

The Inroads of Spiritualism

We have covered the topic of New Age, and we've talked about the revival of ancient paganism, but now you must see how far Satan has progressed in his work of deception.

A Revival

The Bible warns us of a time when Satan will use all signs and lying wonders just before the second coming of Christ to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. (*2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 KJV*)

Commenting on this passage, Ellen White says: Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, points to the special working of Satan in spiritualism as an event to take place immediately before the second advent of Christ. Speaking of Christ's second coming, he declares that it is "after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." *2 Thessalonians 2:9,24*

Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world. (*Maranatha, pg. 168*)

The extent of Satan's work cannot rightly be understood, for it has been going on in secret and will continue to go on in secret until its full effects

are revealed. The iceberg that our church met, the panentheistic views of Kellogg, has moved to the waters of protestant America. A great revival is taking place and will only continue to grow in power. The tip of the iceberg is something I am sure you are all familiar with because I have mentioned it a lot recently: contemplative prayer.

High-jacking "Prayer"

The power of prayer cannot be overemphasized. Ellen White writes:

Satan is ever ready to insinuate that prayer is a mere form, and avails us nothing. He cannot bear to have his powerful rival appealed to. At the sound of fervent prayer, the hosts of darkness tremble. Fearing that their captive may escape, they form a wall around him, that Heaven's light may not reach his soul. But if in his distress and helplessness the sinner looks to Jesus, pleading the merits of his blood, our compassionate Redeemer listens to the earnest, persevering prayer of faith, and sends to his deliverance a re-enforcement of angels that excel in strength. And when these angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of Heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, the angels of darkness fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost, and that one more soul is escaping from the power of their influence. (*Signs of the Times, November 18, 1886, par. 5*)

Contemplative prayer is not actually a conversation with God. A teacher of this practice writes, in his book *Signature of Jesus*, pg. 212:

The first step in faith is to stop thinking about God in prayer...

The purpose of contemplative prayer is to experience inner silence. The same silence that Buddhists and Hindus try to achieve through the mantra. Those who practice contemplative prayer teach that every person must be emptied of self before they can be filled with the divine. This is, absolutely, a true statement. The error lies in the belief that YOU can empty yourself of yourself. Notice the words of the prophet:

No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent to Christ accomplishing the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where

the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, pg. 159)

She does not say the language of the soul will be silence and stillness, but rather it will be a surrendered heart. If you surrender your heart to God, He can empty you of self, but this is done by offering your heart to God by a prayer of faith, not silence. In the previous quote, a lovely example of a prayer of faith is given, and repeated here for emphasis: "Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul." Such a prayer is honest, direct communication with God, trusting in His promises and power.

The inner peace and mystical experience that practitioners of contemplative prayer seek is achieved by focusing on a single word and using it to dispel every thought. The purpose is not to focus on the word, but to achieve inner silence—to cease from thought. The name itself, "contemplative prayer," is a prime example of doublespeak; the exact opposite is taking place. To contemplate is to think, and according to Christ, prayer is not vain repetition:

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do... (*Matthew 6:7 KJV*)

There is good news for us though, a few seconds of thoughtlessness won't place us in a dangerous place. Even well-practiced masters take 20 minutes to enter into the "silence." It's not something that you will do by accident.

The Desert "fathers"

The first Christian practitioners of contemplative prayer are referred to as the desert "fathers." They basically started the first monastic order. They lived as hermits in the desert after selling all their possessions and renouncing the world. They practiced something called "Hesychasm" (from the Greek for "stillness, rest, quiet, silence"). Hesychast prayer was a meditative practice traditionally done in silence, with eyes closed—"empty of mental pictures" and visual concepts, but with the intense consciousness of God's presence. The desert fathers originated in... you guessed it! Egypt. The lifestyle of these monks was practically the same as that of Buddhists.

The first step of their error was seeking an experience outside the boundaries of scripture instead of claiming it's promises. The next was trying to experience God without the Bible or communication. Their goal was to feel His presence, not to actually share their wants, sorrows, or struggles with Him. They also did not give Him praise or thanksgiving.

The practice of the desert fathers resurfaced in the 14th century in a book titled "Cloud of Unknowing." This time, it was taught that God

is ultimately beyond human comprehension; you cannot know Him. Despite this belief, they did not cast away the Bible. They used it in the same way Buddhists use the mantra. They claimed that once the Bible guides your mind as far as human thought can go, your intellect hits a wall. To go further into direct union with God, you must drop words, concepts, and even Bible verses into a "cloud of forgetting" and pierce the darkness with a "dart of longing love."

In 1965, the head of the Catholic Church, known as Paul VI, wrote in *Perfectae Caritatis*:

It is necessary therefore that the members of every community, seeking God solely and before everything else, should join contemplation, by which they fix their minds and hearts on Him, with apostolic love, by which they strive to be associated with the work of redemption and to spread the kingdom of God.

He also officially decreed that communities dedicated entirely to contemplation held a "distinguished part in Christ's Mystical Body" and mandated that religious life prioritize it.

According to an article in *Common Boundary Magazine* from October, 1997:

The pontiff declared that unless the church rediscovered the contemplative tradition, renewal couldn't take place. He specifically called upon the monastics, because they lived the contemplative life, to help the laity and those in other religious orders bring that dimension into their lives as well.

Francis was also strongly committed to supporting the rich history of contemplation in Christianity. He called upon people to draw on the example of Saint Paul the Hermit, Saint Anthony, the "holy Desert Fathers," and the countless monks and nuns who practiced contemplative prayer. He recommended the practice of wordless, quiet contemplative prayer, describing it simply as a mutual gaze of love between a person and God.

It is true that some Catholic priests and nuns have expertise in these practices, and in many places where Christian mysticism is taught through meditative methods, Catholic teachers have played a significant role. However, it is important to clarify that not all Catholics or Christian leaders promote these practices, and many are sincere in their devotion to God. Nevertheless, a spiritual revival is here, and the Bible warns about partaking in this revival using these words:

Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers. (*Isaiah 2:6 KJV*)

The Hebrew word used for Soothsayers means to cloud over, act covertly, or practice magic. It would seem to accurately depict the "cloud of unknowing."

The Effects of Contemplative Practices

In my research, I discovered that the power of Satan to deceive is being exercised to a much greater extent than before. Many of the masters teaching these practices are saying their students are attaining what took them years in a matter of weeks.

Not everyone who engages in these mystical practices has the same experience. Despite this, I have found a relatively common theme.

First, those who have attained "Christian enlightenment" claim that the world does not need an atonement. They determine this from an intense feeling of oneness with the world. The word we are looking for is a "Non-dual" experience, the same that I mentioned in the newsletter called "Theosophy" (*Waymark 3427-3429*). This experience leads them to believe the world is already one with God. They don't see the world in need of a Savior; they see the world in need of awakening. They cling to the Universalist view, meaning they believe there are many ways to God. A relatively famous Christian practitioner wrote:

The problem with exclusivism is that it presents us with a god from whom we need to be delivered rather than the living God who is the hope of the world. The exclusivist god is narrow, rigid, and blind. This god pays no attention to the sanctity and personal holiness of people outside the Christian fold. This god takes no loving and parental pride in the lives of great spiritual leaders who spoke of other paths to truth, figures like Moses, Siddhartha [Buddha], Mohammed, and Ghandi.... Such a god is not worthy of honor, glory, worship, or praise. This god offers no hope for a world deeply divided along religious lines, a world crying out for peace and reconciliation. (*Mansions of the Spirit*, pg. 61, Michael Ingham)

Well, what does the Bible say?

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. (*Matthew 7:13 KJV*)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (*John 14:6 KJV*)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (*John 10:1 KJV*)

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (*Isaiah 5:20 KJV*)

Second, they love to commit blasphemy. Just like the Hindus, who greet each other with the term "Namaste," translated as "god in me worships the god in you," they believe that, deep down in the

heart, everyone is God.

It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the Human race,...Now I realize what we all are... If only they [people] could all see themselves as they really are... I suppose the big problem would be that we would fall down and worship each other... at the center of our being is a point that is untouched by sin and by illusions, a point of pure truth... this little point... is the pure glory of God in us. It is in everybody. (*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, Thomas Merton, pg. 157-158)

This is part of what it means to attain "Christian" enlightenment. They call it "Christ consciousness," and try to make it synonymous with having the mind of Christ. To them, the Christ consciousness means they have become aware that they are Christ. They claim Jesus was not the Christ of prophecy, but merely a Christ (meaning anointed). This is also the claim of many who are attacking the 2300 day prophecy. I am unsure if there is any correlation between the two groups. The Bible tells us:

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (*2 Timothy 3:2 KJV*)

New Agers claim to be God, and this claim is blasphemous. It is injurious to God and His perfection. God and sin are as utterly incompatible as light and darkness.

Third, the Christ consciousness vaunted as the pinnacle of Christianity is no different from Hindu and Buddhist enlightenment. Of this enlightenment, a practitioner wrote in *Yoga Journal*, Issue 63, July/August 1985:

There is no absolute assurance that enlightenment necessitates the moral virtue of a person. There is no guarantee against the weakness of anger, lust, and greed in the human soul. The enlightened are on equal footing with the ignorant in their struggle against their own evil.

Where then does the "Christian" New Age practitioner stand in the struggle with sin? They are just like the pagans, sinners who mystically perceive they are God because they have a very strong feeling. They stand on equal ground with the pagans—refusing the Savior and claiming His place. Professing themselves to be wise, they are fools. Without a defense against sin, they fall prey to every wicked lust of the heart.

A Masterpiece of Deceptive Work

In the Throne-room vision found in Early Writings, Ellen White saw a masterpiece of deception unfold upon the World. She writes:

I saw the Father rise from the throne, [See Early Writings, pg. 92] and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and

sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, "Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself." Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, "My Father, give us Thy Spirit." Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace.

I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children. (*Early Writings*, pg. 55-56)

Here we find the startling reality of one of Satan's last-day deceptions. We find him counterfeiting the work of the Holy Spirit; we find him usurping the position. The counterfeit spirit that Satan sends is called by Ellen White an "unholy influence," while she calls the Holy Spirit the Third Person of the Godhead (*Desire of Ages*, pg. 671). There is a giant difference between a person and an influence.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan had promised Adam and Eve a gift of discernment. He had said, "Ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil." The reality of his deception was that in order to receive the discernment Satan promised, they had to forfeit the discernment God had given them. They erased the distinction God had made in favor of what they thought was a "greater light." So then, Satan is not offering something that looks dark

and sinister; he is offering deceitful light.

In Heaven, Satan said to himself, "I will be like God." Now he promises his subjects that he will make them like God. He is selling what every Christian should be looking for. He claims to be offering the mind of Christ, but his is a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit. His real aim has remained what it always was—to be God: Father, Son, and Spirit. Satan seeks to impersonate all three.

The strategy of pretending to be the Holy Spirit is exceptionally dangerous. Either he will get people to blaspheme the Spirit by speaking anything injurious against the Third Person of the Godhead, or he will try to get them to accept his "unholy influence" instead. In my lifetime, I have seen the extremes of both of his deceptions lived out in the lives of poor, deceived souls.

The spirit Satan breathes upon apostate Christianity is an unholy influence—here is a critical difference. If you have the Holy Spirit in you, the mind of Christ, that glory of God's character, you are not God. You are a vessel filled with the glory of God by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit departs, you are just an empty vessel, and you will feel empty. On the other hand, those who follow an influence are merely following their own wicked and deceitful hearts, and claiming it is the voice of God. If the Holy Spirit is merely an influence, then we can naturally conclude that when we receive it, all our inclinations and feelings/impressions are the will of God. This is a tremendous deception that the youth are exceptionally prone to! The Bible tells us very plainly that we can test the Spirit/spirit that prompts us.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (*2 Corinthians 13:5 KJV*)

The Holy Spirit will be in harmony with the Bible. The Holy Spirit will guide your life by the principle of love as expressed in the Ten Commandments. But how many people follow the promptings of their own wicked and deceitful hearts without testing them by Scripture!

In offering a counterfeit spirit, Satan takes away from man the only means by which sin can be resisted and overcome.

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. (*Isaiah 59:19 KJV*)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (*Romans 8:14 KJV*)

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (*1 John 3:9 KJV*)

More Food for the Little Flock —

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (*1 John 5:4 KJV*)

All these truths are clearly expressed by the prophet.

In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. (*Desire of Ages*, pg. 671)

Without the regenerating agent—The Holy Spirit—the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail... What a statement! What a blow against the idea of personal holiness! After two thousand more years, who could argue that, apart from Christ, mankind has become of greater moral worth! It takes the fullness of divine power and the death of Christ to redeem someone from the slavery of sin. The Bible warns:

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. (*2 Corinthians 11:14-15 KJV*)

There is a recorded example of this work in Acts. The Bible says:

But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. (*Acts 8:9-10 KJV*)

The Harlot of Revelation is peddling *Pharmakeia* through her priests. The world looks

upon it as the "great power of God." But God says, "Ye shall know them by their works,"—not their miracles. The defining characteristic is whether or not they obey what is written in the word of God. The world is rebelling against Christ. Spiritualists are saying:

Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? (*Numbers 16:3 KJV*)

They don't want Christ as their king, and they don't want Christ as their priest. They think they don't need an atonement because they are already holy. Thus, the Bible says:

Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. (*Jude 1:11 KJV*)

A Solemn Reminder

Perhaps we have overlooked the power of the dragon in the threefold union of Revelation.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (*Revelation 16:13 KJV*)

The Dragon is spiritualism. Meditative practices (such as contemplative prayer) open the mind directly to demons. They come as angels of light, and especially delight in impersonating the dead. The Dragon is in every culture. Ellen White details the work of Satan in Great Controversy:

Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.

As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.

The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.

Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God. (*Great Controversy*, pg. 588-589)

If you don't believe the power of miracle-working demons is being practiced already, you have probably never heard of Reiki.

Reiki

Reiki is a healing technique that originated in Buddhism and later entered Christianity. The Japanese man who invented it trained a native Hawaiian who then, in hopes of reaching Christians in Hawaii, claimed it was practiced by Jesus. Supposedly, Reiki was the source of his power to heal with a touch. This is a load of nonsense, as if the Creator of heaven and earth needed magic sigils to channel "cosmic energy" to perform a miracle.

In order to become a practitioner, one must be attuned to a Reiki symbol (sigil) by a Reiki master. During this process, people often have visions where they meet their "spirit guide."

During the Reiki attunement process, the avenue that is opened within the body to allow Reiki to flow through also opens up the psychic communication centers. This is why many Reiki practitioners report having verbalized channeled communications with the spirit world. (*The Everything Reiki Book*, pg. 144, Phylameana lila Desy)

This "spirit guide" is where their power to give cos-

mic "vibrations" comes from. Practitioners often have a distinct fondness for the acclaimed power of "frequencies" and "vibrations."

Practitioners are taught to channel "universe energy" that the receiver experiences as "pleasant vibrations." This form of magick is especially practiced by massage therapists who often advertise it as a complementary service. Nurses and others in the health and beauty industry might also practice this form of magick. Not everyone who practices Reiki says they do, and the magick itself is not "activated" by the practitioner. They say it is an unconscious thing, that the universe chooses to exercise it if the patient is "open to receiving it." This means the experience is initiated by the demon "spirit guide" that gives each practitioner their power.

Reiki practitioners can look, act, and even talk like a Christian. For all intents and purposes, they may even hold to many Christian beliefs. They may even claim that the spirit giving them the power to heal is the Holy Spirit. How do I know? I have met a Reiki practitioner in a Seventh-day Adventist Church. Full-fledged, wearing a symbol and everything. They even told the children a story! It was about some cosmic power that made their massage clients feel really good. They told the kids it was the "power of the Holy Spirit." This took place in a conservative church in a small town.

I am reminded of a story in the Bible. The seven sons of Sceva tried to cast out a demon without a personal relationship with Christ. Here is the record beginning with what they told the spirit:

We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth... And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. (*Acts 19:13, 15-16 KJV*)

This story highlights something you perhaps have never thought of before. Here in Ephesus, many people had given their lives to Christ. Yet as soon as this took place the Bible records:

And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. (*Acts 19:18-19 KJV*)

The amount of magic practiced by those who had claimed the name of Jesus in the town of Ephesus is staggering. It amounts to roughly 137 years of labor for one person. Each piece of silver is generally understood to be a day's wage. Therefore, just because someone claims to follow Christ does not mean they have given up the abomination of witchcraft. They might even think that their witchcraft is the power of God.

Avoiding Reiki

The most practical thing to do to avoid becoming a victim of this witchcraft is to be cautious when seeking out massage services, especially in places where Reiki or other spiritual healing practices are advertised. It is important to note that not all massage therapists practice Reiki or are involved in spiritualism; many are dedicated professionals who simply offer legitimate therapeutic massages for relaxation and health. Nevertheless, the number of Reiki practitioners has exploded in the last 10 years, so it is wise to inquire about any additional spiritual practices before booking a service.

Practitioners often use the phrase “sending light and love” synonymously with Reiki. Many Reiki practitioners use terms like nurture, comfort, deep relaxation, balance your mind, well-being, reduce stress, and reduce pain to describe their practice. Isn’t it ironic that the practitioners think they are using the power of God to heal people when they are really practicing witchcraft?

Apparently, there is also a large number of “distance” Reiki users. They are using social media like YouTube and TikTok to peddle their craft, often under the title “ASMR.” Most of them are fake. They are scammers trying to make money off the gullible among the mystically minded. I did find two legitimate users, identified by their channeling symbol. They also had consent agreements in the heading, such as “Removing all negative energy stay if you consent.” This is a pretty important part of magick; it generally requires an indication of consent. This indication can be subconscious:

Nurses and massage therapists who have been attuned to Reiki may never disclose when Reiki starts flowing from their palms as they handle their patients. Reiki will naturally “kick in” when it is needed and will continue for as long as the recipient is subconsciously open to receiving it. (*The Everything Reiki Book*, pg. 270, Phylameana lila Desy)

I say “indication” because sometimes people unknowingly indicate consent. A prime example would be going to a massage place that prominently displays “complimentary Reiki” and not saying you don’t want it. Or as the quote mentions, one can be “subconsciously” open to receiving it.

Ultimately, you can trust God to protect you if you are not being careless or placing yourself intentionally where you will come in contact with Reiki or any other witchcraft for that matter. The safest place you will ever be is in the will of God. Always remember, when you are working for God, you are perfectly safe wherever He calls you to be.

An Abomination Unseen

I would like to highlight something I found about the image of abomination.

From the biblical perspective an abomination callously disregards and actively disdains the values God has established. It affronts

God’s holiness, sovereignty as Creator and purposes expressed in the Law. There is an irony in the image of abomination. It is not chosen in brazen rebellion against God, but is perceived by the offender as the good and right thing to do. Thus the sacrifice of the wicked (Prov 15:8), the prayer of the law-breaker (Prov 28:9) and blemished sacrifice (Deut 17:1) are abominations, although their practitioners do not perceive themselves as committing an abomination. (*Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, pg. 54, Leland and Ryken)

So, the irony of the abomination that causes desolation is that the practitioners do not perceive that they are committing an abomination.

Yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. (*John 16:2 KJV*)

Here, Christ showed that His law would not be esteemed by those who claimed His name in the future. Christians will walk in the way of Cain, breaking God’s commandments. They will differ from Cain in one respect: they will think their act of murder is an act of worship. They are so deceived by Satan that they think they are doing the right thing, even though they cannot support it from Scripture! A reprobate people, following an unholy influence. They will seek to use force to compel those who do not agree with them to worship God by keeping a day that God has not declared holy. Their act will actually be calling down the wrath of God, unmingled with mercy, upon the earth, but they will think they are doing God a great service. The image of the beast is an image of abomination. The world must be warned that God will not accept this form of worship. God did not sanction the offering of Cain, and He will not sanction a day declared holy by humanity.

Reiki and Spiritualism would seem to fall under this form of abomination. A lot of people think this is actually how you approach God, hence the reason meditative practices are so prevalent in Christianity. The general lack of knowledge regarding what the Bible actually teaches lies at the heart of the problem. It’s no coincidence that meditation teachers especially target pastors and spiritual leaders. If the people remain ignorant of the Scriptures, they will be far more easily ensnared by Satan’s deceptions.

Even in the Seventh-day Adventist church they host “spiritual retreats” and bring in “spiritual advisors” who merely teach a form of meditation specifically tailored to their targets. The ambiguity lends to the power of deception. (Please note: a spiritual retreat or advisor is not always an opportunity to learn ancient paganism. It is just something that has been witnessed.)

Most of the people who have converted from their mystic ways have done so by simply reading the Bible. Through their study, they realized they

8 were not in harmony with what it taught. Other practitioners are so set in their ways that they feel the Bible is in error because it is not in harmony with them. All this brings us face to face with the reality of the movement. Nobody is really sure just how far it has spread, not even the practitioners. Many new-agers believe they are channeling the “great power of God.” They think that everyone with a religious experience is doing what they are.

Some Statistics

A reputable research center known as Pew Research noted the following in 2023:

According to Pew’s survey, 83% of U.S. adults believe people have a soul or spirit in addition to their physical bodies. 81% of the respondents believe there is something spiritual beyond the natural world, even if we cannot see it. Almost 75% of respondents say there are things science cannot possibly explain, while 45% report a sudden feeling of connection to something beyond this world. And 30% say that they have personally encountered a spirit or unseen spiritual force.

57% believe that people definitely or probably can reunite with loved ones who have also died. About four in ten also accept that dead people definitely, or probably, assist, protect, and guide the living (46%), be aware of what’s going on among the living (44%), or even communicate with them (42%).

As for spiritual practices, 77% of U.S. adults say they spend time in nature, usually a few times a month, and 26% say they do so to feel connected to something bigger than themselves or to their “true self.” True self is a buzzword for the higher self that new-agers discover when they make first contact with demons. That means that if this statistical pool properly represents the American population, one in three is part of the New Age movement.

Conclusion

Spiritualism has taken over Christianity just like the Bible and Ellen White predicted. The statistics about people’s beliefs in the state of the dead are particularly concerning. What can we do about this? Point people to the Bible and to Jesus. While I am sure many will be offended by the Truth, there are some who will yet be recovered from the snares of Satan and take their place in God’s church. We should take time to study the state of the dead and the arguments against it, so that we may teach and effectively refute them. For those wanting to deepen their understanding, I recommend starting with these Bible passages: Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, John 11:11-14, Psalm 146:3-4, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Resources such as “Are the Dead Really Dead” (Amazing Facts), our

own little Bible Study Guide “What Really Happens at Death?” And the chapter “The State of the Dead” in The Great Controversy are also valuable tools. Take time to read, pray, and share these truths with others so we can confidently stand for the faith and help others find hope in Christ.

We should also be aware of this movement in our church and be prepared to inform the Elders or the Pastor if someone is practicing or teaching it in our local church. This does not mean we should be suspicious or distrustful of those in our fellowship. Rest assured, there is no need to go on a proverbial witch hunt to find people who are New Age. They will find you and try to convert you to their way of thinking. The person I mentioned, whom I met at a small church, led a guided meditation called a “Body Scan” for the health talk. They aren’t trying to hide anything; often, they think everyone either believes as they do or needs to be taught to have a “relationship” with God. They can be subtle, but if you know what they believe, you will be able to spot them fairly easily.

When addressing members who may be involved in these practices, we should do so with the spirit and character of Christ. Correction should always be done with love, humility, and a genuine desire for restoration. Instead of harsh confrontation or condemnation, our goal should be to lovingly share truth, listen with compassion, and seek to build others up in faith. Let us reflect Jesus in all our interactions, so that any conversation or correction points to Him as both our Guide and Redeemer.

I will say this. We can learn something from these poor, deluded souls. If we have indeed tasted and seen that the Lord is good, should we not be as avid about sharing Jesus as they are about sharing their deceptions? Just think how quickly Jesus would return if everyone who professes Christ were half as eager to share Him as New Agers are to share their beliefs

For a finished work,

Jonathan Taylor

Wisdom is justified of all her children. -Luke 7:35

More Food for the Little Flock —