



The Gospel According to Femigod

Challenging the dominant themes in
mainstream and organised religion

The Gospel
According to
FEMIGOD

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organised religion

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For my darling sister, Pero. I love you dearly. No matter what you want, it's yours.
Beyond money and weapons.

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Why I chose to write this book

At the tender age of 11, desperate to form a bond with a higher power, I dedicated my life to Christ and became a born again Christian. By the age of 20, disillusioned by it all, I stopped identifying myself as a Christian, and began to explore other avenues of spiritual development.

In this book, I will share my personal experiences and journey with you en route to taking an objective, dispassionate look at religion and spirituality. I'll explore the contradictions inherent in the world's major religions, and then assess the alternatives, from philosophy to myth, from astral travel to sacred geometry.

As a child, I attended Sunday service, and (evening) Bible study three times a week. I used to read my Bible upon waking and just before bed at night. I looked to the heavens for my heart's desires, and prayed for my every need. As fasting is believed to bolster this plea to God, I would occasionally forego eating for days on end.

I have borne witness to involuntary 'possessions': when a spirit – good or bad – takes control of a living soul's faculties. On most occasions, I believe, the person is unaware during *and* following the event. When a demon takes over an individual, it is said that it must be cast back into the depths of Hell, from where it came. That was the message given when one attempted to disrupt our prayer session one evening. Despite movies such as *The Exorcist* stating that such activities can only be performed by a priest, it was my brother-in-Christ to the left, slightly older in age and stronger in faith that dealt the blow. During the entire episode I was passive, dumbstruck.

I have witnessed many 'speaking in tongues':

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:1 – 4)

Indeed, I have attempted to do so many times. Moved by the occasion and the spirit of those around me, I felt compelled to do as commanded.

I have been present when 'miracles' were being performed. One evening, a group of highly-revered Christian 'leaders' attended our service with the intention to, amongst other things, heal the sick. They told us that they had been sent by God to provide normal visual acuity (commonly referred to as '20/20 vision') to those wearing glasses, enable those in wheelchairs to walk again, and cure a myriad

of other illnesses. One by one, members of the congregation traipsed forward as hands were laid upon them.

As part of my development, I spent what little money I had on books, tapes, leaflets and the like. I spent many a day immersed in the material, keen to absorb as much as possible. I was fascinated by the stories of those who had acquired metaphysical powers as a result of their devotion, and once wanted to develop what is described as the *spirit of discernment*: a telepathic ability reserved for the enlightened, giving the ability to recognise what is of God.

Where were my parents during all of this? They were not around. Because had they been, I'm sure they would have tempered my passions by encouraging me to find balance in playing football or studying. I attended boarding school in a country where religion means *everything* to the people. A country where people regularly quote from the scriptures to make trivial points about everyday life, engage in group prayer sessions often, and stand around in large groups arguing over the interpretation of Bible verses. In a country where people are revered for the ability to pray, to worship and quote scripture, I was in good company.

The unofficial title of "Prayer Warrior" is reserved for individuals who are known to invoke passion and energy, screaming at the top of their lungs whilst jumping around the room as they – sometimes, quite literally – cry to God to grant prayers. Prayer Warriors can energise and inspire those around them, much like a sales manager seeks to motivate his team each morning. Even before they begin to get into their groove, their presence is felt when they enter the room; many fall silent, sitting in awe of the spectacle that awaits. At some point during a typical prayer session, the announcement is made for the Prayer Warriors to "please make their way to the front." An individual or group that requires important matters to be resolved ("special prayer") are then asked to kneel on the floor as hands are laid upon them. Members of the congregation are also expected to be involved, but don't have the privilege of being called to the front: they must simply stand by their seats. In fundamentalist Christian circles, Prayer Warriors are well respected.

Unfortunately, I never spoke in 'tongues'

"Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" (Acts 2: 7 – 11)

According to the Bible, when the Holy Spirit causes someone to speak in 'tongues', it must be a known language, for the benefit of those present. As evident from the above, the disciples "declared the wonders of God" to those present in their native language, which ordinarily they could not speak. All the 'tongues' I have ever heard were all completely unintelligible, and no one ever informed me that they understood what I had said.

The highly-revered Christian leaders who attended the service, to the best of my knowledge, didn't perform any miracles that evening. As I stood at the front of the Chapel watching people go forward, I was aghast at how many people declared that they had been healed. "It's a miracle!" they shouted as they threw their hands up. About an hour following the service, several admitted that they weren't able to see, and had to go back to retrieve their glasses. Apparently the person in the wheelchair required special prayer, a lot more than the time span of the service, so to the best of my knowledge she didn't walk that day. Following their departure, I recall an air of disdain from the regular attendees who had hoped to witness some modern-day miracles.

And though I stopped identifying myself as a Christian at the age of 20, my real passion for it began to wane at about 14. During that 6 year period, as a form of 'encouragement', my father would remind me of the following: One day, as I was lying on the couch, he happened to wander by and ask me what I was thinking of. My response: "The rapture." I don't recall how he took it, but as he's repeated it often enough, I imagine he was rather taken aback. The term is used by fundamentalist Christians to signify the return of Jesus Christ, when all those who are deemed to be 'worthy' will be lifted up into the air to meet him. I must have been about 12 at the time.

I experienced a lot at a young age, perhaps much more than I should have. I played football later in life and despite exhibiting moments of sheer brilliance, it's possible that the lost time ensured I would never play professionally. Despite this, I'd like to think that in many ways the distance from my parents played a large part in shaping my curiosity and the search for spiritual enlightenment that still drives me today.

As I grew older, my worldview expanded beyond the confines of boarding school and the country that influenced my development. Many things I held sacred not only diminished in value, but no longer seemed to matter. As this occurred, and as I matured, my values changed. Fortunately for me, my spiritual foundation was not built upon external factors, as I always relied on myself for research and development. If I'm honest, I never felt fully comfortable within the confines of doctrine, as it ran contrary to my natural values. As I grew older and became more confident, not only did I begin to ask further questions, but other people's opinions also meant less to me.

Two decades on I am still keen to know what our purpose is or whether we even have one: Are we here as an adoring audience for a deity, or are we called to something higher? And at the other end of the spectrum: where is everything headed? Is there a final judgement and potential reward when we finally leave our Earthly existence or will our consciousness be snuffed out in an instant?

Thomas Jefferson said:

"Question with boldness even the existence of a God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blind-folded fear."

I believe it is incumbent upon us to ask questions and critically appraise the ‘truths’ we are told with respect to all matters. The acceptance of any dogma without examination is not just unhealthy, but dangerous. Unfortunately, such questioning is no longer encouraged, and we have been conditioned only to ask questions within a narrow bound. Anyone who goes too far beyond this is shunned for daring to step out of line. Nowhere is this more prevalent than in many mainstream and organised religions, which often prohibit and even ridicule open discussion on contentious matters. Why would God not welcome healthy debate?

Many of today’s religions are filled with contradictions, inaccuracies and outright lies. Unfortunately, people seldom ask the important questions and are blinded by their soft exterior. It is true that there are many worthy ideals attached to religions, which is the reason they are cherished in society. However, there is a side that people never talk about. Do you know what your religion is hiding and what lurks in its doctrine?

Though the cause may be worthy, this does not excuse the fact that there are many more questionable issues attached to religion. Fortunately, there are just as many alternatives for spiritual development that you may not even have heard of. Spiritual knowledge (and development) isn't limited to religion, and if you want to gain a better understanding of it, you can learn a lot from many unusual sources. Despite being relegated to the fringe, many practices and arts were often highly revered in the past. Now is the time for these paths to be revisited.

The point isn't so much about where you look, but the very fact that you are looking. Even if spirituality is not your end goal, open up your mind to new ideas beyond the stale restrictions of religion and see where it takes you. Which questions are important to you and what answers have you found so far? Or perhaps you will simply develop more questions, and start a larger process of discovery for yourself. True goals are the ones you work towards, not the ones handed to you on a silver platter.

Why Femigod? I have no desire to start a new religion, nor do I wish to start any new age movement. It’s not my desire to be worshipped, nor do I believe I am the reincarnation of an enlightened spiritual individual. My name is Femi and my simple contention is this: that all humans are powerful beings, much more powerful than we are led to believe. A god is a powerful being, and as I venture on my spiritual quest, I claim this for myself: I am god. We are all god.

For those who are unaware; the book is broken down into the same Book-Chapter-Verse format as religious scriptures. The large number at the beginning of each chapter mimics the beginning of a new Chapter in religious texts, whilst superscripted numbers indicate the beginning of each new ‘verse’

The Gospel According to Femigod will examine:

i. Book One: Understanding Mainstream and Organised Religion – a brief description of each of the main world religions is presented, explaining their key doctrine;

ii. Book Two: Questions and Contradictions – quoting directly from the scriptures, this section details the dominant themes inherent in religion. Many questions will be asked, and contradictions will be laid bare for all to see;

iii. Book Three: Philosophical Approaches – the focus is on the concept of God and spirituality from a philosophical perspective. The views of both contemporary and classical thinkers will be examined;

iv. Book Four: Classical Archetypes in Myth – we examine how myths and legends have played a part in setting the moral compass of societies; and

v. Book Five: Metaphysical Alternatives – this section introduces a wide array of esoteric, alternative and metaphysical tools that can help you develop your own spiritual path outside of religion.

He who has ears, let him hear.

Book One: Understanding Mainstream and Organised Religion

¹ Though the purpose of this book is to question mainstream and organised religion, you still need to have a good grasp of what each entails. ²If you don't know the details of a belief system, how can you legitimately question it and come to understand its shortcomings?

³The major religions (in terms of numbers of believers worldwide) are outlined below in descending order:

- i. Christianity;
- ii. Islam;
- iii. Hinduism;
- iv. Buddhism;
- v. Chinese traditional religions;
- vi. African traditional religions (& African diasporic religions);
- vii. Sikhism; and
- viii. Judaism.

⁴Of course, entire religions can't fully be described in only a few pages, but the basics of each will be outlined so that you have a general understanding of their beliefs, and examine some common practices. ⁵(However, feel free to skip some of those that you're more familiar with.)

⁶From here you will see both the differences and similarities within these faiths and begin your examination of them all.

Christianity

² With two billion adherents, Christianity is the most popular religion in the world when measured in number of those who identify themselves as Christians. ³It's the prevailing belief system in Europe and the Americas, and many parts of Africa.

³It should be noted that Christianity, Islam and Judaism are *very* closely related in many ways due to their shared holy books and overlapping histories. ⁴You'll find many things that are similar or even identical between these three religions.

General Beliefs

⁵Christianity is, by definition, a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which *should* make it fairly simple to understand. ⁶However, many aspects of Christianity still maintain the importance of the Old Testament of the Bible to varying degrees, so overall beliefs can be hard to summarise simply because they are not constant across the religion.

⁷Some of the main tenets within Christianity:

- i. Belief in God, his son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit;
- ii. Acceptance that Jesus was physically raised to heaven after death;
- iii. Acceptance that God is the all-powerful creator, and must be worshipped and obeyed;
- iv. There is judgement by God after death, and possibly eternal punishment or eternal reward;
- v. Jesus will return to Earth before the final judgement at the end of days;
- vi. The Bible is the inspired word of God; and
- vii. Everyone has sinned.

⁸The biggest split in the Christian world is between Catholics and Protestants. ⁹Catholics believe that they are the one true church, as set out by Peter during the time of Jesus. ¹⁰The Church establishes the official beliefs and dogma that its followers must adhere to, and its rituals are believed to be vital for personal salvation. ¹¹Its leader is known as the Pope.

¹²In approximately 1500 CE, a large group broke away to create the Protestant version, with salvation believed to be gained through Jesus directly. ¹³As the years have passed, divisions within Protestantism have led to a vast number of sects, which are known as denominations. ¹⁴Whilst some may vary by only the slightest piece of dogma, others can be vastly different from more traditional forms of Christianity.

Holy Text

¹⁵The main religious scripture for Christians is the Bible, made up of two portions: the Old and New Testaments. ¹⁶The latter was written during and after the time of Jesus, which drastically sets it apart, in time as well as intent, when compared to the much older Old Testament.

¹⁷The Bible was written by a large number of different people who were writing at various times in history. ¹⁸The New Testament was written mainly in Greek, whereas the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. ¹⁹Between them, they have both been translated many times to bring the manuscripts into modern-day English and to offer further interpretations of the original meanings. ²⁰Today, you can find dozens of different English versions of the Bible.

²¹Some claim that the Bible is literal, without error and should be taken as the word of God himself. ²²Others feel that it was inspired by God, but since it was written (and frequently re-translated) by man, it should not be accepted as literal spiritual truth.

²³One final distinction between Catholics and Protestants is the Bible: Some parts were taken out during the Protestant reformation (those parts are now known as the Apocrypha). ²⁴That includes several Old Testament books such as the two books of Maccabees, Judith, and Tobit. ²⁵There is some additional text added to the books of Esther and Daniel as well. ²⁶The books of the New Testaments are the same between both Catholics and Protestants.

Proselytising

²⁷Proselytising is a common practice with some Christian denominations, but certainly not all of them. ²⁸It is seen in Christianity far more than in other religions and some denominations are highly focused on it. ²⁹Jehovah's Witnesses are well known for their door-to-door campaigns, and the Seventh Day Adventists are also very involved with proselytising.

³⁰Christianity is really the only one that practices proselytising on such a widespread basis. ³¹The reason is that it is stated in the Bible on more than one occasion that it is God's will.

The Concept of Sin

³²While most religions have some sort of code that outlines which behaviours are permitted and which ones are not, Christianity has a very mixed approach on prohibited behaviours, usually referred to as sins. ³³You can also expect a different range of sins between Protestant (and the varying sects) and Catholic teachings.

³⁴One portion of the Bible that is considered by many to be the foundation of defining sin is the Ten Commandments, supposedly given to Moses directly by God. ³⁵They are listed in the Old Testament, specifically in the books of Exodus and in Deuteronomy:

- i. You shall have no other gods before me
- ii. You shall not make a carved image of anything in heaven, on the earth or in the waters under the earth
- iii. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain
- iv. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, do no work on the seventh day

- v. Honour your father and mother
- vi. You shall not murder
- vii. You shall not commit adultery
- viii. You shall not steal
- ix. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour
- x. You shall not covet your neighbour's belongings

³⁶There is also the concept of original sin, which is more of a Catholic doctrine. ³⁷It goes back to the fall of Adam and Eve, when they ate from the tree of Knowledge against God's will. ³⁸That innate sin is supposedly still within all mankind, creating a natural state of imperfection in all people.

³⁹Unfortunately, there is no certain or clear-cut list of what counts as a sin in Christianity, and that is somewhat left up to the denomination to determine.

The Afterlife

⁴⁰For Christians, the concept of an afterlife is an important one because it represents the reward for living a Godly life (or the punishment for failing to do so). ⁴¹As with everything already mentioned, there are some variations between Christian groups on the specifics.

⁴²All of Christianity accepts that there is a final afterlife where our souls will reside after we die. ⁴³If we are deemed worthy, then we spend eternity in Heaven. ⁴⁴If not, our souls are directed to Hell. ⁴⁵Heaven is considered a blissful paradise, and though the traditional view of Hell is a lake of burning fire, many modern denominations play down the punishment aspect of the potential afterlife. ⁴⁶How to determine if you are going to be found 'worthy' is, again, where the differences between denominations comes into play.

Islam

³ On a worldwide scale, Islam is the second largest religion, with about 1.6 billion followers. ²It is the main religious path for the northern part of Africa, the Middle East and parts of Polynesia.

³Because of its roots in the Middle East and continuing dominance in the region, much of the terminology is in Arabic. ⁴Allah will be used to describe the God of Islam, out of respect and also to clearly differentiate the Muslim God from the Christian one (though it can be argued that they're *essentially* the same.)

General Beliefs

⁵There are Five Pillars of Islam that make up the foundation of the religion, though these are acts and practices rather than beliefs in themselves.

1. The shahada (declaration of faith)
2. Daily prayers (five times a day)
3. Giving to charity
4. Fasting during Ramadan
5. Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca

⁶These are fairly self-explanatory, though there are a few things to mention about the *shahada*. ⁷It consists of the Arabic phrase that means there is only one God and Muhammad is his messenger. ⁸The exact wording is "I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is his servant and messenger." ⁹This expression is part of daily prayer, and it is said to be powerful enough to convert anyone who says it to Islam.

¹⁰Aside from these five pillars, there are other beliefs that all Muslims hold:

- i. There is only one God (Allah)
- ii. Angels exist as messengers of Allah
- iii. The Quran was a divine revelation
- iv. Allah has chosen several prophets to also be his messengers
- v. There will be a time of judgement before Allah
- vi. Destiny is ordained by Allah

Holy Texts

¹¹In English, the holy book of Islam is also called the Koran or the Quran, given in its entirety to Muhammad in a divine revelation. ¹²He received it over the course of about 23 years from the Angel Gabriel.

¹³Because the Quran is believed to have come directly from Allah, there are few different versions of it available. ¹⁴It has been translated into other languages, but the Arabic version has remained unchanged for hundreds of years. ¹⁵Because of the belief that the Quran is divine, it does not come under scrutiny

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