

## **Reject The Deception: Self Rejection Replaced by Revelation by Tommy Miller**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eDoYPZEonk>

The message argues that humanity's primary problem is not rejection of God, but rejection of itself. Apostle Pastor Tommy Miller proposes that many biblical passages commonly interpreted as deficiencies in faith toward God are instead addressing humanity's failure to believe what God says about humanity. Throughout the message, Tommy presents self-rejection as the root issue behind sin, striving, insecurity, failure, and inability to manifest the kingdom of God.

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### **Primary Thesis Statements**

Several statements function as the central framework of the teaching:

- **"You cannot be Christlike if you're responding to something external."**
- **"Nobody can 'make you' anything."**
- **"Self-rejection is the root of your failure."**
- **"Failure is not the root of your self-rejection."**
- **"The biggest lie humanity has ever been told is that *you have to become something*."**
- **"The biggest catastrophe humanity has ever faced started with a human rejecting themselves."**
- **"Self-rejection is the root of the distance between you and the Father."**
- **"Self-revelation comes from proximity (intimacy, union) with the Father."**
- **"If you've seen Him, you've seen yourself."**

Tommy repeatedly returns to the premise that identity should originate internally through union with God rather than from external affirmation, performance, circumstances, or the opinions of others.

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### **Galatians 5 as Diagnostic Rather Than Condemnation**

#### **Scripture cited**

- Galatians 5:16–26

Tommy begins with Paul's contrast between:

- works (deeds) of the flesh
- fruit of the Spirit

Key observations include:

- "God rarely speaks in terms of punishment and usually speaks in terms of consequence."
- The statement:
- "Those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom"
- is interpreted as consequence language rather than judicial punishment.

Tommy proposes:

**"You can't manifest the kingdom if you're constantly responding to things outside of you."**

#### **Deeds**

- habits, behaviors, reactions, responses to disappointment

## Fruit

- organic, internal, effortless, naturally produced

*"Fruit is something that comes from the inside out and it's absolutely organic and effortless."*

*The fruit of the Spirit is presented as evidence of identity rooted internally, while envy, strife, jealousy, division, and wrath are portrayed as evidence that identity is being sought externally.*

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## Identity and External Validation

**"If we begin our life believing that we're less than Christ, then we will put the burden on other people to affirm that we are like Christ."**

This creates:

- striving, jealousy, contention, division, insecurity

Galatians 5 is described as a diagnostic:

**"A diagnostic and not something that's condemning."**

The list of fleshly behaviors is presented as evidence that:

"Circumstance is determining identity."

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## Genesis 3 Reinterpreted

### Scriptures cited

- Genesis 3, Genesis 1:31 (implied), Genesis 3:1–6

"Did Eve reject God?" Answer given: "No."

- Eve affirmed God, affirmed God's words, acknowledged God's command
- BUT Eve: questioned herself

The proposed thesis:

**"The fall of humanity came from rejecting humanity first."**

Quotes:

- "Humanity didn't believe what God said about them."
- "Eve did not reject God. She rejected herself."
- "Her distance from God was self-imposed."
- "Her misunderstanding of Him was from the fruit of her own distance."
- The message suggests humanity seeks to become what God already declared humanity to be.

Examples given:

- Ministry, addiction, achievement, performance

**"Everybody is looking for who they are."**

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**Jesus as Revelation of Humanity;** The incarnation restores humanities understanding of itself.

- "He has to show you you before He shows you Him."
  - "God can only reveal the synthesis of divinity and humanity by taking on a body."
  - "If you've seen me, you've seen Him."
  - "If you look in the mirror you'll see the glory of God."
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## Reinterpretation of "Little Faith"

One of the dominant themes is a reinterpretation of passages where Jesus rebukes people for lacking faith. "Find one moment where Jesus rebukes people for not believing in Him."

**The proposal is that Jesus rebukes people for not believing they can do what He does.**

Recurring statement:

- "Jesus doesn't get ticked off because you don't believe He can do things."
- "Jesus gets ticked off because you don't believe that you can do what He does."

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## Mark 11 – Faith Reinterpreted

### Scripture cited

- Mark 11:20–24
  - "Have *God's* faith." (We are not trying to stir up our own faith or strength)
- "God is not asking you to have faith in Him to move your mountains; God believes *that you can* move mountains."

**Jesus is empowering humanity rather than emphasizing dependence on Him.**

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## Western Christianity Critique

"Western evangelicalism" emphasizes:

- Dependence, begging, striving, worthlessness
  - "Every time I give you a new law, I affirm who you're not."
  - "If you start with failure, behavior follows."
- **Instead of striving, Jesus' Kingdom message is believe** (God about your true identity)

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## Fig Tree Symbolism

### Scripture cited

- Mark 11

The fig tree is interpreted symbolically as the nation of Israel, but more broadly, any earning and striving religious system (which includes much of modern western denominations)

**"Works will never be honored again."**

The cursing of the fig tree is interpreted as "The end of a system based on earning, striving, trying, and deserving."

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## Bread Narratives

### Scriptures cited

- Matthew 14, Matthew 16

Feeding narratives are used to demonstrate Jesus expecting disciples to act. Jesus told the disciples to "Feed them."

- **The disciples focus on *insufficiency*.**
- **Jesus focuses on *capacity*.**

Key quote:

- "Jesus's first instinct when He sees need is not to meet the need."

- "Jesus's first instinct is *for you* to meet the need."
- The "leaven of the Pharisees" is interpreted as "The doctrine that you have to strive to become something."

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## Storm Narratives

### Scriptures cited

- Matthew 8, Mark 4

Disciples awaken Jesus during storms.

- Traditional interpretation: the disciples trust Jesus.
  - Why would Jesus rebuke the disciples if they were merely trusting Him to do something; why would He say: Oh you of little faith?
    - The disciples had failed to apply the lessons they had just seen and participated in; they failed to exercise/practice that authority
  - Deeper insight based on Jesus' disappointed reaction: the disciples failed to trust themselves.
  - "What we call great faith, He called no faith."
  - "You could have done what I just did."
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## Walking on Water

### Scripture cited

- Matthew 14
    - Peter is an example of being someone defined by their circumstances. Peter let external evidence overrule his identity
      - "He started being defined by waves instead of by word."
      - Word is all you need
        - "Evidence contradicted word."
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## Deliverance Narrative (Healing of the epileptic boy)

### Scripture cited Matthew 17

- Jesus' frustration is interpreted as arising from disciples not recognizing their own delegated authority.
  - "Jesus calls them faithless because they have to petition God for their needs."
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## Union Theology

### Scripture cited Ephesians 5: Marriage imagery is used extensively. ("You are His wife")

- God cannot reject humanity without rejecting Himself.
  - "If He can't reject you without rejecting Himself, then you can't reject you without rejecting Himself."
  - "All separation is an illusion."
  - "Rejecting yourself is fundamentally rejecting Him."
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## First John 3 and Identity.

**Scripture cited:** 1 John 3:1–2, 1 John 4:17

- **"Beloved, now we are children of God." As He IS, so ARE we in this world.**
  - **"When He is revealed, we shall be like Him."** This already occurred but He needs to be revealed in us
  - **"We're not waiting to die to determine who we are."**
  - **"You don't have to earn, strive, try, and deserve."**
  - **"You just have to behold."**
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## **Manifestation of Sons**

**Scripture inferred:** Likely allusions include: Romans 8:19–22, Romans 8:29

- **"Creation will continue to live in bondage as long as humans are rejecting themselves."**
  - **"There is no plan B."**
  - **"The manifestation of the sons of God releases creation from frustration."**
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## **2 Corinthians 3**

**Scripture cited**

- 2 Corinthians 3:7–18

### **Ministry of death vs. Ministry of righteousness**

- "Moses did not put a veil on his face because he looked too good." Rather: "Death and condemnation were in his eyes." (As much as Moses accomplished, scriptures say he had the ministry of death)

**"You become what you behold."**

- **"You look at Moses's face, you become like Moses."**
  - **"You look at Christ's face, you become like Christ."**
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## **Major Concepts Repeated Throughout**

### **Self-rejection**

Presented as:

- root of failure, root of striving, source of separation, source of insecurity
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### **External stimulus**

Repeatedly contrasted with Spirit-led identity.

Examples include:

- waves, storms, bread shortages, unmet needs, opinions of others, circumstances

**"You should not allow something external to assign identity to you."**

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## **Union**

Presented as:

- indivisible participation
  - shared identity
  - inclusion in Christ
  - participation in divine life
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## **Faith**

Defined less as belief in God's ability and more as:

**Faith is belief regarding humanity's participation in what God believes about humanity.**

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## **Kingdom manifestation**

HINDERED BY:

- self-rejection
- striving
- insecurity
- external validation

RELEASED THROUGH:

- identity
  - beholding Christ
  - self-acceptance
  - participation in divine sonship
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## **Scriptures Cited**

### **Explicitly cited**

- Galatians 5:16–26
- Genesis 3
- Mark 11:20–24
- Matthew 8
- Matthew 14
- Matthew 16
- Matthew 17
- Mark 4
- Ephesians 5
- 1 John 3:1–2
- 1 John 4:17
- 2 Corinthians 3:7–18

### **Scriptures inferred or alluded to**

- Genesis 1:31 ("very good")
- John 14:12
- John 14:9
- John 17
- Romans 8:19–22
- Romans 8:29

- John 8:12–18
- Matthew 10:40
- John 6:28–29
- Philippians 4:19
- Hebrews 1
- Revelation 1:12–16

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### **Overall Message Summary**

The sermon proposes that humanity's deepest issue is self-rejection rather than direct rejection of God. It interprets numerous biblical passages through the lens that Jesus consistently confronted humanity's failure to believe what God believes about humanity. The message argues that striving, performance, insecurity, and dependence upon external validation are manifestations of self-rejection, while spiritual fruitfulness, kingdom expression, and Christlikeness emerge organically when individuals accept their identity as already affirmed by God. The overarching thesis is summarized by the closing statement: "Self-rejection is the root of the distance between you and the Father. Self-revelation comes from proximity with the Father. If you've seen Him, you've seen yourself."