

SYLVIA'S CORNER

MY PATRIARICAL BLESSING

It was something that I was really looking forward to. From the time that I joined the Mormon Church I had been encouraged to seek it. And now we were there.

We were not in a padded or soundproof room at a stake center like some people have experienced. My ex and I were in the kitchen of the stake patriarch. There was no special recording machine either. The patriarch's wife was the scribe.

So anxious was I to receive this blessing, that I prayed and fasted for it. I remember that I had to be living a worthy life in order to receive it - being true to my marriage vows, keeping the "Word of Wisdom", and generally living the same clean lifestyle that would qualify me to get a temple recommend.

I sat at the kitchen table. The patriarch laid his hands on my head and pronounced his blessing.

His blessing was fairly general, and was qualified by stating that I had to remain worthy in order to receive it. He began by telling me that I was a descendent of the tribe of Ephriam. He spoke of my love for little children, and he told me to encourage them to go to the temple (which I am grateful that I didn't do.) He told me that I would be given opportunities to teach them. He told me to do my genealogy. He also told me that I would be present at a gathering of ten tribes from the four corners of the earth.

There was nothing monumental in my blessing, but it was another step in my Mormon experience, and it became a sense of pride for having received it, and a sense of belonging - keeping up with the others. The blessing was mailed to us from Salt Lake City at a later date.

I have read, since I have come out of Mormonism, that we were not supposed to talk about our blessing.

I did not find this to be the case in my experience. All of my friends talked about theirs. We all did.

When I become a born again Christian, I destroyed my copy of my blessing. I realized that it was no different than going to a psychic. The knowledge was supernatural, and God forbids it in Deuteronomy 18. The patriarch was in some sort of a trance when I received it. Many people that come out of Mormonism have intense spiritual warfare battles. I was one of them. Therefore, I confessed the sin of participating in this blessing, and asked the Lord for forgiveness, even though I didn't know that I was doing anything wrong at the time. I recommend that any one else that has participated in the same do so, too.