

## Fantasy

I suppose somewhere within each of us there is a fantasy or two. You know, those things or events that we dream of being able to fulfill if given half a chance. The buying of lottery tickets is a case in point. People buy them with the fantasy of winning big and living happily ever after. Without stretching the truth of our culture, I believe that fantasy is alive and well.

I am no exception. I often will dream dreams and fantasize about attempting certain things before I die. From time to time, I have actually been graced by accomplishing one or two of them. In particular, I remember having a fantasy of crossing the country by motorcycle. For some reason, yet to be disclosed to me, I was drawn to the two wheeled machine, in spite of all the accident statistics and a Father who did his best to discourage me. For my part, I assumed that I was invincible. So when the opportunity arose, I took my impetuous youth and gambled that the outcome would be all that my fantasy promised.

Since those days, I have reflected upon the moments that have remained etched on my heart. I still remember the day when I first departed for the wide open spaces, “I took on a bead on northern plains and rolled the power on”, as that decade old song proclaimed. That journey across the country and the subsequent transcontinental motorcycle trips, were fabulously invigorating vignettes of life.

In that sense, it parallels the fantasies of those in scripture down through the ages. Many of the biblical greats dreamed dreams and hoped, beyond hope, to live and experience life in radically new ways. For many, their thirst for adventure, their quest for power, wealth or wisdom led them to uncharted ways with risk and challenge. Most discovered a richer meaning to life, a fuller participation in God’s creation and the realization that to step out into the unknown or the inexperienced opened a doorway to the inner realm of the Holy Spirit. In the words of St. Augustine, “Be what you see. Receive who you already are.”

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