if I was, indeed, just being a pest. Maybe Nic was right. Maybe I just needed to always give him the benefit of the doubt and stifle my questions.

But, in the back of my mind, I realized that this was the same tactic all the other cult leaders I'd ever been involved with would use. They all discouraged honest questions, too, and dismissed their 'trouble makers' just as Nic had done to me.

So I stopped paying him my tithes, realizing this was NOT the man I originally thought him to be. I eventually sent him an email, explaining why I wouldn't be tithing to him anymore. He responded as though he wasn't particularly concerned and even said that there was someone else who needed my tithes more than he did. (There was more significance to THAT statement than even HE realized.)

I believe it was during this latest exchange that the subject of my being unable to leave postings on his live stream came up again. Not sure about that because it's been so long ago. All I know is that he gave me another explanation as to why I had been prevented from leaving any postings. He said his moderators might be offended by my last name, which is Potter. I thought that was a rather odd reason to ban someone from postings. Were his followers really so quick to misjudge others without getting to know them first? If so, where did this inspiration come from? Was it their leader?)

One of his long time followers has the last name of Pope, too, and I pointed out to Nic that this other person's name should attract more concern than mine--if people were so concerned about last names, that is. Nic had said he would, again, look into the matter and resolve it. But he never got around to doing so.

I continued listening to his sermons, despite our unsolved problems with each other, because I still wanted to give him the benefit of the doubt. We would exchange occasional emails but it wasn't until he shocked me with one particular email that I REALLY became concerned.

He said he had 'figured out who I really was' and that the jig was up. He claimed to have investigated me,, further, and said he had found pictures of me online, dressed in Catholic garb and that I must be a Jesuit.

I wrote back and told him he must have me confused with someone else because I have NEVER worn any sort of Catholic robes. Plus I had already sent him a photo of myself months before--when I thought we were still friends--so he could and should have known what I looked like if he had taken the time to compare my photo with this other person's

All I could conclude was that Nic was a false accuser. (He had accused me of being a false accuser, before, when I had tried to verify something in one of our past emails. But now he was showing that HE was the one who was actually guilty.

He eventually wrote back and confessed that he had, indeed, confused me with somebody else. He offered a reluctant apology. But he also admitted that he had been the one to ban me from his live stream--all along--because of an argument we had gotten into back when I first started leaving posts.

I was wondering where THAT scene took place because I had never had ANY sort of argument with him on his live streams because I had never been allowed to leave ANY postings at all from day one! So, again, he was either lying and making up stories as he went along or who knows what? The point is, he isn't reliable and isn't willing to calm down long enough to talk things over.

He proved this by ending his message by advising me to NOT respond to this particular email. So I didn't.

Instead, I turned to Craig and told him of my experiences with Nic. Now, Craig was having issues of his own with Nic that I knew nothing about. But he was wanting to be fair to all involved with this situation and would only tell me to not give up my faith over any of this and to just keep in touch with him, instad, and that eventually the truth would come out. Well, that's exactly what I did and it's also exactly what happened.

I was shocked at the way Nic falsely accused Craig of things, later, which turned out to be wildly false. I can now see that there is an agenda behind everything Nic does; from the way he treats others to the way he delivers his sermons. He doesn't seem to be interested in saving souls. He works, instead, to discourage and confuse them.

If he was really a man of god, he would be willing to talk these issues out instead of acting superior and dominating. He does not display any sort of fairness or humility. When people try to ask him important questions, he will say he doesn't have time for a 'back and forth'

discussion. He dismisses people too readily--just like a politician does when he's caught lying to the public.

Now I realize why his sermons were so hard to listen to; I now know why he injected so much talk about computers and other mundane information. He wants to distract others from present truth. Even when he SEEMS to be talking about present truth, there are errors in his theories--where places certain events AFTER the plagues begin to fall.

Look what happens to honest souls who dare to point these things out to him! They get kicked to the curb--as was Craig--and then lied about in such a horrible way as to shock the rest of us who might not know what to believe. Nic doesn't just hurt a few individuals with his false accusations. He hurts his loyal followers who trust him too much and he hurts himself. He will be lost if he doesn't repent.

He likes telling others to repent, I've noticed. But when is HE going to repent? Or does he really believe he has nothing to repent from?

I received a final email from him a few months back, when he got in touch with me to claim that God had supposedly shown him I was a troublemaker. I had left postings on someone's youtube channel, advising others to not believe Nic's claims about Craig without reliable proof. Some of Nic's followers had reported this to him, I suspect, and it made Nic angry with me. (So much for his claim about how the Lord had 'shown him' anything.)

He could and should have simply said, "I hear you don't believe the accusations about Craig. Please tell me why not." Instead, he created a manipulative situation that was calculated to intimidate me into being afraid. But I wasn't afraid. I told him he was a fraud who knew nothing.

That was the last time I heard from this wolf in sheep's clothing and I'm better off for that.

I hope the readers of this testimony realize that I take no pleasure in saying anything negative against Nic or anybody else. I only share these kinds of testimonies when I believe it will be a benefit to others. I realize I will have to answer to Heaven some day if I am deliberately misleading others. I wanted Nic to be my friend. I told him this often enough. But he wasn't wanting that. He couldn't use me the way he did others and that's why I believe he banned me from ever leaving postings on his live stream. I think he knew exactly what he was doing and saw me as a threat to his plans. Well, he was right about that. I WAS a threat to his plans and happy to admit this. God Bless those who have read this testimony.