



L₁ O₁ V₄ E

A roller coaster with blue tracks and orange cars against a blue sky. The coaster features several loops and a high drop. The text "THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE" is overlaid in the center.

THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE

BY JOHN AMES

A roller coaster with orange tracks and blue supports against a blue sky with clouds. The coaster features several loops and a high peak. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Have you ever thought of your
Christian walk as a roller coaster
ride?**

With spiritual highs!


and

spiritual lows

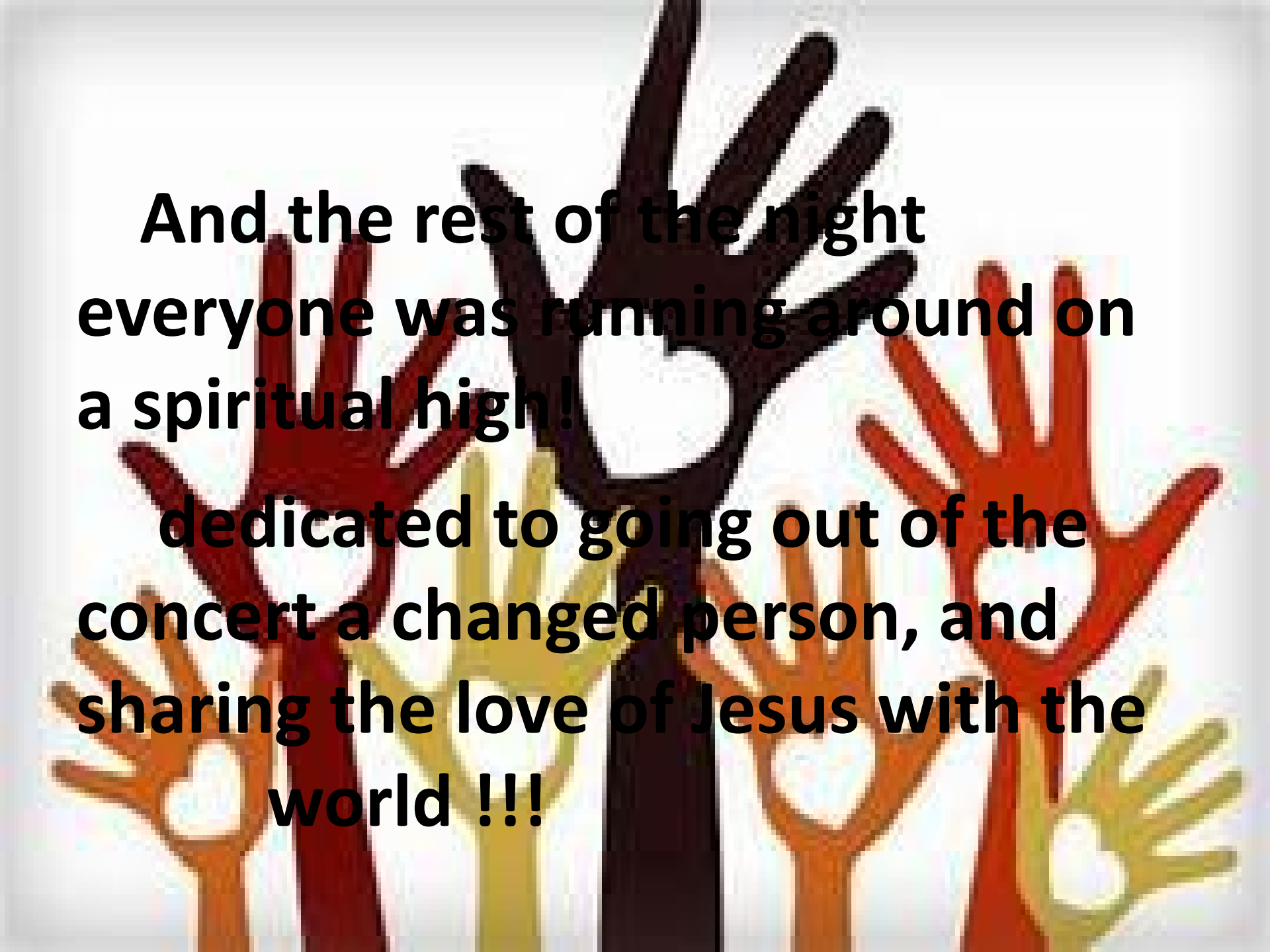
A roller coaster with orange tracks and blue supports against a blue sky with clouds. The coaster has several loops and a high peak. The text is overlaid on the image.

**This past week I went to a
Christian concert in Orrington Me.
The place was packed!**

**The artists during their
performance talked to the crowd
about becoming more dedicated
Christians**

A photograph of a group of children in a church, with their hands raised in the air. The children are of various ethnicities and are wearing colorful clothing. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the children, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

**And it was just about
unanimous with everybody's
hands in the air! Yes! I want to
become a better follower of Jesus!
Yes! I want to tell everyone about
Jesus's love! Yes! Yes! Yes!**



**And the rest of the night
everyone was running around on
a spiritual high!**

**dedicated to going out of the
concert a changed person, and
sharing the love of Jesus with the
world !!!**

***WOW! OVER 500 PUMPED
UP CHRISTIANS HEADED
OUT TO FACE THE WORLD!***

And the sad thing is some of the people wont even stay pumped up long enough to make it to church on sunday

WHAT HAPPENS?

I was reading a blog on the internet, about a counselor at a Christian summer camp, who had eight boys that he had worked with all summer.

As summer camp was closing, there was a “decision night” and the eight boys emotionally rededicated their lives.

As the counselor tried to stay in touch with the boys, and encourage them, they progressively went back to their old selves.

WHAT HAPPENED?

In the book Pilgrims progress by John Bunyan he describes the spiritual highs as a feeling of arrival, of abiding with Jesus.

but then he would be back in the valleys, and feeling inadequate.

AGAIN!

WHAT HAPPENED?

**Jesus talk about the why in the
parable of the sower found in:**

Mathew 13: 1-23

Mark 4: 1-20

Luke 8: 4-15

Matthew 13: 1-23

On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow.

4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

**10 And the disciples came
and said to Him, “Why do You
speak to them in parables?”**

11 He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given

12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

**14 And in them the prophecy of
Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:**

**‘Hearing you will hear and shall
not understand,**

**And seeing you will see and not
perceive;**

**15 For the hearts of this people
have grown dull.**

Their ears are hard of hearing,

And their eyes they have closed,

**Lest they should see with their
eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with
their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.**

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

**21 yet he has no root in himself,
but endures only for a while. For
when tribulation or persecution
arises because of the word,
immediately he stumbles.**

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

All 4 received the “seed”

**Let me try to give a more detailed
picture of “the seed” than just
the word of God**

**When we go to these concerts,
or hear a great sermon, or a
testimony and it touches our
hearts, and we see, hear, and feel
the Glory of God! And as we are
basking in this desire for oneness**

**with God, we reach these
spiritual highs, and we have a
strong desire to serve and follow,
and get as close to God as we can.**

**Sin loses it's appeal, and God's
glory breaks the chains of
bondage that holds us down**

But in Jesus's parable of the sower 3 out of 4 of the seeds that fell on our hearts died!

WHY?

Did God fail to do his part?

Or did we fail to do our part
for God?

In 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul says

**6. I planted, Apollos watered, but
God gave the increase.**

**have you ever thought about
the part you have to do in helping
a seed grow and mature?**

In Mark 9:42 Jesus says

42 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea

As Christians we don't get to that point of a spiritual high, that desire to walk away from sin and follow the King of glory, on our own! It is a joint effort of working with God.

in closing I just want to touch on
the spiritual lows! When we are
crashing and burning, when we are
all withered and dried up!

When we are stumbling, when we
are being choked out by this world

We hit rock bottom when we no longer see the love of God in our lives, when we put the blinders on!
When we put ear plugs in!

Being a Christian is a participation sport, there is a place on the team for everyone of us. We choose to be a player