

## **The Power of True New Testament Christianity as Compared To The New Age Movement**

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My recent teachings have been the subject of much discussion lately. Those who have faithfully attended my Friday Bible Studies and Practicum's have become excited and challenged to new levels of spiritual growth and maturity. *There are some who have not regularly attended the Bible Studies nor have participated in the Practicum yet have made accusations that what I am teaching is New Age. It is in response to these accusations that I will address my critics based on the Bible, personal healing experiences, and other sources as will be noted.*

***The New Age Movement is not what I teach, preach, believe nor advocate. The New Age Movement and True New Testament Christianity are different.***

The New Age Movement has challenged contemporary western Christianity with its creativity and life style. This is because the church has become stagnated in the debate over doctrine and has left the true-life flow of the Holy Spirit. Many Christians would rather debate the doctrine of baptism rather than live a life being led by the Holy Spirit. They are more comfortable fighting over the meanings of a single Greek or Hebrew word than they are embracing the Living Word – Jesus Christ. We have entered into a Post-Christian era not because the gospel of Jesus Christ has lost its power and authority, but because we the church have substituted a life of Christ with the politics and doctrines of denominational Christianity. Until the church returns to the flow and power of the Holy Spirit we will remain the theoretical and disempowered church that only talks about the miracles of Christ and never live his life. However, if we are really honest with ourselves when we compare our daily lives with that of the Christ of the New Testament do we even really qualify to be called “Christians?”<sup>1</sup>

***The reason why New Age is so deceptive is that it embraces many ideals and ideas that are inherently Christian and New Testament.*** This is understandable since Satan is the great counterfeiter and deceiver. But that does not mean that if the New Age Movement teaches or believes something that is in the New Testament the church must reject it as error. It simply means the New Testament is correct. *The New Age movement believes man can reach their goals and beliefs through their own effort, or if they do access help or spiritual assistance, it is not restricted to Jesus Christ or God, but to any of many masters/teachers such as Buddha, Krishna, Isis etc.*

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**CHRISTIAN** (*khrihs' tyan*) The Greek *Christianos* originally applied to the slaves belonging to a great household. It came to denote the adherents of an individual or party. A Christian is an adherent of Christ; one committed to Christ; a follower of Christ. The word is used three times in the New Testament. 1. Believers “were called Christians first in Antioch” because their behavior, activity, and speech were like Christ (Acts 11:26). 2. Agrippa responded to Paul’s witness, “Almost thou persuade me to be a Christian” (Acts 26:28). He spoke of becoming an adherent of Christ. 3. Peter stated that believers who “suffer as a Christian” are to do so for the glory of God (1 Pet. 4:16). A Christian is one who becomes an adherent of Christ, whose daily life and behavior facing adversity is like Christ.

Darrell W. Robinson, Holman’s Bible Dictionary QuickVerse Edition

This is obviously the age-old deception that began in the Garden of Eden that man can become like God. While New Agers are willing to embrace all forms of thought or philosophy to assist in their journey to enlightenment we believe that true enlightenment can only come from a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone! **We believe the New Birth (John 3) is absolutely mandatory and that there is no salvation except through Jesus Christ! We believe that we must receive salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ!**

(Acts 4:12 KJV) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

(Col 3:17 KJV) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

**We recognize that the New Age Movement has used words, phrases, techniques and ideas that have been borrowed from Christianity and Christian traditions. At the same time we are not willing to give over either these words or these experiences to the New Age or any other group because they belong to God and His church!**

Christians must get over their fears that because the New Age uses a word or concept that is found within the Bible and because New Age uses it we cannot use it. For example, **Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow: The New Age Movement and Our Coming Age of Barbarism** by [Constance Cumbey](#) actually argues that the rainbow is a tool of the occult and New Age designed to deceive the church. The truth is the rainbow is a sign of God's love and covenant!<sup>2</sup>

Have we as Christians become so fearful that we will allow our heritage and Christian faith to be stripped of its greatness. Fear has no place in the life of the church!

(Gen 9:8 KJV) And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

(Gen 9:9 KJV) And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

(Gen 9:10 KJV) And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

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<sup>2</sup> **RAINBOW** Caused by the reflection and refraction of sunlight by droplets of rain, a rainbow often appears after the passing of thunderstorms, marking its end. The bow is colored by the division of sunlight into its primary colors. The rainbow served to remind Israel and her God of His covenant with Noah to never again destroy the earth by flooding (Gen. 9:8-17). The Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh, another ancient flood account, does not include the sign of the rainbow. The rainbow and its beauty became a symbol of the majesty and beauty of God. While having a vision, Ezekiel compared the brightness of the glory of God with the colors of the rainbow (1:28). Habakkuk also used the bow to describe the scene of God's final deliverance of His people (3:9). The Book of Revelation records John's vision of the throne of Christ as surrounded by the rainbow, "in sight like unto an emerald." (4:3). Later, Revelation 10:1 pictures a descending angel with the rainbow shining upon his head and having a face as the sun.

(Gen 9:11 KJV) And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

(Gen 9:12 KJV) And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

(Gen 9:13 KJV) I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

(Gen 9:14 KJV) And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

(Gen 9:15 KJV) And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

(Gen 9:16 KJV) And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

(Gen 9:17 KJV) And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

(Rev 4:3 KJV) “And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.”

**(Rev 10:1 KJV) “ And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:”**

**If indeed we are to reject everything that Eastern Religions and the New Age teaches without respect to the fact the Christianity is an Eastern Religion that has been Westernized through rationalism and codified through indoctrination then we are selling our Lord Jesus Christ very short.** The Truth will set you free and he who is free is free indeed

I introduce you to Dr. Mark Virkler, teacher and author in the Body of Christ. Dr. Virkler created the course, Communion With God that we have offered many times over the years. I first met Dr. Virkler in Buffalo, New York while attending a Church Growth Seminar. My initial impression of Dr. Virkler was framed by my own preconceptions of Biblical doctrine and dogma. However, that opinion changed when I personally went through his course, Communion With God. What a remarkable difference that single course made in my life. For the first time I really began to understand what a true living relationship with Jesus Christ was all about. Dr. Virkler dedicated a complete chapter in his book, “Communion With God” on the New Age Movement. It is from chapter 6 “New Testament Christianity and the New Age Movement” I now quote and reference.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Mark & Patty Virkler, *Communion With God*, Destiny Image Publishers, Inc. P.O. Box 351, Shippensburg, PA 17257 Copyright 1990, Chapter 6 pages 83-100.

<b>New Testament Christianity</b>	<b>New Age Movement</b>
<b>Who Is God?</b>	
Yahweh, the personal Creator	The Evocative, other
<b>The Standard for Truth</b>	
The Bible	Evolving, eclectic
<b>Who Is Jesus Christ?</b>	
The Son of God	An enlightened teacher
<b>What about Salvation?</b>	
Purchased by the blood of Jesus	No such thing or, the process of integration
<b>The Focus</b>	
Christ Centered	Man Centered
<b>The Power</b>	
Only Through Christ	Through Man
<b>The Wisdom</b>	
God's Wisdom	Man's Wisdom
<b>The Next Age</b>	
Brought about by God	Brought about by man
<b>The Stance</b>	
Man receiving from God	Man reaching to become god

#### NEW AGE DEFINITION

Because the New Age is simply an umbrella term, which covers a myriad of groups, with scores of authors, it is impossible to identify all its doctrines. The following, however, is a brief overview of the basic teachings of the majority of the New Age groups.

- 1) All is one: all reality is a unitary whole;
- 2) Everything is God (god) and God (god) is everything;
- 3) You (as an individual) are God. You are divine; God is within you;
- 4) You will never die; You have lived before and you will live again (reincarnation);
- 5) You can create your own reality or transform your own consciousness;
- 6) All religions are true and, therefore, one;
- 7) A new world is coming; a New Age is dawning.

“One thing the New Age calls Christians to do is to enter into all the dimensions of our relationship with Christ. The New Age has arisen to take the territory abandoned by the mainstream Christianity. Because Christianity (even most Charismatics) has neglected the intuitive and relational and has majored on the propositional and the analytical, a void has been left in the hearts of those who are seeking spiritual encounters. In the churches they met only doctrinal studies, so they sought for spiritual relationships within the occult and the New Age teachings. **The very best antidote for the New Age teachings is for Christians to enter into and live fully in the supernatural. This is certainly no time to draw back from supernatural living and retreat into a mere defense of orthodoxy. Because we have adopted this stance for the last half-century, we have opened the door for the New Age to fill the vacuum.** There is a longing in the human heart for communication and a relationship with the Divine. Since the dawn of history, when God's people do not preach, proclaim and model the genuine article, men and women will wander into whatever appears to offer the fulfillment of their spiritual quest. We

need to cast aside our hesitation and proceed strongly forward, the Word and the Spirit as our unfailing guide.”<sup>4</sup>

“The early Church made the tragic error (after about 150 A.D.) Of majoring on defending orthodoxy in the face of heresies of Gnosticism (which has recently arisen again as a part of New Age teaching), Mystery Religions and State Paganism. While they were vigorously defending Christianity, formulating creeds (prepositional statements of doctrine), and attempting to vanquish heresy by excommunicating heretics, somewhere along the line they forgot that Christianity is a relationship to be lived, not merely a theory to be proved. The rationalistic patterns of argument adopted from the Greek philosophers replaced the much more forceful arguments of a changed life and the miraculous interventions of Almighty God in the affairs of men. The Church largely lost the battle of ideas merely by conceding that the battle was confined to arguments over ideas. The Bible is 90% narratives of God working in lives. Demonstrating God in our lives in all of His dimensions is our best defense. The best defense is still a good offense.”<sup>5</sup>

The differences between True Biblical New Testament Christianity and the New Age Movement can be clearly seen and understood. Unfortunately, many Christians are unaware and ill prepared to embrace the truth of actually living the life of Christ rather than just talking about it. We must be willing to move from WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) ,to actually doing what Jesus would do. Since when does the Light run from darkness? Where are the Elijah’s and mighty prophets who are willing to challenge the forces of darkness not with their doctrines but with the power that comes from on High? Where are the Moses’ who can throw down their rods to consume to serpents and snakes of the magicians? ***The average Christian today would run like a scared little child if a magician threw down a rod and it became a snake.*** Where is your rod of authority? Throw down your rod sons of God!

I know this sounds good, but **we don’t even believe we can do the works of Moses, let alone the works of Jesus who said that greater works than these shall ye do.** He said you could take up deadly serpents, tread on them and have victory over all the forces of the darkness.

The New Age has men and women who can walk on coals of fire and not be burned. Where are the Christian firewalkers? I will tell you were they are at home watching Christian television and worried about how bad the world has become, waiting and hoping for the rapture to save them from this evil world. Rather than walking through the fire we lay back in our Lazy Boy recliners with our remote controls in our hands too afraid to challenge the darkness of this world. Why? Because we don’t manifest the His power in our live. It’s plain and simple!

(Isa 43:1 KJV) But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

(Isa 43:2 KJV) When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: ***when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.***

(Isa 43:3 KJV) For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, Mark Virkler, page 86

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, Mark Virkler, page 86 From a letter written by Rev. Maurice Fuller.

Over the years I have made numerous trips to Haiti where we support George and Jeannie Dateless of New World Missions. Those who have traveled with me almost always recoil in fear when encountering the voodoo huts that are so numerous in this oppressed nation. I believe the power within us is greater than the power of voodoo for *greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.*

It was the prophets of God who fearlessly called down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifices. It is the men and women who understand their positions in Christ who are leading forward in the confrontation with darkness, not the shrinking scared who don't live in power but in fear.

“You notice it was not the Pharisees or the false prophets who proposed such tests or acted with such courage and boldness. It was the prophets on the front line who proved God in the midst of their generation. I suspect that some of the books being written today by the Church regarding the New Age movement are not being written by the prophets. The ones I have read encourage a spirit of fear that we will be consumed, rather than a spirit of faith that we will conquer in this particular test. I believe the spirit of fear originates in Satan, and the spirit of faith originates in God. Therefore I am very careful not to feed on anything permeated with the spirit of fear.”<sup>6</sup>

**Recently I have taught extensively about the ability for the Christian to “SEE.” If we are ever going to function in the level that Christ functioned in we must be able to see like Christ saw!**

### **Principles for Visionaries**<sup>7</sup>

#### **1) Our goal is to be like Jesus who was a constant visionary.**

(John 5:19 KJV) Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

(John 5:20 KJV) For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

(John 8:38 KJV) I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

#### **2) We are to look for vision.**

(Mat 26:41 KJV) Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Also, Hebrews 12:2 “Fixing our eyes of Jesus...”

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, Mark Virkler page 88

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, Mark Virkler page 88

3) **We are to look in the vision until the vision has stopped flowing.**

(Dan 7:2 KJV) Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

(Dan 7:9 KJV) I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

(Dan 7:13 KJV) I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

(Dan 4:10 KJV) Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

(Dan 4:11 KJV) The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

(Dan 4:12 KJV) The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

(Dan 4:13 KJV) I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;

- 4) **We must realize that we can have encounters with Jesus**, God and angels in visions in our minds and that these are actual spiritual encounters (Daniel 4:4-14; 7:1-15; Matthew 1:20; 2:12,13,19,22).
- 5) The natural way to present the eyes of our hearts before God is to visually enter a Bible story in prayerful contemplation and allow God to move in it as He wills, or to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:1-2; Rev. 4:1-2).

The above guidelines are taken from Mark Virkler's course Communion With God.

## What New Age Teaches

### What New Age Teaches About God

Even though many New Age adherents describe "God" in personal terms, ultimately, "God" is an impersonal life force, consciousness or energy (M. Ferguson, *Aquarian Conspiracy*, p. 382; S. Gawain, *Living In the Light*, pp. 7-8). The cosmology (nature of the world and universe) of the New Age Movement is monistic and pantheistic, which means that everything that exists is of One essence, and that One essence is God. Everything is a different form of that essence (energy, consciousness, power, love, force). The state of God is called by various terms among different New Age groups, i.e., God-consciousness, Universal Love, Self-Realization, Higher Self, Brahman, Nirvana, etc.

***I teach that there is one God and Him alone shall you serve! I do not teach nor have even slightly suggested that God is pantheistic.***

### What New Age Teaches About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ was a man who evolved spiritually to the state of "the Christ" being. "The Christ" is an actual state of ultimate essence. Everyone's true being is "the Christ:" and each person's goal is to come to that self-realization. So to the New Ager, Jesus, the Christ, is one of many ascended masters - a way-shower, whose function is to awaken humanity and illumine the path. Many even reinvent the historical Jesus by claiming that He traveled to India and learned the New Age doctrines there during His "silent years" (Shirley MacLaine, *Out on a Limb*, pp. 233-34).

***I do not teach nor have ever taught that Jesus is just one of many ascended masters. JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! He is God manifested in the flesh!***

### What New Age Teaches About Man

Man is not sinful since his true essence is divine and perfect. The only discontinuity between man and "God" is man's ignorance of his unlimited potential. Man is divine. He creates his own reality. Absolute truth is replaced by relativistic, subjective experience.

***I do not believe or teach that man can save himself. I do not believe or teach that man creates his own reality. What I do believe is that once we are born again the greatest struggle we have as Christians is accepting what the Bible teaches we have become – sons of God! I do teach the authority and the position of the believer. See appendix 2)***

### What New Age Teaches About Man's Destiny

Since man is intrinsically divine and perfect, his only real problem is ignorance of that fact. Man has a perception of finiteness, which is in reality an illusion (Ken Keyes, Jr., *Handbook to Higher Consciousness*, pp. 125-29). Salvation in the New Age is for man to become enlightened through experiential knowledge (gnosis). New Age groups offer various occultic techniques to enable individuals, and ultimately the world, to evolve into this oneness (unitive) consciousness (James Redfield, *The Celestine Prophecy: An Experimental Guide*, pp. 243-60).



An almost universal belief among New Agers is an adaptation of the Hindu concept of reincarnation, which teaches that after death the soul, or essence comes back in another form to continue spiritual evolution. New Agers misrepresent church history, the doctrines of Christianity, and often twist Scripture to support the idea that original Christianity taught reincarnation. They wrongly argue that the early church suppressed the doctrine and censored its teaching (Kenneth Ring, *Heading Toward Omega*, p. 158).

***I do not teach in reincarnation or that man can save himself. Do I believe you can become enlightened? Yes, the believer, those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Savior are to become enlightened to their position and purposes in Christ!***

(Eph 1:17 KJV) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

(Eph 1:18 KJV) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Enlightened - 5461. photizo, fo-tid'-zo; from G5457; to shed rays, i.e. to shine or (trans.) to brighten up (lit. or fig.):--enlighten, illuminate, (bring to, give) light, make to see.

(Eph 1:19 KJV) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

(Eph 1:20 KJV) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

(Eph 1:21 KJV) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

(Eph 1:22 KJV) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

(Eph 1:23 KJV) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

### **New Age Movement Teaches Pantheism:**

The belief that all is One and that One is God, thus all is God. This God is an all-encompassing, impersonal principle or force. A central doctrine for most eastern religions and New Age groups.

### **New Age Movement Teaches Process Theology:**

Built on the philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead, process theology is a heresy within liberal Christianity that holds that reality is becoming rather than being - in process rather than static. The Bible has a relative authority in that it concurs with one's own self-evident experiences, rather than having absolute authority over all human experiences and beliefs, as in evangelical Christianity. Process theology teaches panentheism (God is in all), which is to be distinguished from pantheism (God is all). Panentheism teaches that even though God is somehow

transcendent, He also includes the world within Himself. Therefore, God is in “process,” evolving along with creation into future possibilities. Some New Agers (e.g., Matthew Fox) and some Mormons have found value in process theology.

***I do not believe or teach Pantheism.***

## **CHRISTIAN RESPONSES**

Individual New Age followers are at various stages of transition and assimilation of its teachings. In addition, since the New Age Movement teaches that truth is relative and individualistic, Christians must approach New Agers as individuals.

The fundamental issues that need to be addressed with New Agers are epistemology (the source of truth), the irrationality of relativism, factual and historical errors, the fallacies and inconsistencies of living out their world-view, and finally, a clarification of the real God, Jesus, and gospel, contrasted to those of the New Age. The New Ager must see that there is a choice to be made instead of blurring the distinctions.

Christians should be able to demonstrate that the Bible does not teach reincarnation. When Jesus calls John the Baptist "Elijah," He is clearly speaking metaphorically. Luke 1:17 demonstrates that John was filling the office of Elijah, fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6. In fact, Elijah was seen with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-3. The meaning of the resurrection is the opposite of reincarnation (Hebrews 9:27; 1 Cor. 15:12-28). Point out that if God is an impersonal force, then love and forgiveness are not possible. These are personal attributes as opposed to impersonal karmic law. Fundamentally, intercessory prayer is absolutely necessary. The battle for the souls of men is won through God's grace, intervening and drawing them to Himself.

## Alternative Medicine and a Holistic Approach to Health

The following are notes from a recent Friday night teaching:

- Our Vision is working towards the complete integration of all modalities of healing and health, including physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, social and environmental health in such a way that does not violate scripture and Jesus Christ is glorified!
- More people than ever are aware that invasive and aggressive treatments of disease do not always lead to better health. As medical costs continue to escalate, millions of people are turning to alternative and integrative health.
- More people understand that there is a direct connection between the spirit, the mind and the body when it comes to health and wellness.

Our body is capable of healing itself if given the proper support. The mind contains tremendous healing abilities and when understood in its interconnectedness with the spirit and body we become a vessel of health and power.

This position, suggesting that we should include alternative medicine and holistic approaches to our health has been misinterpreted by some as being New Age or Eastern. There are those who believe that anything that is not endorsed by the American Medical Association is occult. They argue that acupuncture, acupressure, massage therapy, light or aromatherapy is wrong because of those who invented them were non-Christian?

I am not against doctors, nurses, hospitals or modern medicine for that matter. I am disturbed that the pharmaceutical companies have brain washed the public and medical professionals that they have the only answers. I am very thankful and grateful that when I was sick and needed surgery Baptist Hospital was just a few minutes away! **I support traditional medicine, doctors, nurses and hospitals.** But I also believe they don't have all the answers to health and we must seek information and knowledge from other available sources in our pursuit for health. To suggest that alternative health care is occultic because of its Eastern roots in inaccurate and unfairly ignores the many benefits that have been derived from such practices.

***We could ask of our modern medical system where is it's origins and what was its belief system based upon?***

First of all, **modern science and modern medicine is based upon the theory of evolution, which denies and rejects God as the creator.** If any medical care or treatments that are not of Christian origin are to be rejected then clearly modern medicine, which denies the very premise of God, as the creator should be brought into question.

### **Doctors and the Hippocratic Oath<sup>8</sup>**

“Doctors around the world are required to take the Hippocratic Oath. I have spoken with Christian doctors in both the United States and New Zealand who have told me they took the

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<sup>8</sup> Mark Virkler, Restoring Health Care As A Ministry, <http://www.cwgministries.org/Free-Christian-Books-and-Articles.htm>

Hippocratic Oath even though they felt uncomfortable doing so.

Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.) was the Father of Modern Medicine, his principles forming the basis for the medical theory developed in the 1800's. The Hippocratic Oath can be found in most encyclopedias. Following is the first sentence of the classical Hippocratic Oath:

**“I swear by Apollo, the physician, and Asclepius and Health and All-Heal and all the gods and goddesses that, according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this oath and stipulation...”**

Hence, some doctors began their practice by taking an oath to all false gods and goddesses in the universe.

The Bible discourages taking oaths at all, specifically oaths to a strange god.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Ex. 20:3)

### **Hippocratic Oath -- Classical Version**

I swear by Apollo Physician and Asclepius and Hygieia and Panacea and all the gods and goddesses, making them my witnesses, that I will fulfill according to my ability and judgment this oath and this covenant:

To hold him who has taught me this art as equal to my parents and to live my life in partnership with him, and if he is in need of money to give him a share of mine, and to regard his offspring as equal to my brothers in male lineage and to teach them this art - if they desire to learn it - without fee and covenant; to give a share of precepts and oral instruction and all the other learning to my sons and to the sons of him who has instructed me and to pupils who have signed the covenant and have taken an oath according to the medical law, but no one else.

I will apply dietetic measures for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgment; I will keep them from harm and injustice.

I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect. Similarly I will not give to a woman an abortive remedy. In purity and holiness I will guard my life and my art.

I will not use the knife, not even on sufferers from stone, but will withdraw in favor of such men as are engaged in this work.

Whatever houses I may visit, I will come for the benefit of the sick, remaining free of all intentional injustice, of all mischief and in particular of sexual relations with both female and male persons, be they free or slaves.

What I may see or hear in the course of the treatment or even outside of the treatment in regard to the life of men, which on no account one must spread abroad, I will keep to myself, holding such things shameful to be spoken about.

If I fulfill this oath and do not violate it, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and art, being honored with fame among all men for all time to come; if I transgress it and swear falsely, may the opposite of all this be my lot.

*Translation from the Greek by Ludwig Edelstein. From The Hippocratic Oath: Text, Translation, and Interpretation, by Ludwig Edelstein. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1943.*  
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/doctors/oath\\_classical.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/doctors/oath_classical.html)

If a Christian doctor has taken this oath, he definitely needs to repent, ask God's forgiveness, and renounce the vow. An updated version of the Oath which omits any mention of the gods is now in use in many medical schools. A doctor may want to purpose by the power of the Spirit of God to take this new one. Let the Spirit give you wisdom.

I realize that not all doctors have taken this oath. It is said at graduation ceremonies but attendance at these ceremonies is not required, so some doctors choose not to go and not to take the pledge. Other new doctors are now refusing to take it because they intend to perform abortions, an act that would violate the Hippocratic Oath.”

### **The emblem of western medicine - the “Caduceus”<sup>9</sup>**

“The caduceus (kuh-doo'-see-uhs), a widely accepted symbol for the medical profession, was the wand of Hermes, Greek god of chance and messenger of the Olympian deities. The wand, made of olive wood and gold, was entwined with serpents and surmounted by wings. It possessed magical powers. This wand was reported to have been originally used to put people into hypnotic states so they could be visited by the “gods.” It was established as the symbol of the U.S. Surgeon General's office in 1871, and is still used to this day. Check your encyclopedia for confirmation of these details.



Surely it is wrong for Christians to use as the emblem of their profession a symbol that was created to assist in the worship of a Greek god. It is not a requirement that doctors use the Caduceus symbol, and some have chosen not to do so.”

**So it seems that the argument of rejecting a therapy because it might have questionable foundations is really rather absurd! What we should be asking is what really works? What can we do to help the body to heal itself with the least intrusions and introductions of foreign matter.**

## **What we should be asking is what really works?**

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, Mark Virkler

## **Deep Breathing Techniques are New Age?**

What is deep breathing? **It is a very effective and simple way to control stress, anxiety and depression! It allows your brain to increase the oxygen levels and therefore allows you to think, sleep and concentrate clearer. It is as simple as that.**

When I was sick with panic attacks last year I went to a clinic in New Orleans for an alternative, non-drug, amino-acid treatment for the balancing of brain chemistry. One of the first steps that I was taught by the doctors was to start deep breathing as a method of stress control. I have consistently experienced the positive benefits and watched others experience transformational benefits from this simple technique. Thank God I have learned this technique that I can use without drugs, without physical or mental injury that allows me to slow down, reduce the stress and take control of my life.

Deep breathing is indeed practiced in many New Age teachings but does it violate scripture? Does it take away from the message of Christ's love and salvation?

(Gen 2:7 KJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

(Job 33:4 KJV) The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

(John 20:22 KJV) And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

If deep breathing is wrong then where do you find that in the Bible? The Bible does not say we should do aerobic exercises, which involve increasing the breathing while increasing the heart rate, and many New Age people jog. Do we stop jogging?

I have found that in my personal prayer time if I do deep breathing before I pray or read the scriptures I am able to enhance my prayer time and expand my reading time. Deep breathing is one of the most powerful tools I have learned in my recent years to help me to reach a level of peace and calmness I have not had in the past.

**If deep breathing is demonic and opens us up to demons we are in real trouble! Can you imagine how many demons we have allowed into our families through Lamaze birthing techniques and deep breathing?**

Here are what some Western doctors are now saying about deep breathing.

### **Disease and Breathing**

“Breathing, in short is the key that unlocks the whole catalog of advanced biological function and development. Is it any wonder that it is so central to every aspect of health? Breathing is the first place, not the last; one should look when fatigue, disease, or other evidence of disordered energy presents itself. Breathing is truly the body's most basic communication system”. Oxygen Breakthrough, Sheldon Hendler, MD, PhD.

### **Blood Pressure & Breathing**

“The relationship between breathing and blood pressure has been known and understood for a long time. It boils down to this: Elevated blood pressure accompanies those bodily states where

rapid, shallow breathing prevails. By altering breathing to a slow diaphragmatic mode, blood pressure decreases.” The Breath Connection, Robert Fried, Ph.D.

### **Detoxification & Breathing**

“Many healing of other physical troubles have occurred in my clients after they started to integrate breathing practices into their lives. There is a simple but encompassing reason that may explain this. The human body is designed to discharge 70% of its toxins through breathing. Only a small percentage of toxins are discharged through sweat, defecation, and urination. If your breathing is not operating at peak efficiency, you are not ridding yourself of toxins properly.” Conscious Breathing, Gay Hendricks, Ph.D.

### **The Lymphatic System and Breathing**

“Jack Shields, MD, a lymphologist from Santa Barbara, CA, conducted a study on the effects of breathing on the lymphatic system. Using cameras inside the body, he found that deep diaphragmatic breathing stimulated the cleansing of the lymph system by creating a vacuum effect that sucked the lymph through the bloodstream. This increased the route of toxic elimination by as much as 15 times the normal pace.” Lymph, Lymph Glands and Homeostasis, J. shields, MD

One member of Jesus Fellowship who is presently working with a project underway at Jackson Memorial Hospital quoted the researcher she is working with as having said that when a person begins doing deep breathing when in a state of anxiety, it takes only 30 seconds for the brain to switch from an anxiety mode (the sympathetic system) to a calm mode (the parasympathetic system).

## Forgiveness

For those who have expressed concerned on this subject, I have taught on forgiveness over the years numerous times. Additionally, we regularly have Bill Gothard's Basic Life Seminars at our church. The Anger Resolution Seminar, The Basic and Advanced Seminars all teach extensively about forgiveness. *At some point in our Christian walk we must be willing to move past the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.* If you are dealing with unforgiveness in your personal life, God's principles in the Word on this subject still work and are relevant today. In fact, forgiveness can become much easier if you just take a few moments to deep breath and bring your thoughts and attitudes in control. Try it.

(Heb 6:1 NIV) Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

(Heb 6:2 NIV) instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

(Heb 6:3 NIV) And God permitting, we will do so.

(Heb 6:4 NIV) It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

(Heb 6:5 NIV) who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age,

(Heb 6:6 NIV) if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

## **In Conclusion**

The real truth about what I am teaching, is that once you understand that you have the life of Christ within you, and His power permeates every cell of your body, your actions and life will radically change.

What I am teaching brings Christ's life home to each individual. Rather, than making excuses for not having the power or ability to act like Christ we now are becoming equipped to allow the life within us to lead and guide us and ultimately flow out of us to touch and heal others. ***Note: It is Christ's life within us. Not my own power or strength. True New Testament Christianity must rely upon the life of Christ within and not humanistic self-effort! BIG DIFFERENCE!***

If each of us would be real honest with ourselves we would have to admit our Christian experience had just been stuck in a rut of routines and doctrinal security. We played Christianity and lived a life that was frustrated and weak.

Why are those in the church depressed and overcome with stress? Why have so many turned to medications to calm their worries and deal with their stress? Why are so many walking around with anger and unforgiveness? Is what we've been doing fixing the problems in our lives? Is there really a difference between the Christian and their non-Christian neighbors?



I know that God has allowed me to go through my recent medical crisis to learn techniques and methods that will enable us to become equipped for the work God has called this ministry to do.

Just this week I had to visit a church member who was in the hospital emergency room for high blood pressure. She could have died of a stroke, but thank God she went to the hospital for treatment. I spoke with her and she told me about her stress and for years she has not slept more than 3-4 hours per night! You cannot live healthy with 3-4 hours of sleep a night.

I had the same problem for years and it caused me to become sick. I have shared with several members of our church how to get an effective night's sleep using the natural supplement 5-HTP and melatonin and a sleep CD. Yes, I use a sleep CD that plays ocean sounds, and reminds me to deep breath. It walks me through steps to relax my body and to clear my mind of issues that I cannot solve at night and encourages me to SLEEP! I now can sleep 8 hours per night for the first time in years! NO DRUGS! NO SLEEPING PILLS! Just natural vitamins and a simple sleep CD! New Age? No, just new sleep!

**It is my commitment to equip our body to become enlightened to all that Christ has called us to be. As we experience Him, living in us, through us, and as us, we will become the vessels that He can use. We are in a season of training. As we learn how to release the power that is resident within us we will walk in our destiny. We live as containers of His life, His love to give hope to the hopeless, new life to the disillusioned, healing and health to the sick and brokenhearted**