

GOSPEL TRICK SHOT

MINISTRIES, INC.

NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2025

REFLECTIONS – BY STEVE LILLIS

NEW BOOK RELEASE COMING SOON!

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

GOSPEL TRICK SHOT OF THE MONTH

CALENDAR



1

REFLECTIONS – BY STEVE LILLIS



Long time Gospel Trick Shot partners Tom Rossman and Mike Massey attended the BCA Hall of Fame Banquet at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando, FL during the annual Mosconi Cup from 11/29/24 - 12/3/24. Starting back 23 years ago at the second annual 2001 World Artistic Pool Championship event in Las Vegas, Nevada, Mike Massey, Tom Rossman, and Steve Lillis, along with Loree Jon Jones, Robin Dodson, Steve Geller, and Jeff Ballentyne were all moved by the Holy Spirit to start sharing the love of Jesus publicly in Gospel Trick Shot shows. Two GTS Shows were done that year in 2001 and many more followed through the years. Mike, Steve, and Tom eventually traveled together to do GTS shows overseas in places like the Philippines, Germany, Ukraine, and Morocco. Other pool players joined later on and became known as the GTS (Gospel Trick Shot) RACK (Recreational Ambassadors for Christ's Kingdom) team. Gospel Trick Shot shows were already being done in community centers and colleges by Steve Lillis since the mid 1990's. The original vision to do GTS shows for the billiard industry grew out of GTS Bible studies that started the previous year during the first 2000 World Artistic Pool Championship event. A movement grew by the grace of God because of the unity of fellow Christians to come together and share all that God had done in their lives.

Those in attendance at the 2024 BCA Hall of Fame banquet in Orlando, FL, included Jeanette Lee, Nick Varner, Shane Van Boening, Jerry Briesath, and Terry Bell, have either attended, participated, promoted, or helped Gospel Trick Shot in some way through the past 24 years. There are other BCA Hall of Famers that were not present in Orlando this year like Jim Rempe, Allen Hopkins, Pat Fleming, Loree Jon Brown, and Robin Dodson who have been involved and helped GTS in some way in the past. Also present was Belinda Campos Calhoun who was my coach and a WPBA Hall of Fame player who has been part of GTS for years. God used and continues to use billiard royalty to accomplish his goals.

Gospel Trick Shot is so thankful for the friendships that started over 50 years ago when GTS Founder Steve Lillis started playing professional pool in his home state of New Jersey. God allowed Steve to travel the country to compete with the best players in the world and eventually use the friendships and experience to help form the ministry. Other ministries like the RACK Vision, CPPA (Christian Pool Players Association), and Cues4Christ have developed since. God has a plan for time and eternity, and we give him all the honor and praise for what he has done and continues to do in the billiard industry and beyond. Apart from God we can do nothing of eternal value!

2 NEW BOOK RELEASE!

Introducing the much-anticipated conclusion to a remarkable trilogy, author Steve Lillis is proud to present his latest release which will encompass the lessons learned in life's trials. Deeply insightful and inspiring, this book offers a profound exploration of the trials and tribulations that shape our lives and the invaluable lessons they impart.

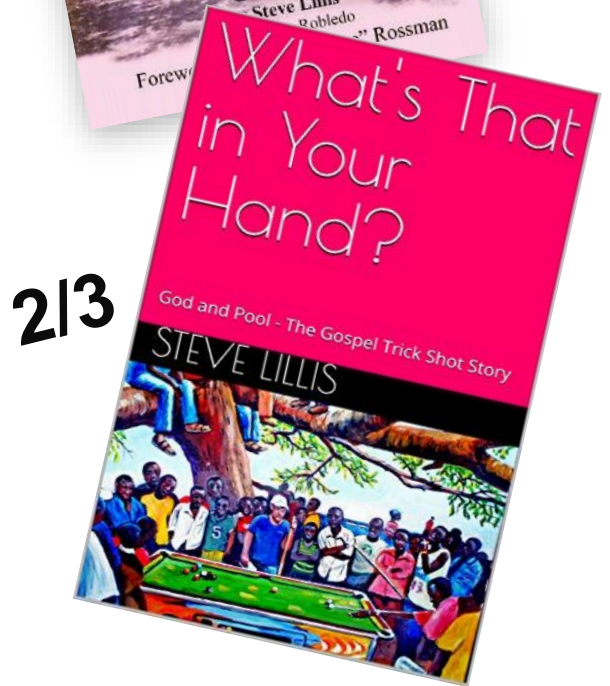
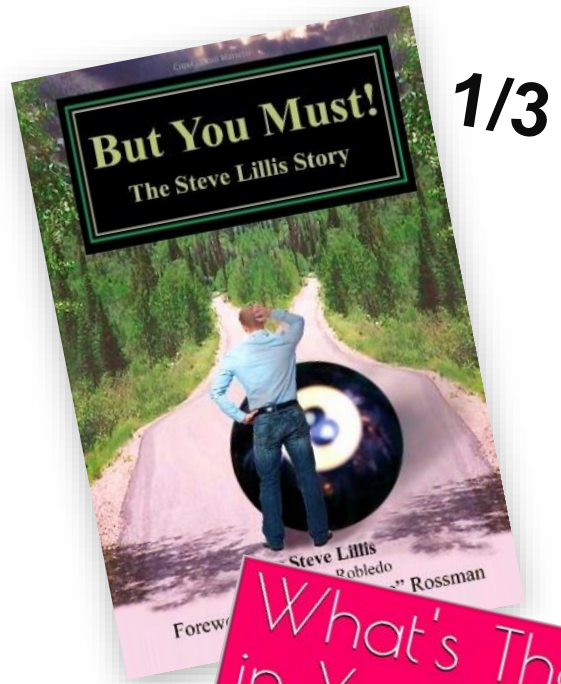
In this third release, with the title soon to be revealed, Steve Lillis builds upon the foundation laid in his previous books, "But You Must!" and "What's That in Your Hand?". "But you Must!", Lillis, as a professional pool player and with Devra Robledo, vividly shared Steve's personal journey with pocket billiards and his search for meaning through a quest for God. From the highs and lows on the pool table to the spiritual quest of a lifetime, Lillis offered a captivating narrative that resonated with readers from all walks of life.

His second release, "What's That in Your Hand?", with his unique blend of passion, candor, and wisdom, Lillis takes readers on an exhilarating global adventure, traversing 27 countries and most of North America. Together with his friends and partners, Lillis embarked on a mission to spread the love of Jesus while utilizing their cue sticks on billiard tables. Through countless encounters, they discovered the power of faith and forged connections that transcended borders and cultures.

His third release on lessons learned in life's trials, invites readers to join Lillis on this extraordinary journey of self-discovery. Through real-life anecdotes and reflections, Lillis tackles profound topics such as Small Beginnings, Equipping, Making Adjustments and the Supernatural. With a writing style that is both engaging and relatable, this book offers a compelling narrative that will leave readers with a newfound perspective on life's trials and how to navigate them with grace and wisdom.

Lillis' mastery in storytelling combined with his deep understanding of the human experience ensures that the third edition will be more than just another book - it will be a life-changing experience. Whether you are a fan of Steve's previous works or someone searching for inspiration and guidance, this book is an essential addition to your collection.

Don't miss out on the final chapter of this remarkable trilogy by author Steve Lillis. Get ready to embark on a transformative journey that will leave an indelible impact on your heart and mind.



3

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

****New Website Coming Soon!****

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our new website in early January 2025! This platform will feature a variety of discipleship programs through engaging videos, covering essential topics designed to build a strong foundation for new believers. The exciting material will delve into subjects such as Salvation, Water Baptism, the Holy Spirit, The Blood Covenant, Prayer, The Word of God, Praise and Worship, Christian Character, Giving, and Sharing Your Faith. In addition to the website, we will also launch new social media channels, including an all-new YouTube channel, TikTok, and Instagram, to connect with our community in innovative ways.



4 GTS SHOT OF THE MONTH

Gospel Trick Shot #59 – Testing of your Faith

History of the Trick Shot: This shot is based on a similar concept of a very familiar shot taken from the Artistic Pool shot program also known as the “Calling the Corners” trick shot from Discipline 1 of the “Trick and Fancy” category. The original shot has an added ball frozen to the object ball, however in this particular version of the shot the 8-Ball is used alone and is made in the opposite corner pocket.



GTS Name and Why: This Gospel Trick Shot is called the “Testing of Your Faith.” Often, we find ourselves in situations where we do not see an obvious solution to a problem we are facing. In this shot, you would want to bank the object ball across into the opposite side pocket, but due to the awkward angle of the position of the cue ball, a ‘double kiss’ would prevent the obvious bank shot from being played. This can cause you to feel discouraged and view the ‘double kiss’ as a negative. However, just as in life, we can view our problems negatively, or we can see them as an opportunity to develop us to do greater things for God’s glory. In this shot, the same is true. Instead of seeing the double kiss as a negative, the double kiss actually allows for a great shot to be done. A change of thinking, however, is required to see the negative challenge as an opportunity to develop us for greater things in life for God’s glory.

Scripture References (NKJV): James 1:2-3 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

Cue Ball Placement: Along the long center line of the table, about a half a diamond from center of the side pockets as shown in the diagram.

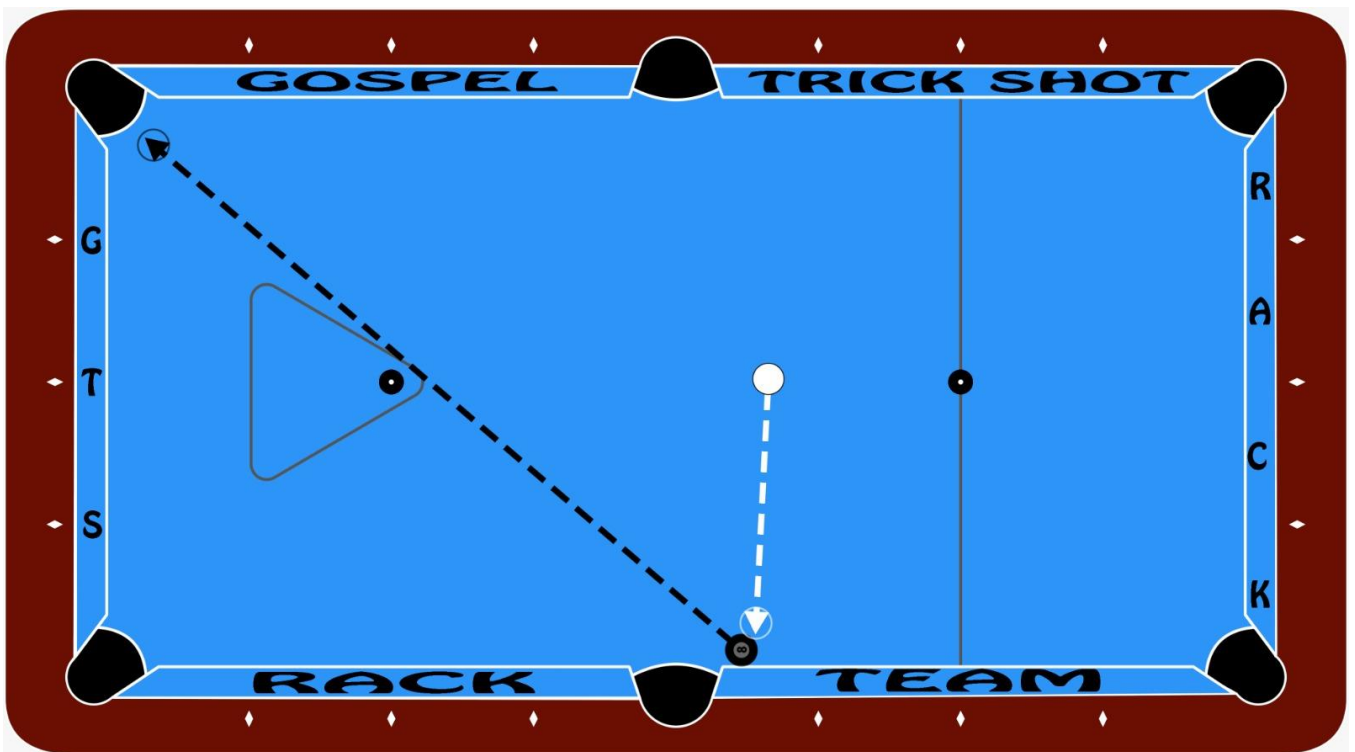
Object Ball(s) Placement: The 8-ball is positioned frozen to the rail about a ball width from the side pocket.

Objective: Hit the cue ball directly into the 8-Ball using about two tips of left-hand English at a medium pace. The cue ball and 8-Ball should ‘double kiss’ and cause the 8-Ball to be made in the opposite corner pocket

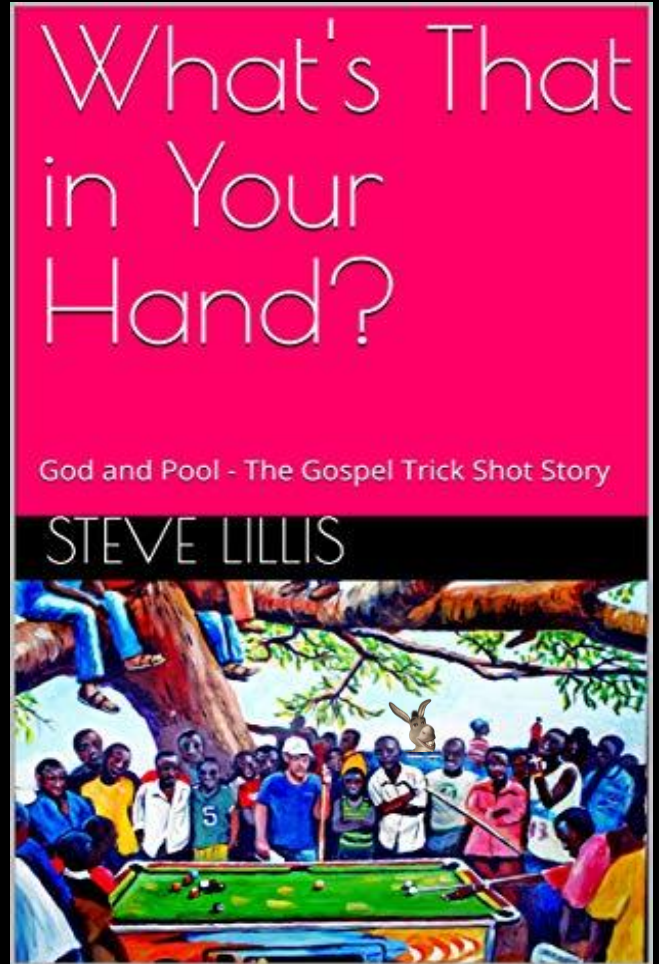
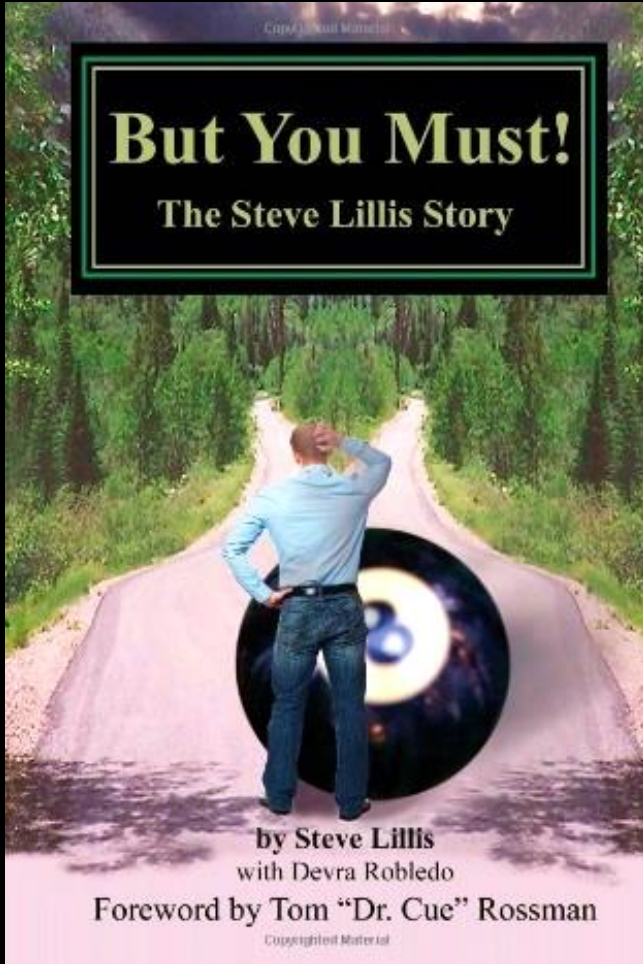
Special Notes: This shot is not as easy as it looks, and as the scripture implies, the testing of your faith produces patience. So be patient in working out the correct power and angle needed to hit the cue ball into the 8-Ball to be made in the corner pocket. If the you find that the 8-Ball misses the pocket into the short rail first you probably need to play the 8-Ball a fraction thinner. If you find you are missing it into the long rail then you will need to play the 8-Ball thicker or fuller.

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Crowd Reactions: This shot will definitely cause a huge reaction from the crowd as it is not obvious that the 8-Ball can be made into the opposite corner pocket using a 'double kiss.' Normally you would miss the shot with your first few attempts, but this is a great opportunity to explain to the crowd how we ought to learn from the challenges we face. Then we can make the necessary adjustments as we do in our walk of faith with the Lord. After several misses, the crowd would eventually want to see you make the shot which will build more anticipation. When you eventually make the shot, the 8-Ball normally would roll to the corner pocket at a slow pace just making it to the pocket resulting in the crowd roaring with a loud round of applause. After the Gospel Trick Shot is made, let everyone know that they should never lose faith or grow weary when facing challenges, but allow patience to be developed through the testing of our faith!



Books by Steve Lillis



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5 GTS CALENDAR

GTS Calendar 2025: changes and additions are forthcoming (BILLIARD INDUSTRY events are confirmed as GTS participation is (TBD) To Be Determined!)

>1/17/25 – 1/26/25 – Annual Derby City Classic with GTS RACK team leader Michael Hewitt and others in the GTS booth at Ceasars Hotel and Casino in Southern Indiana.

>2/12/25 – 2/16/25 - WPA World Artistic Pool Championship in Bay City, MI with GTS Booth and GTS RACK team members participating.

<3/10/25 – 3/17/25 (TBD) – GTS Arizona and Los Angeles Tour with Steve Lillis in Wickenburg and Phoenix, AZ and LA with churches and GTS partners and friends.

>3/18/25 – 3/20/25 (TBD) – BCA Expo and Amusement Expo at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, NV.

>4/9/25 – 4/13/25 (TBD) – Annual Hopkins Expo at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at 100 Station Ave in Oaks, PA.

>GTS World Tour 2025 (TBD) – ministry & billiard federation invites: India, Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Japan, Indonesia, Portugal, Serbia, Hungary, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi

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