



“CONVICTED, BIG TIME”

Written by Joe Rieger

CAST

George: An executive on the fast track who has been neglecting his relationships with his family and his Savior. He is also on the verge of crossing the line of marital fidelity with a subordinate

Voice of the Holy Spirit: Voice only

Female Voice #1: Voice only

Female Voice #2: Voice only

SETTING: Office setting with desk, chair, computer, telephone and briefcase.

(George is packing up his briefcase at the office and getting ready to leave. Female voices are heard in the background (voices come from the corridor outside George's office))

FEMALE VOICE #1:

Georgie, are you coming to O'Reilly's with the gang? It's happy hour? *(pause)*

FEMALE VOICE #2

Sheila will be there.

FEMALE VOICES #1 & 2:

(both giggle)

GEORGE:

Give me a break ... I'll be leaving in a little while. See you there.

(Telephone rings)

GEORGE:

Hello, this is George. Oh hi *(sounds annoyed as he speaks to his wife Julie)*. No, the earliest I'll be home is 9:00. There's an office function that I really need to go to. It's one of those team building things that I need to do from time to time *(pause)*. SUZY'S RECITAL IS TONIGHT AT 7:00? Why didn't you tell me earlier? *(pause)* No, you didn't *(pause)*. I do listen to you Julie. Hey, I don't need this right now; I'm under a lot of pressure here *(pause)*. Okay, no promises, but I'll try to get there before the intermission. If I can't, I'll make it up to her I promise *(pause)*. What's that supposed to mean? *(pause)*. Oh I hear you ... loud and clear *(hangs up the phone, slams his briefcase shut and begins to head out the door)*. Nag, nag, nag ... if it isn't a recital, it's a baseball game... if it isn't a baseball game; it's a church pageant of some kind. Man oh man, when do I get to do something for me? Tonight is my night to loosen up and have some fun. Nothing is going to stop me *(starts walking towards the door)*.

HOLY SPIRIT:

Stop right there *(pause)*... Georgie!

GEORGE:

Wait, who said that? Oh I get it, real funny guys. I'm leaving already, order me a cold one.

HOLY SPIRIT:

You're not going anywhere until we talk. Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you will answer Me. Where do you think you're going?

GEORGE:

I'm going to O'Reilly's – not that it's any of your business. *Wait*, who are you?

HOLY SPIRIT:

I'm the Holy Spirit, the One you've been ignoring for the past two years. You, Georgie Boy, are way off course and headed for disaster

GEORGE:

Give me a break, the Holy Spirit doesn't talk.

HOLY SPIRIT:

I'm God, remember? I can move mountains, change the hearts of kings and yes, even speak in complete sentences. Oh that's right, to you the Holy Spirit is just Dr. Feel Good ... a bit of warm and fuzziness when you're having a mountaintop experience. Newsflash Georgie, I am the Spirit of the Living God. I AM GOD! I dwell within all believers and empower them to live a life that honors the Father and glorifies the Son. Have you forgotten John 14 and 16? Oh that's right, you haven't picked up your Bible since that last big promotion of yours.

(In a softer voice) And George, when believers behave the way you've been behaving, it deeply grieves Me.

GEORGE:

What do you mean – 'behaving the way I've been behaving'? I provide for my family, go to church on Sundays and give generously. There are a lot of people out there who behave worse than me.

HOLY SPIRIT:

THIS ISN'T ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, GEORGE. THIS IS ABOUT YOU! And while we're on the subject of providing for your family, the way I see it, you've been neglecting Julie, Suzy and Tommy – big time!

GEORGE:

What? I work my fingers to the bone so that I can provide my family with a great house and all the things they could ever want.

HOLY SPIRIT:

I'll let you in a little secret. I hear their prayers. They'd rather have less of those other things and more of you. This very moment, your wife Julie is wiping away Suzy's tears and trying to comfort her. Suzy has been practicing her little heart out for the past twelve weeks. She wants her daddy to be there for her big night. It's also breaking Julie's heart that your little "team building" exercise is more important than your own daughter.

GEORGE:

A manager at my level needs to do these kinds of things in order to bond with the team.

HOLY SPIRIT:

Oh, so it's all about bonding with the team, is it? Tell Me, who is Sheila and what kind of bonding are we talking about?

GEORGE:

This has nothing to do with Sheila!

HOLY SPIRIT:

Easy there fella. Before you go and lie to the Holy Spirit, I've got just three words to say to you (*pause*): Ananias and Sapphira

GEORGE:

You wouldn't!

HOLY SPIRIT:

Oh yes I would. Been there, done that - Book of Acts, chapter 5 – bang zoom

GEORGE:

What, you'd take my life just because I'm throwing back a few cold ones with my friends?

HOLY SPIRIT:

It's not about having a few beers with your friends. It's about neglecting your family and forsaking your relationship with Me. Tonight is the night that you either reverse this course or head full speed into harm's way. But know this. If you go to O'Reilly's instead of Suzy's recital, you'll get snared into an adulterous relationship that will destroy your precious family. Flee from this woman George; the evil one uses her to destroy Christian families. You aren't the first and you won't be the last.

GEORGE:

(Ponders all of this for a moment and shakes his head in disbelief)

But I'm not attracted ... *(catches himself about to lie and stops)* Okay okay, but tell me, why do I get this special warning from God? What's so special about George DiNofrio that he gets a personal visitation when he's about to mess up?

HOLY SPIRIT:

Actually, it's Julie DiNofrio that's so special

GEORGE:

My wife?

HOLY SPIRIT:

You can't even begin to imagine what she's been through these past two years. She's cries herself to sleep every night and I cry right along with her. Yet, no matter how much you hurt her or let her down, she has not stopped praying for you. She is fighting for you George, and her family. Sadly enough, her prayers of late have been groans ... the kind people pray when they've reached their limit. So, I interceded with prayers of

my own – groans to the Father that words cannot begin to express. He answered our prayers George and here I am. You wouldn't listen to the warnings that I sent to you through other Christians. And you were too busy and self-absorbed to hear Me speak to your heart. It took a praying wife and draconian measures to get your attention.

Ten years ago during your baptism testimony, you said and I quote, "It's time to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Jesus" (*pause*). Jesus isn't down at O'Reilly's, George. Nonetheless, the choice is yours - free will and all that sort of thing. Your move, I've said My piece.

(silence)

GEORGE:

(George's face is buried in his hands. He removes them slowly, picks up the telephone and dials).

Hello Julie, it's me. Change of plans. I'm going to Suzy's recital after all (*pause*). Let's just say an old Friend talked some sense into me. No we don't need to take two cars; I'll be home in 20 minutes. I want to go as a family. I'll see you in a little while ... bye (*hangs up phone*).

(George looks up – to God – and emotionally mouths the words 'Thank You LORD' and exits).

THE END