

- **Release Date:** October 26, 2017
- **ISBN:** 9781632694508
- **Retail:** \$16.99
- **Pages:** 352
- **Category 1:** Spiritual Warfare
- **Category 2:** Personal Memoir
- **BISAC:** REL099000 RELIGION / Christian Life / Spiritual Warfare
- **Format:** softcover

THE PRODIGAL ROAD

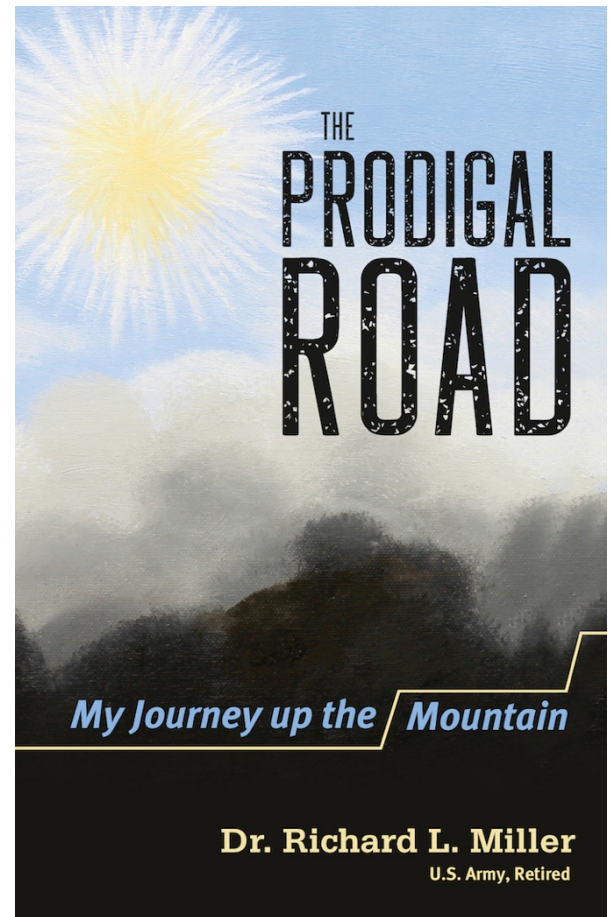
MY JOURNEY UP THE MOUNTAIN

DR. RICHARD L. MILLER

The Prodigal Road is the personal story of the rescue of an exuberant young man who became entrapped in the deceitful clutches of evil. Dr. Richard Miller—the author and subject of the book—interweaves the antics, joy, and pain of a preacher’s kid exploring the hills of Appalachia and imagining the thrill of exploring faraway places.

However, due to a poor relationship with his father and his own stubborn will, he drifted into a life of rebellion punctuated by a near-fatal bout with alcohol poisoning. While he pursued a successful military and corporate career, an invisible war raged in the background of his life, tormenting him with fear of punishment from an angry God for not becoming a preacher. At age 35, Richard found himself in Siam, where the Shepherd was waiting, not to punish him, but to forgive him and saturate him with the exhilarating joy of unequivocal love! From this beginning, he learned to ingest God’s word, which released its dynamic power in his life as the permanent remedy for fear, anxiety, and stress. This book will help you acquire that same peace.

Take the journey with Richard as he moves from the dark swamp of rebellion—where he was hammered by the king of the swamp—and climbs the mountain of redemption where he is captured in the majestic light of the Redeemer. The hero of the story is the Redeemer who forgives and then provides dynamic lessons of God’s words that will permeate one’s heart, soul, and mind to create congruence among all aspects of life.



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About the Author

DR. RICHARD L. MILLER

Dr. Richard Miller's parents instilled in him a passionate love of country and adoration of the beauty of God's universe. As a boy he became an avid adventurer and passionate learner, and dreamed of serving his beloved America as a soldier and seeing the world. The US Army facilitated both dreams. His 23-year

career as a Field Artillery officer saw him traveling to Korea, Japan, Germany, Austria, France, Vietnam, and Siam.

Richard's insatiable desire for learning led to a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, a Master of Science in Bio Environmental Engineering, and a Doctorate of Strategic Leadership. He was thrilled to engage in exploratory research pushing the state-of-the-art in radar and remote vehicle control for the US Army. His passion for helping young people reach their highest potential was instrumental in the successful expansion of a corporate firm tenfold by mentoring new employees in the philosophy of excellence. He is now retired and living in Goldsboro, North Carolina, with Jenny, his wife of 56 years. They have three children and five grandchildren.

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What Others Are Saying About **The Prodigal Road**

A powerful testimony of a life of endurance with the result being victory! The author's life story should be an encouragement to anyone who is facing repeated times of difficulty. See how victory can be yours if you don't give in or give up.

— **Gary Ward, Multi-published Author and Retired Pastor of Living Word Church, Manhattan, KS**

The Prodigal Road is a testimony of God's amazing grace poured out as one man humbled himself, drew near to God, warred against the enemy of his soul, and stood firm in his faith! Prayerfully read my wonderful friend's personal story of struggle, torment, hurt, and pain and his Good Shepherd's pathway to healing, deliverance, and victories unlimited! You will want to share this story with your loved ones and friends who need God's encouragement to never give up!

— **Gerald Deaton, Deliverance Ministries, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK**

The Prodigal Road is a must read from a threefold aspect:

- 1. The one who has done battle with the enemy will relate well to this book. That one knows the truth of Christ's deliverance and will give praise to God.*
- 2. The ones who are in the midst of the battle will gain insight into what is happening to them and be relieved to know there is help in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, that they are not crazy.*
- 3. It also should be read by those who have no clue of Satan's wiles, such as those that Richard Miller experienced. The Prodigal Road will help these readers understand others who are under attack. They will gain knowledge of how to pray with more wisdom and earnestness. Satan is real. His desire is to keep people from coming to Jesus Christ and experiencing the healing He offers. Satan's goal is to destroy. If he cannot destroy, then he desires to defeat believers. He plays mind games—oppressing and attacking through the thinking process—convincing many that they are deranged and not worthy of God's great love.*

— **Bobbie Hightower, Christian Counselor, Pastor's Wife, La Grange, NC**

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This is the amazing story of God's unequivocal love for and rescue of one of His prodigals. Dick Miller and I have walked through life together for the past 35 years. Other than my wife of 58 years, Dick is my most trusted friend. When I received the draft manuscript, I was so fascinated by his whole story, I could not put it down; I read it completely through in one night. This book documents Dick's victory over PTSD after his service in Vietnam and it will help you to know that you are not alone in your own invisible war. Through pain and struggles and sometimes joy, God brings us progressively to Himself. This is a real-life story of such a journey anchored in the supremacy of Jesus Christ.

— **Hugh Emrich, Inventor and Builder, Manhattan, KS**

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Richard L. Miller, author of

The Prodigal Road

My Journey up the Mountain

Q: What is the purpose of your book?

A: My passion is to help those who are trapped in a dark world not only to escape, but to enjoy the exhilarating challenge of a victorious life. It has been an exciting journey for me, and I credit the process described in this book with saving my life; a life transformed from victim to victor! By sharing my story of rescue and recovery, I hope to encourage all readers to seek and to know the joy of a heart set free!

Q: Is there a particular group you have a special passion to help with this book?

A: Yes. That would be our veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I agonize over the number of vets who commit suicide every day! I did not know about PTSD when I came home from Vietnam in 1968 and was baffled that I experienced paralyzing fear when I stepped outside the door of our house. This book chronicles my struggle for sanity and my eventual freedom using the simple, but effective, process of harnessing the power contained in God's words to overcome the debilitating effects of PTSD.

Q: Can you briefly describe the process you say transformed your life?

A: After rescuing me, Jesus guided me on a challenging tour of recovery using the dynamic, penetrating power encapsulated in His words. The writer of Hebrews 4:12 described it like this: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." From this declaration, I learned how to ingest the energy-laden morsels of His word as spiritual food that replaced the false-truth stored in my heart, my soul, and my mind. The truth contained in His words corrected my values, restored healthy emotions, and transformed my thought patterns.

Q: What do you mean by false-truth?

A: The Creator installed in us a system similar to an autopilot used to control aircraft. In an plane, the pilot sets the desired altitude and direction, and the computer issues the commands to make the plane go to and maintain those settings. Amazingly, the storage mechanism for this system does not distinguish between true and false input. Therefore, false information may be stored as truth and the system acts upon it as if it were true. A flight plan may call for

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an altitude of 30,000 feet. If the pilot erroneously inputs 33,000, the computer doesn't know it is wrong and takes the plan to the false-truth altitude of 33,000 feet. If a child is continually treated as if he or she is worthless, that gets stored as truth although it is false, and the false-truth guides the child to act as if he or she is worthless. If not corrected, this condition will continue into adulthood and may get worse because of negative feedback. Jesus described this condition in Matthew 6:23: "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" It is exciting to search for His hidden gems of truth!

Q: What would you say are the most distinctive feature of your book?

A: I believe there are three distinctive features:

1. The first unique feature is the process of successfully using morsels of Scripture as dynamic transforms to reset my internal autopilot, scientifically called the Reticular Activating System (RAS). This concept is contained in Hebrews 4:12 and affirms that the Bible and science are harmonious.
2. Secondly, I believe the way I have defined the heart, soul, and mind as separate and distinct building blocks of the eternal human system and how they interact is unique. These definitions were derived from Jesus' declaration in Matthew 22:37 that "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." I further defined a Zone of Congruence as the area where the circles depicting the heart, soul, and mind overlap. I have included some fascinating results from beta testing a seminar, titled Tools for Transformation, that I wrote to help participants learn the process of ingesting Scripture. Memorizing Scripture is good, but not adequate to make changes in our RAS.
3. Third, although there are other books that describe the characters involved in spiritual warfare, this book is the story of my journey through the swamps of enemy territory and my identification of the enemy forces encountered on the journey. I recorded their operating tactics and the techniques I found effective in defeating their assaults. Spiritual warfare continues, but it is great to be out of the swamp and to "count it all joy" to victoriously encounter the various trials on my journey to Eternity!

Q: How do you respond to those who say your writing is out of touch with reality about Satan, demons, and evil spirits?

A: The spiritual world is *true* reality. It is a major theme of the Bible, beginning with the Genesis account of the temptation by the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Then Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John the Revelator describe the nature of Satan, the war in Heaven, and the fact that the earth is the temporary dwelling place of Satan and his rebel angels. Jesus frequently

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encountered demons and exercised complete control over them by *ordering them out* of those people in whom they had taken up residence. Donald Barnhouse in his book, *The Invisible War*, carefully traces the war going on between good and evil and describes in clear detail the organization and tactics of Satan and his minions.

Q: When you say demons had taken up residence in people, do you mean people can have demons living in their bodies?

A: Yes, I believe demons may live in the bodies of people much the same way that disease dwells in our physical bodies. Scripture records that when Jesus rebuked a demon, that demon, or unclean spirit, *came out* of the person. This book is not intended as a complete treatise on demons, but I do record my own experiences and list several references from other investigators and practitioners affirming that people may be host to various minions of the enemy. M. Scott Peck, a renowned psychiatrist, in his book, *Glimpses of the Devil*, described two cases of possession and deliverance that he was personally involved with. He also provided a description of four grades of demon activity that are included in this book. One of the principles of war is “know your enemy.” The enemy has a great advantage when we deny his presence and activities.

Q: What is the most important thing you have learned while writing this book?

A: I have learned that God’s primary purpose for the span of eternity we call “TIME” is for Him to invite people to rule and reign with Him for eternity and for those invited to accept His invitation. God knew from the beginning that man would exercise his will and choose to disobey. Since only one will is permitted in His kingdom, the Godhead agreed on a plan before the world was created that included Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection to pay the penalty for disobedience. Only those who accept this plan and submit their will to the will of the Father will be chosen to rule and reign with Him in His eternal kingdom. All other activities during our lifetime are secondary to this primary purpose.

Q: You claim you have heard from God. Can you explain how that happened?

A: First, let me emphasize that I did not hear audible voices from any source. The first time I recall “hearing” from God was in the chopper in Vietnam in 1969 as I prayed for courage. I initially thought that pilot was joking with me about setting angels to watch over me. However, when I keyed the mic attached to my flight helmet and actually heard the click in the headset, I realized the statement about angels did not come through my ear drums. I was baffled, but the message was precisely clear and accompanied by a profound sense of peace that overwhelmed the fear that had existed a few seconds before. I list other messages in which the results was exactly as I understood it would be, and some that were deceptive and

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threatening. I also point out how I learned to discern the source of the messages that came through my internal, cognitive network. So it was more of *knowing* the message rather than *hearing* the message.

Q: What do you hope readers will gain from reading this book?

A: I have three hopes:

1. First and foremost, I hope all readers will see the majesty of the Creator and experience the incredible love the Shepherd pours on His lost sheep as He pulls him out of the mire of sin, rebellion, addiction, or whatever. For me it felt like He poured warm oil on my head that gradually saturated my whole being inside and out with pure love. Then He cleaned the sludge out of my life and gave me an insatiable desire for His word. I hope all readers will experience their own relationship with our Creator.
2. Second, I hope all readers will grasp the profound impact of ingesting dynamic morsels of God's word. Mountaintop experiences are exhilarating, but we live in the valleys where challenges from life and our arch enemy are constant and we need power-filled, spiritual nourishment to "be more than conquerors!"
3. Third, I pray all readers will understand God's provision in Jesus as total payment for sin and will accept His plan for eternity. Those who choose His plan are launched on an incredible journey in this life, preparing to reign with Him in His eternal kingdom, a kingdom so magnificent that it surpasses even our wildest imagination! "But as it is written: *'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'*" 1 Corinthians 2:9

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