



A delightfull readable yet profound survey of the way stories inform our faith and values, and are essential to our Christian witness. Ralph Milton at his best.

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## **The Spirit Dancing**

**based on the transfiguration accounts in  
Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36  
an adult version of the story in  
[Family Story Bible, p. 212](#)  
Northstone (Wood Lake Publishing), 1996  
by Ralph Milton**

"What happened, Peter?" Mark asked.

"I can't tell you. Not now," Peter's voice sounded full, as if he was about to cry.

"Are you OK? You and James and John. You look awful!"

"No, we're not sick, Mark." Peter's hands were trembling. "Just leave us alone, OK?"

It was years later when Mark finally heard the story of what had happened that day. It seemed like a lifetime ago. Jesus, the one they thought was the Messiah, had been executed like a common criminal. Strung up on a cross. But then he'd come back and been among them. And the coming of the Holy Spirit that Pentecost had started a movement called *The Way* that would spread Jesus' message of love around the world.

"What *did* happen to you, that day on the mountain," Mark asked Peter. "You didn't want to talk about it then."

"I didn't know what it was about then." Peter was smiling.

"Well now that you know, tell me."

"I still don't know," Peter said. "But I understand. There's a difference."

"I don't get the difference. But never mind. Just tell me what happened."

"Well, Jesus asked me and James and his brother John to go up with him to the top of the mountain. We thought he was just going to pray. But all of sudden, Jesus changed. His face shone. It was like looking into the sun. And his clothes turned white. Really white."

"That's just like what happened to Moses!"

"Yeah," said Peter. "And then there were two people with Jesus."

"Who?" Mark asked.

"Elijah and Moses."

"How did you know?"

"I don't know how we knew," said Peter. "But we knew. And Jesus was talking to them."

"What did they say?"

"I couldn't hear. And Jesus wouldn't tell us afterward."

"So what did you do?" said Mark.

"I didn't know what to do. I said to Jesus, 'Shouldn't we build three little houses here? I could build one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'"

"Why would you want to do that?"

Peter laughed. "Because I can't think under pressure, that's why. So I say something dumb."

"What did Jesus say?" Mark asked.

"He didn't say anything. A bright cloud came and covered him. Then we heard a voice. James and John heard it too. You can ask them."

"Was it God?"

"It must have been. The voice said, 'This is my Son. I love him. Listen to him.'"

"That's all?" asked Mark.

"That's all!"

"What did you do?"

"We were so scared. We fell flat on our faces. But then we heard Jesus saying very gently, 'Don't be afraid. Get up.'"

Mark was shaking his head. "I don't get it. Every time I think I understand, I hear something new. But it's funny, Peter. I hear you tell that story and I feel strong and good and happy inside."

"Yeah!" Peter was laughing. "I know what you mean. It kinda gets the old spirit dancing, doesn't it?"

**Ralph Milton has written a number of books,  
all of them available through Wood Lake Publishing.**

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