**\*\*\*\*\*My Story of Irrational Exuberance in Faith\*\*\*\*\***

The first time I heard the use of these words, “Irrational Exuberance,” was from Alan Greenspan, who used them to describe investors in the stock market a few years ago. He as one who was well versed in financial affairs and the risks of some investments in the stock market. He was warning that people were casting reason aside with wild abandon, believing that there would never be a downturn or loss.

I think God calls us to that kind of faith—faith that doesn’t look at the situation with the wisdom and knowledge of the world, but with the revelation of God. It is always a risk of faith to follow the Spirit and commit yourself in faith to what God is saying to you. But that is what we are called to do! **Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”***

There have been several times when I have “stepped out of the boat” so to speak, and tried to “walk on the water.” Sometimes I have seen God do above all that I could ask or think. **Ephesians 3:20, *“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us….”*** I keep on believing and often see wonderful results. And even when I don’t see what I trust Him to do, I keep on believing **that He is at work!!!**

One such time was in my ministry at Wilmington. I had seen several people come to faith in Christ in those early years of the “Jesus movement” (1970). One of them was a young man whose family was in the church, but he had walked away, dropped out of school, and was constantly doing drugs—and who knows whatever! He found Christ, changed His life and decided to go to Point Loma, our church university. His family had money to help him, his grades were good enough that he had a chance to be accepted, he applied and was accepted.

While that was wonderful, he had a friend who was in much worse shape than he was, and the two had been almost inseparable as they lived in a “flop house,’ and did life together. This friend had dropped out of high school during his junior year, his family had rejected him and had no interest in him, in Christ or in salvation. He felt totally abandoned by his friend, and I will never forget the desperation in his eyes and face as I walked into that “flop house” room to talk with him about Jesus.

The **“irrational exuberance”** came from what I said to him, “…if you would get your life together, stop doing drugs and apply at Point Loma, you could go to the university with your friend!” **I knew better than that!!!** If I had stopped to think about what I was saying, and what I knew the University required, I would have never said something so “irrational.” But I allowed the Spirit to speak through me.

I will always believe that it was the Holy Spirit who put those words in my mouth. And it was certainly the Holy Spirit that helped that young man accept Christ and start to go to the university. You guessed it—somehow, he was admitted as a “provisional” student, it took him eight years, but he worked his way through and graduated. He and his friend are close to this day. He found a wonderful woman at the university to be his wife. His favorite activity at the university were the Bible studies that Dr. Frank Carver and Reuben Welch would offer. **He knew he was desperate**, and diligently began to believe and walk with God.

**What about you? Are you available to have the Spirit speak through you something that might seem so irrational that it would scare you—and maybe scare others who heard what you said?** No man has more power to sin than the power Jesus has to forgive. I say that God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think. But unfortunately, too often we let our thoughts prevent us from even asking and being willing to believe. I think that reluctance prevents God showing us and the world what only He can do.