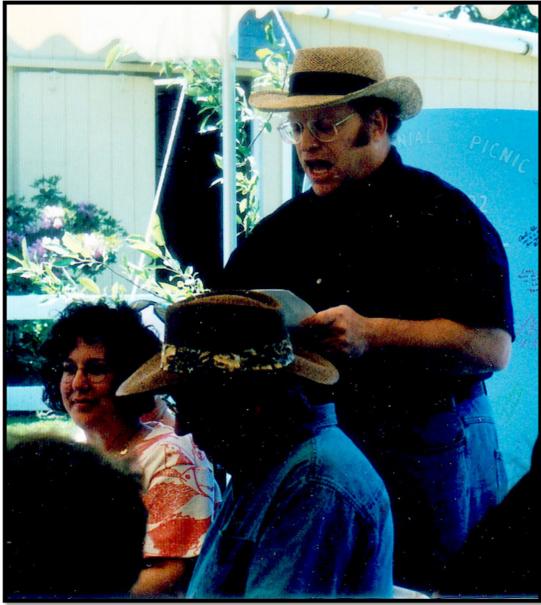


# Speech by Rev. Sidney Schwartz At GOTSC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



How does one summarize a 27 year association In Just a few words? Where does one begin?

Many people, including myself when I first started, feel that the life of a medium is very glamorous. Being the bridge between the two worlds, means people seek you out for advice. and guidance. Recently, in a movie about James Van Praag's life, James admitted that he liked being a medium because it made him feel important. I

would imagine there Is a certain amount of truth in that statement, even for a medium, who has control of his ego. However, I stand before you today, after witnessing so much that has happened In Carl's life, to say, that a medium's life is not always glamorous.

There are many times, that Carl Is physically exhausted when he comes out of the trance state. I have seen him so weak that he could not even hold on to a glass of water by himself.

There are times after Carl finishes some readings that he staggers out of his office. as if he had just communed with the Spirits of a Vodka bottle instead of Spirits In another world. The physical energy required to hold himself at an increased vibrational level, to communicate with Spirit, for a long period of time Is very exhausting. It leaves him mentally drained, which is the cause for our infamous nickname: "Cosmic Carl."

There are times I have seen Carl in emotional turmoil. I remember hours prior to our troops being bombed In Lebanon, Carl was depressed and Irritable. He was emotionally reacting to something he could not identify. Sensing a disaster was about to happen. yet not knowing what it will be is extremely difficult. Often, he has no Idea If this involves himself, a close friend, church member, or whether it is an international Incident. There is frustration in being helpless, and not knowing what to do to help avert an upcoming disaster. This turbulence seems unending until finally the event occurs.

Conversely. Sometimes, Carl is shown events as they happen, especially if It involves someone attempting to be negative towards him. Often Carl will confront the person Involved, who is usually baffled as to how he can know what was about to transpire.

There are times, which is practically daily, when Carl's phone will not stop ringing. A countless number of people are always dropping their problems at Carl's feet, expecting him (through Spirit's guidance) to fix them. Many of these people then ignore Carl's advice, only to get into more trouble, and again call Carl for assistance.

Over the past 25 five years, I am sure he has spent at least 6 months of his life in preparing and researching topics for his weekly sermons.

Should I add up all the money Carl has spent traveling to countries in Europe, Asia, Central and South America, Seattle, and other parts of the USA to bring back knowledge of psychic phenomena or to meet and observe mediums whose gifts he wishes to share with us?

I have watched Carl pour his life into this Church. For 24 years, since 1978, I would estimate that 85% of his time is devoted to it. He has done this as a labor of love, asking extremely little in return for his limitless dedication. This Is the type at man Carl is.

Carl's path these 25 years has not been an easy one. Full of ups and downs, triumphs and defeats, but during it all, he has been true to the Spirits who lead him.

"We affectionately call him Cosmic Carl, and often his head is in the clouds." However, part of the reason that his head is in the clouds, is because his standards are so high.

He will not settle for mediocrity, he expects the most from people, not only ethically, but spiritually. Often these high expectations are difficult for Carl because so few of us can live up to his high standards.

I was not involved with the Church when it was first formed, but started attending about a year later, in 1978. Those were very exciting times for this church. Everything was new. People eagerly worked together. While Carl left Connecticut to work down in the Carolinas, Carl's students got together and renovated the basement of the center. They transformed a dark and damp basement into the chapel, we all enjoy today. This was a major renovation, that included adding an outside wall to build a staircase to the basement because fire laws required the second exit.

The Church services were packed in those days, often to the point of standing room only. The church was very active, there were classes, healing services, and many social events and parties.

Founding a Church was not something that Carl wanted to do. You might say Spirit forced him into it. It does not matter how evolved a spiritual or physical entity is, Ramtha, Yeshua ben Joseph [Jesus], and even Carl Hewitt had their share of people whose egos inhibited their psychic development. I witnessed a student, who publicly demanded to be certified as a healer. How easy it would have been to give that person the certificate he or she demanded. However, since Spirit said that person should not be certified, Carl would not acquiesce, just to have an easy way out. Yet, it was Carl left "holding the bag" to deal with the repercussions for Spirit's decision.

This is just one small example of the spiritual and emotional turmoil caused by an exploding ego. In all cases that over abundant ego destroys all possibility of further psychic development. Each one of these incidents devastated Carl. Yet, somehow, he would regroup, and continue his mission. He would attract new people to the Church and begin again to spoon feed knowledge to them, at a rate they were ready to absorb.

Evening up the scales, there have been tremendous emotional highs along Carl's Journey. I witnessed Carl deliver a speech at the main Auditorium at Lily Dale, NY, the Spiritualist center, where the spirits who spoke through him were breathtaking.

Another breathtaking moment, was the closing moment of the premiere of The Golden Thread, the 10-hour slide presentation, on mediumship in the Bible that Carl and I produced in 1984. The message became so powerful—it stunned the audience, who remained as still as stone after the show concluded.

In 1986, there was the highly eventful meeting of Carl and Ramtha, where the Ram created a high gust of wind strong enough to stop the car Carl was driving. Then at the end of the seminar, Ramtha walked over to Carl and anointed or knighted him, as a teacher.

A second occasion, when Carl, Nancy and I were in Turkey, Ramtha made his presence known, with a sudden, extremely forceful gust of wind, so strong that we could barely remain standing, as we were climbing a hill to overlook the Phrygian ruins.

There have been wondrous occasions, where Spirit has led us to places to the information we were seeking in Turkey and Greece. The most remarkable event occurred when Spirit caused our Church logo, the suns streaking in the clouds, to appear in the sky right over Corinth, the very city Paul wrote these words to: "Now my brothers I do not want you to be ignorant of the Gifts of the Spirit."

However, I think the most significant high point for Carl occurred in August 1999, when Yeshua ben Joseph [Jesus] revealed himself to Carl and myself, as the one who had

been directing Carl for all of his entire life. It was Jesus who was the Invisible driving force behind the creation of Gifts of the Spirit Church. And now It Is Jesus' wishes that Carl returns to his native state, to begin once again, to educate the people In the Gifts of the Spirit.

So before Carl packs up all his belongings, to once again carry out his mission as a medium, and follow wishes of Spirit, we have come together to acknowledge the tremendous effort of a remarkable man. I know of no other person whose passion is so clear; who continuously fights the uphill battle of keeping people spiritual instead of becoming self-centered egotists. Carl's Herculean spirit and accomplishments stand before us. which dwarf the meager words of thanks that we can say. So, listen carefully, to these final words, my friend, and teacher, and let them be absorbed into your soul and memory.

Your work, and dedication has not gone unnoticed by us. You have altered the course of thousands of lives, of people who live in this dimension, and of people who now reside in the higher frequencies of life. We are better, and more importantly more knowledgeable people, because of how you have affected our lives. And we wish to thank you with all of our souls and beings. for helping and enlightening our spiritual paths.

Sidney Schwartz