

# PLAIN SPEECH

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**“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)**

By Scott Parker

## **BLEEDING TO DEATH ON THE SIDE OF LIFE’S HIGHWAY**

I am writing this article from a hospital bed. As most of you know, I was hit by a tractor-trailer on March 25. Frank Wisner, who witnessed the event, has informed me that I flew backwards through the air like Superman. Unlike Superman however, I am not a “man of steel.” Thus, my body paid the price. In fact, so severely wounded was I that had an off duty trauma nurse named Suzanne Zayan not happened onto the scene and administered care to me, the medical staff here at the hospital has said that I would have bled to death right there on the side of the highway. Truly, I am very fortunate to be alive.

Now, consider how stupid I would have been to refuse the assistance offered by Mrs. Zayan. Yes, imagine how foolish the following dialogue sounds:

**Nurse Zayan:** “What is your name? Are you having trouble breathing? Can you move your arms? Is your vision impaired? Do you have any allergies? Are you aware of what has happened to you?”

**Me:** “My name is Scott. I was struck by a semi. Listen, I am fine. I am going to rest here for a moment, then I am going to get up, dust myself off, get back in my car and continue on to my destination.”

**Nurse Zayan:** “You are far from okay. In fact, you are badly injured. Please answer my other questions.”

**Me:** “Ma’am, once again, I am fine. I just need a moment to rest before getting up off the ground and getting back behind the wheel of my car.”

**Nurse Zayan:** “Scott, you are bleeding severely and unless you allow me to tend to your wound, you will bleed to death in a matter of a few moments.”

**Me:** “You have no right to judge me! Lady, I have told you twice now that I am okay. I do not need or want your help. Please just go back to your vehicle and leave me alone!”

Had things went down as noted above, I would not be writing this article today; for it is that I would have made my exodus from this world, landing in either a place of torment (**Luke 16:28**) or paradise (**Luke 23:43**).

How stupid I would have been to blow off Nurse Zayan. Yet, the pinnacle of stupidity is when those who are injured spiritually repudiate those who bring the proper remedy (**Jeremiah 7:25-26; John 1:11; 5:40; et al**). It happens all the time. Note the following fictitious dialogue.

**Joe Baker:** “Excuse me sir. I would like to invite you to worship God with me this Sunday.”

**John Doe:** “I appreciate the invitation, but I have my own church and I am very happy with it.”

**Joe Baker:** “Would you like to study to see if your church is like the one described in the New Testament?”

**John Doe:** “I said I am happy with my church. Mount Carmel Baptist Church is good enough for me.”

**Joe Baker:** “Mount Carmel Baptist Church is an unauthorized religious body, in as much as the Baptist Church does not abide in the doctrine of Christ (**2 John 9**). By attending there, your soul is in grave danger” (**2 John 10-11; Mark 7:8-9**).

**John Doe:** “You have no right to judge me or my church. It’s people like you who give Christians a bad name.

Spiritually speaking, are you bleeding to death on the side of life’s highway? If so, will you make the necessary changes before it is too late (**Romans 2:5-8**)?