

“The Trials of Rev. Milton Blumquist” Sample Pages #1

Written by Frederick Passmore 1990-2017

Rev. Blumquist: Finally, some peace and quiet! At last, I can record my radio show. Now that I've got this new tape recorder, I don't have to go to the radio station any more, I can make it right here in my own den! I'll just put the cassette in here, hit 'record' and come out preaching! *(Clears sinuses noisily, and takes deep breath.)*

Track #2: (SFX: Rock radio station blares out!)

Rev. Blumquist: *(over music)* I hit the wrong button! How do you turn this grundgy, trashy garbage off?! *(He is hitting buttons, trying to turn off the radio.)*

Which switch? *(It gets quiet as he finally turns it off suddenly, but he's still yelling, and when he stops we hear the crickets.)* **Which switch?!!**

Rev. Blumquist: *(Taken aback at the silence and his shouting.)* Oh. **That** switch. Gotta remember that. *(Snorts and tries again.)* Got it now, we're rolling, Howdy ya'll, my name is Rev. Milton Blumquist, and I'd like to welcome you to "In Heaven's Name," my weekly radio broadcast. This broadcast is an outreach of the Independant First Church of the Sanctified Brethern, located on the top of the hill just outside of Possum Holler, where I am the pastor. We'd like to invite you to attend our services, if you don't have a church home already.

Now, over the last few weeks, we have been talking about the Fruits of the Spirit. Now, when you manifest all of the Fruits of the Spirit, people will bear witness to the fact that you are a Spirit-filled Christian. Why, you'll be so full of the spiritual fruits that people will look at you and say, "There goes a Christian fruitcake!" I hear that all the time, and it makes me happy. We've already covered Love, Joy and Peace... and the next one is Longsuffering. This one could also be known as Patience. So. today's message is titled: *(a beat)* ...**Do You Have Patience?**

Having patience in the midst of trials is a testimony to the word of God in you. Now, sometimes, God will train us to have patience thru repeated lessons. Because sometimes we don't know as much about it as we think we do, and he's trying to tell us something.

Track #3: (SFX: Horn blows as the train is approaching.)

(Milton is distracted as the train approaches but keeps trying.)

Rev. Blumquist: Uh... but... but we never shut up long enough to stop, look and listen. And when we're impatient we can jump the track and derail our walk with the Lord.

(The train has begun passing and drowns out Milton, as all we see is his mouth moving, but we can't hear him. Finally he has had enough, and jumps up and runs to the door, opening it. He yells at the train and waves his arms. The train is causing such a vibration that he begins shaking, and as he grabs the table, it begins shaking too. He is holding on as everything quakes with the train's passing.)

Rev. Blumquist: *(As the train noise fades, he yells in it's direction.)* Get that noisy thang out of my yard or I'll kick you in the caboose! *(Sits back down at the table as he is fuming.)* Comes by here same time every week interrupting my recording! Devil musta been on that train, that's what it was. *(Shouts in the direction of the fading train, as he shakes his fist at it.)* That was a **Hell-bound train!**

All right, back to my message. Where was I. *(Snorts as he consults his notes.)* Oh yeah. Now, just like you have to train a dog thru repetition, the Lord will sometimes have to repeat our lessons till we learn them. He might even have to whack us a time or two with His Word, like a rolled-up newspaper, to get our attention.

(Performance note: In the following actions, the dog is unseen, and the action is done at a door

off to the side of the platform. The dog is supposed to be just outside the door. When he is attacked, he has his leg through the frame, and the dog grabbing his leg is pantomimed as if it is trying to pull him through. He falls to the ground, is almost pulled out, but he grabs the door frame and pulls himself back in, except for the leg. His foot is still out of view, and he struggles. He seems almost pulled back out as he claws at the floor. This scene is great physical comedy and the actor can have some real fun with it as he makes it seem like he is fighting with the dog that is just out of sight.)

Track #4: (SFX: Dog barks, then attacks.)

Rev. Blumquist: Hush, puppy! *(The dog barks again.)* Keep it down or I'll take your worthless hide back to the dump where I found ya! *(The dog keeps barking, and Milton gets up, goes over to the door, which he opens.)*

(Pointing at the dog.) I said, quiet down, you mangy, no-good excuse for a hound-dog! You want a two-by-four upside your head? *(The dog growls menacingly. Milton freezes, afraid.)* Whoa! Back off, there, buddy! Take it easy!

(Milton sticks out his foot toward the dog and it bites him! He falls to the floor as the dog yanks at his leg! He rolls over on his front and tries to drag himself away, but is pulled back several times as the dog is fighting with him.)

Rev. Blumquist: *(Screaming.)* Help! Get this friendish, flea-bitten, four-footed freak offa me!

(Milton finally pulls loose, and slams the door, holding it shut as the dog scratches at it from the other side. Milton is breathing heavily.)

Rev. Blumquist: *(Making it back to the table, dragging his chewed-up leg.)* Mercy sakes alive, I thought I was gonna lose my leg to that fur-covered Frankenstein! *(Sits down.)* Woo! Devil musta got into that dog. *(Yelling in the direction of the dog.)* That was the **Hound from Hell!** *(Clears sinuses again with a snort.)* All right, back to my message.

I'm sorry for all the technical problems we're having today, the devil don't like it when a Christian does good. And he's really after me today. But I'm gonna give ol' slewfoot a black eye, cause I'm not gonna quit! *(Blows nose noisily into his handkerchief.)* Now, we're talking about patience. A lack of patience can cause us to miss opportunities to witness that are right under our noses.

(As he is saying the previous line, he picks up the Vicks Nasal Inhaler, removes the lid, sticks it up one nostril, and leaves it there as he talks. THIS WILL CRACK UP YOUR AUDIENCE!)

Track #5: (SFX: Old-fashioned phone rings twice.)

(Milton stops, aggravation showing on his face. He picks up the phone.)

Rev. Blumquist: In Heaven's Name, how can I help you? *(Pauses.)* No, "In Heaven's Name" is the title of my radio show. No, there's no Janet here.... *(Pauses.)* Nope, no Yolanda neither.... *(Pauses.)* Nope, there ain't no Trisha here neither.... what number are you trying to call, son? *(Pauses.)* 1-900-L-O-V-E? Boy, have **you** got the wrong number! *(Pauses.)* You want *me* to talk to you? Boy, you need help! *(He hangs up and takes out the nasal inhaler.)*

That fellow was looking for love in all the wrong places! He needs the Lord, that's what he needs. Somebody ought to talk to him. Anyway, like I was trying to say, before I was interrupted again, is that if we aren't careful, we can be so busy with the Lord's work, that we miss the small opportunities to make share the gospel to someone that needs it. Pay attention to the doors the Lord opens for you to say a good word for Him! *(Continues...)*