

What Saith

The Scripture

about the cultic concept known as

Postmodernism and the Prophets of New Age

Part 2 of 2

a study developed for the Saints of

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As we noted before, postmodernists regard truth as fluid, variable, not fixed. To the postmodern mind there are *no absolutes* in our universe, because no absolutes exist. Truth itself can only be understood from the framework of my experiences – and what you regard as truth may not be true for me. **Four people may be in a room and each possess four, equally valid truths regarding the same thing, possession, activity, or relationship.** Truth is relative to *my experience in life*, and what you believe is true is fine – as long as you do not step on my truth. The motto of the postmodern thinker is "I can do anything I want, as long as I hurt no one".

There is a problem with this type of thinking that goes beyond the obvious. You see, God - the One and True God - created man. **Adam was created to *serve God*.** The first command that God gave Adam was a *service command*:

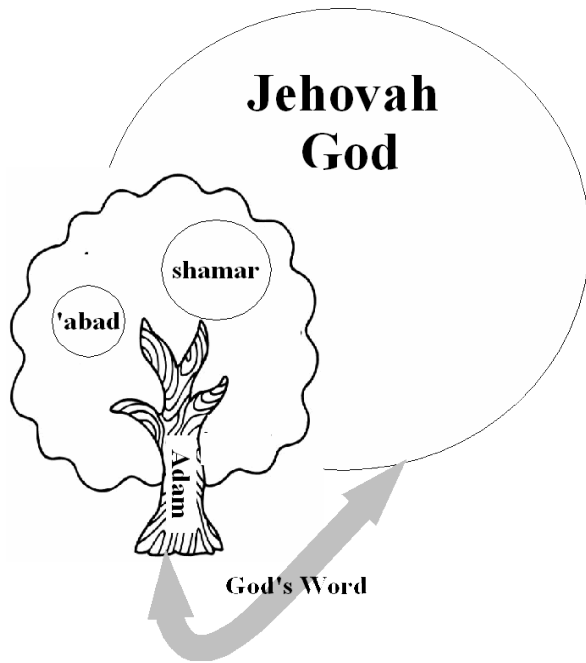
Genesis 2:15 (KJV) "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress¹ it and to keep² it."

¹ Qal Infinitive of the Hebrew 'abad {pronounced aw-bad'}, to serve, work for, serve as subjects

² Qal Infinitive of Hebrew shamar {pronounced shaw-mar'}, to take charge of, guard from harm, protect, treasure, preserve

God designed man to serve Him, to work along with the Eternal Creator. There were no weeds in the garden, no spot of corruption, no decay - for sin had not yet taken over creation. God had not told fallen Adam:

Genesis 3:17 (KJV) "... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.."



so the ground was not yet cursed. Weeds didn't flourish in the Garden of Eden. There was no *poison ivy* in that place. Yet God put man in the Garden to *'abad* and *shamar* - to serve the Almighty and to guard this wondrous treasure of

creation. Guard from whom? From Satan, that old devil. Man was created perfect to serve Perfection. Man was created *by* God to *serve* God. As long as he was obedient to God's Word man stayed in fellowship with the Creator. Once man consciously decided to follow Satan's word as opposed to God's Word, he distanced himself from God and *fell* from perfection. **Dr. Constable** in his commentary on **Genesis** (soniclight.org, pgs 49-50) states:

"The separation that sin produces in man's relationship with God stands out clearly in these verses. Their new knowledge that the serpent promised would make them as God actually

taught them that they were no longer even like each other. They were ashamed of their nakedness and sewed fig leaves together to hide their differences from each other (v. 7). ... A more complete transformation could not be imagined. The trust of innocence is replaced by the fear of guilt. The trees that God created for man to look at (2:9) are now his hiding place to prevent God seeing him. ... Eve did not die at once physically, but she did die at once spiritually. She experienced alienation in her relationship with God. Death means separation in the Bible, never annihilation. Sin always results in alienation: theologically (between God and man), sociologically (between man and man), psychologically (between man and himself), and ecologically (between man and nature). Three kinds of death appear in Scripture: physical— separation of the body and soul (material and immaterial parts of the person), spiritual— separation of the person and God, and eternal— permanent separation of the person and God."



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Man fell, and ceased to *naturally* work for God - but this does not mean

that man lost all contact with God. You see, man *was designed* to serve God. Though Adam fell through

disobedience, he was still *designed* to follow the Creator. Man, even *sinful man*, knows there is a Creator. Once a person reaches an age of accountability that person *knows* that he was created by a Greater Person. The *problem of sin* is that fallen man was designed with the capacity to serve God, but sin prevents him from *servicing* God as he was designed. We are told in the opening chapter of Roman:

Romans 1:20 (KJV) "For the invisible³ things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood⁴ by the things that are made⁵, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

The Creator, who is *unseen* (*aoratos*³ {pronounced ah-or'-at-os}) is *intuitively known* (Present Passive Participle of *noeo*⁴ {pronounced no-eh'-o}) by that which has been made (*poiema*⁵ {pronounced poy'-ay-mah}). In other words, man, who is a part of the overall work of the Creator, intuitively knows that he was created. This is the reason that most people, when questioned, will tell you they believe in the God of their understanding. It is obvious to most that we who are part of creation were made by the Creator. The only people who disbelieve in God - who can look at the precision of creation and say "there's no such thing as God" - these people had to *work at becoming this stupid*. I'm sorry if that hurts your feelings, but this is Biblical truth. We are told in Romans that the atheist or agnostic

Romans 1:21-22 (KJV) "... became vain⁶ in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

{22} Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools⁷ .."

These people *pursued emptiness* (Aorist Passive Indicative *mataioo*⁶ {pronounced mat-ah-yo'-o}) to the point where they became *morons* (Aorist Passive Indicative *moraino*⁷ {pronounced mo-rah'-ee-no}), to become moronic, foolish, flat or empty). The Bible says:

Psalms 14:1 (KJV) "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."

Psalms 53:1 (KJV) "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good."

Only a fool says that there is no God. People - normal fallen people - have a consciousness that there is a God, though they do not know who He is. All (but fools) acknowledge that there is a God. When you couple this last truth with *postmodern thought* what you come up with is *New Age Religion*.

The Postmodern Mind Built A Postmodern Religion

The New Age movement is as diverse as postmodernism is. Postmodernism teaches that truth is relative to what works for me. New Age offers a variety of gods and goddesses that allow fallen man to satisfy himself without approaching the One True God of the Bible.

Here's a definition for the term "New Age" that's as clear as it gets. By the way, this is from *Watchman Fellowship*, the group that monitors cults and cultic activities in America:

New Age is a recent and developing belief system in North America encompassing thousands of autonomous (and sometime contradictory) beliefs, organizations, and events. Generally the New Age borrows its theology from pantheistic Eastern religions and its practices from 19th century Western occultism. The term "New Age" is used herein as an umbrella term to describe organizations which seem to exhibit one or more of the following beliefs: (1) All is one, all reality is part of the whole; (2) Everything is God and God is everything; (3) Man is God or a part of God; (4) Man never dies, but continues to live through reincarnation; (5) Man can create his own reality and/or values through transformed consciousness or altered states of consciousness.

The *Contender Ministries* (contenderministries.org) website gives the following definition for the *New Age Movement*:

"The New Age Movement (NAM) is hard to define as a singular religion. It is just what it is – a movement. It is essentially a collection of eastern-influenced metaphysical ideologies, a hodge-podge of theologies and philosophies that are bound together by "universal tolerance" and moral relativism. The NAM is the natural progression of humanism. It teaches that humans have evolved biologically, and must now evolve spiritually. Beyond that, it is difficult to define, as there is no hierarchy, doctrine, creed, or membership. You will be hard-pressed to find the "First New Age Church" on any street corner in your town.

Man is the central figure in the NAM. He is viewed as divine, and progressing toward a kind of godhood, or "Christ-

Consciousness". Many NAM divisions are pantheistic – they believe God is in everything, and everything together makes up God. Therefore, as a part of nature, man is part of God. Many New Age practices are designed to push man through the spiritual evolution to godhood. Astral projection (training your soul to have out-of-body experiences), contacting spirit guides, and using crystals to purify your body and mind's energy systems are among these practices. Many New Agers believe in reincarnation and in Karma.

Some NAM terms you may hear are: holistic, synergistic, unity, oneness, harmony, transformation, personal growth, human potential, awakening, networking, energy, cleansing, and consciousness. A disproportionate amount of NAM books and texts contain the word "self". That is because, as we said earlier, man is the central figure. One must improve one's "self" to become one with nature and god. You may also hear New Age followers using Christian terms. This is because they view Jesus as a man who excelled at spiritual evolution and progression, and was tuned into his "Christ Consciousness." Do not be fooled, though. The Christian terms you will hear will have a different meaning to a New Ager than they will for you."

Just as we discussed when we introduced postmodernism, New Agers have *redefined words* - Christian Biblical terms - and have turned them into something that serves the ego of man. Like Rome of the first century Church, New Agers embrace a wide variety of gods - and tolerate the One True God - as long as you do not dispute their gods. New Agers, like Satan in the Garden of Eden, dispute what God really said in His Word, and turn to a fantasy of their own making. New Agers reject the Biblical concept of *sin*, believing there is truly no such a thing as right and wrong. They reject God's teaching on Heaven and Hell, and believe that we

keep reincarnating on this earth until we *get it right*. To the New Ager God is *impersonal*, and unconcerned about the average person.

How Prevalent Is “New Age”?

How prevalent is the “New Age” movement? It's very prevalent – in fact, probably more than you know.

Popular Publications

Many Christians have read the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series and found it comforting, even a blessing. But is it Biblical? Watchman Fellowship reports in an article called “**Chicken Soup for the Soul Reviewed**” (Vol 14, number 1, 1997):

“... the original *Chicken Soup* volume contains at least 25 New Age attributions or contributors, at least one Mormon contributor, and at least 7 other self-esteem gurus. The term “at least” is used because some of the authors' short biographical sketches don't indicate their perspective one way or the other. ... In *A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul* can be found at least 38 New Age or Mormon contributors or attributions, including M. Scott Peck, Steve Andreas, Sai Baba, Martin Buber, Gandhi, William James, Joseph Campbell, Leo Buscaglia, Napoleon Hill, Norman Vincent Peale, Benjamin Hoff, Ken Blanchard, Canfield, Hansen, and T.M. promoter Harold Bloomfield.

In *A 3rd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul* are at least 23 New Age or Mormon contributors or attributions. And in *Chicken Soup for the Surviving Soul*, there are at least 20 New Age contributors, with several of them having multiple stories (as in all the books in the series).

Some of the authors or references in these last two volumes are Dr. Bernie Siegel (six times), Peter McWilliams, Norman Cousins, Jonas Salk, Joan Borysenko, Marianne Williamson, Fr. John Groff, Alan Cohen, Les Brown, and two Mormon contributors - Art Berg and Hal Manwaring.

... in *Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul*, at least 27 New Age and Mormon authors or attributions are found, including a “psychic”, two Transcendental Meditation trainers, a Unity minister, and a shaman.

Chicken Soup for the Working Soul has at least 42 New Age and Mormon contributors and attributions, including Joseph Campbell, Jean Houston, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Gerald Janpolski, Meister Eckhart, Buddha, and Ernest Holmes.”

In Schools

According to Melton's *New Age Encyclopedia* some 300 colleges and educational institutions (over 75 are accredited or state-approved) now offer programs or even degrees on New Age topics (pp. 512–24). This has influenced many educators who have proceeded to introduce these topics into their schools. Brooks Alexander, noted authority on New Age philosophy, observes why the New Age has targeted education: “In the ideological contest for cultural supremacy public education is the prime target; it influences the most people in the most pervasive way at the most impressionable age. No other social institution has anything close to the same potential for mass indoctrination” (as cited in *Forward* magazine, Fall 1986, p. 14). (Watchman Fellowship, Volume 14, Number 5, 1997)

Textbooks are being introduced into several school systems that practice New Age meditation techniques. The book titled **Handling Stress: Teenage Health Teaching Modules**, recommended for Grades 9-12, has 10

impressive credentials. In the introduction to the book we read:

"This is one module in the Teenage Health Teaching Modules (THTM) program, a health education curriculum for adolescents developed by the Education Development Center, Inc. and funded by the Center for Health Promotion and Education, Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services."

On page 45 of the book we read:

"Alternate Nostril Breathing: a. Block the left nostril with one hand and inhale deeply through your right nostril for five seconds. b. Block both nostrils, holding your breath for five seconds. c. Repeat, beginning this time by breathing through the left nostril"."

In the New Age book **Theories of the Chakras: Bridge to Higher Consciousness**, we read:

"Method of Pranayama Practice: Stage 3: Antaranga kumbhaka. Close the right nostril and inhale through the left. At the end of the inhalation, close both nostrils, using thumb and ring finger, and retain the breath. Exhale through the right nostril and then inhale through it, keeping the left nostril closed. Again retain the breath with both nostrils closed as before. Open the left nostril and exhale, keeping the right nostril closed. Each action - inhalation, retention, and exhalation - should be performed to a count of five. This is one cycle: practice 25 cycles"

What the New Age publication tells the practitioner is *exactly* what the so called *textbook* instructs the student to do.

In The Workplace

... the New York Times reported, in an article dated 26 September 1986, that the "Ford Motor Company, Westinghouse, and the Calvin Klein fashion house are among scores of major companies that have sent employees for training, according to 'human potential' organizations such as Transformation Technologies, Lifespring, and Actualization.... The article also points out that all of these organizations include "techniques modeled... after the techniques started by Werner Erhard, the founder of EST," (p. B12). For those unaware of EST (Erhard Seminar Training), known to the business world as "The Forum," it is one of many New Age organizations based on hard-core pantheism. It is most famous for its intensive weekend seminars in which the participants are told, "You're part of every atom in the world and every atom is part of you. We are all gods who created our own worlds," (Unmasking the New Age, Douglas Groothuis, p. 24). (Watchman Fellowship, "New Age In The Workplace" by John Haley)

In The Hospital

A new cancer treatment program was established at Orlando General Hospital on April 16, 1989. Using *visualization therapy*, the patients were told to:

"Participants are told first to relax and then to imagine themselves in a very special, peaceful, private place. Then they are told to visualize a beautiful cloud filled with vibrant colors and 'healing light.' They are told to visualize themselves floating up into that cloud and then to imagine breathing in the cloud and letting its warmth circulate through their bodies.

"Step by step, they are told to visualize the light concentrating in one part of their body or another, healing the sickness. Finally they are told to imagine themselves being healed and being 'at one with the universe'". (the pamphlet describing the

technique, from Orlando General in Florida)

In The Exercise Room

Many people are turning to yoga as a means of exercise and spiritual rejuvenation. Few people, however, understand that yoga is solidly a New Age ritual used to reach “oneness” with “god”. In **Watchman Expositor** (Volume 2, Number 14, 1997) we read:

“Yoga is a series of exercises and postures (asanas) which are advertised as a way to tone up, reduce stress and experience tranquility. Yoga though is an intrinsic part of Hinduism. Swami Vishnudevananda, well known authority of Yoga, in his book *The Complete Illustrated Book of Yoga* explains the purpose of Yoga, “It is the duty of each developed man to train his body to the highest degree of perfection so that it may be used to pursue spiritual purposes... the aim of all yoga practice is to achieve truth wherein the individual soul identifies itself with the supreme soul of God. Hinduism, as do most new age groups, teaches that the ultimate reality is consciousness or energy (God-Brahman). Each individual soul (Atman) has seven energy deposits known as chakras or meridians in his body along the spinal column. The yoga positions are designed to align these chakras, for the energy to merge with the ultimate cosmic energy and to experience “Atman is Brahman.”

Profiles: Some “Prophets” of The New Age Movement

It would take me way too long to list every alleged prophet, seer, and charlatan of the New Age movement – though I do want to mention a few *major heretics*:

Edgar Cayce & Jess Stearn

Edgar Cayce, a major prophet of the New Age movement, in his lifetime gave over 14,000 psychic readings on more than 10,000 different topics to people all over the world. He taught New Agers that man can expand his mind until he taps into the “**Universal Mind**” or “**Universal Consciousness**”. Some of his *readings* are:

“For ye are a corpuscle in the body of God; thus a co-creator with Him, in what ye think, in what ye do.” (reading #2794-3)

For indeed in Him, the Father-God, ye move and have thy being. Act like it! Don’t act like ye think ye are a god! Ye may become such, but when ye do ye think not of thyself. For what is the pattern? He thought it not robbery to make Himself equal with God, but He acted like it in the earth. He made Himself of no estate that you, through His grace, through His mercy, through His sacrifice might have an advocate with that First Cause, God; that first principle, spirit... (Reading 4083-1)

To Cayce God is the “**First Cause**”, and Jesus was **no more than a pattern for us to follow**. Jesus did not come and die to save us from our sins, but Jesus came to show us how to be saved *from ourselves*:

For the Master, Jesus, even the Christ, is the pattern for every man in the earth, whether he be Gentile or Jew, Parthenian or Greek. For all have the pattern, whether they call on that name or not; but there is no other name given under heaven whereby men may be saved from themselves. (Reading 3528-1)

Edgar Cayce's *Association For Research and Enlightenment* (A.R.E.) believes in **reincarnation** (we were all here on earth before, and will come back or *reincarnate* in a future life) and **pantheism** (the belief in

many gods, or belief that we, too, can be gods). His followers include **Stephen Spielberg** and **Michael J. Fox**.

Michael Gleghorn, a research associate with Probe Ministries, writes:

"The Bible identifies man's primary problem as sin, a state of moral corruption that has infected our very nature. It is our sinful nature (and the sinful acts arising from it) that is the source of so many of our problems. The Bible warns us that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23). Death is understood primarily as separation. Physical death is the spirit's separation from the body (Jas. 2:26); spiritual death is a person's separation from God (Eph. 2:1-7). All men are conceived in a state of spiritual death, alienated from their Creator and in need of reconciliation with Him (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12; 2 Cor. 5:20).

The Bible presents Jesus as the solution to our problem. It tells us that He died for our sins and, as Divine confirmation of this fact, that He was raised for our justification.{18} It assures us that whoever believes in Jesus will receive God's forgiveness and the free gift of eternal life!{19}

The Edgar Cayce readings offer a very different perspective on man's fundamental problem and how it should be solved. Before exploring this perspective, however, it's helpful to remember that the doctrine of God presented in the readings is essentially pantheistic: God is everything and everything is God."

Jess Stearn is the author of thirty books, nine of which were *New York Times* bestsellers, including the #1 bestseller, **Edgar Cayce: The Sleeping Prophet**. Cayce's so called prophetic ministry lasted from 1901 until his death in 1945, but Stearn - Cayce's biographer-

has kept his *heresies* alive and in print.

Alice Bailey & Djwhal Khul

Alice Bailey was a prolific writer on mysticism and the founder of The Arcane School, an international esoteric movement. In 1919 Bailey said that she was contacted by the spirit of another individual whom she called 'the Tibetan', the Buddhist Djwal Khool. She began to write a series of books that she claimed "Djwhal Khul" (sic) dictated to her through an *inner voice*. Like most New Agers, Bailey departs from the Holy Scripture in favor of her own interpretation of man and his abilities. In the book **From Bethlehem to Calvary** she wrote:

"It is surely evident, if one approaches the subject intelligently, that Christ did not die in order that you and I might go to heaven. He died as the result of the very nature of the service which He rendered, of the note which He struck, and because He inaugurated a new age and told men how to live as sons of God." (Chapter Five - The Fourth Initiation - The Crucifixion)

Bailey - just as many with New Age/ Postmodern thought saw no need for *atonement* or *salvation from sin*. There is no heaven nor hell. We are building a "New Age" on the earth. Again, a quote from **From Bethlehem to Calvary**:

"Christ is risen," is their cry, and because He has risen the kingdom of God can go forward upon earth, and His message of love can be widely distributed. They know now, past all controversy, that He has overcome death, and that in the years that lie ahead they will see death vanquished. That they expected an immediate kingdom and that they looked to see the fact of immortality universally recognized is evident from their

writings and their enthusiasm. That they were mistaken, nearly two thousand years of Christianity has proved. We are not yet citizens of a divine kingdom definitely manifesting upon earth, the fear of death is as strong as ever, and the fact of immortality is still but a source of speculation to millions. But it was their sense of time that was at fault, and their failure to understand the slow processes of nature. Evolution moves slowly, and it is only today that we are truly on the verge of the demonstration of God's kingdom upon earth. (From Bethlehem to Calvary - Chapter Six - The Fifth Initiation - The Resurrection and Ascension)

So What Does The Scripture Say?

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world" (1 John 4:1-3).

How are we to stand firm against New Age teaching (which is no more than old age sin and heresy repackaged)? We are commanded to *test the spirits*, to carefully weigh what we *hear* is true against what we *know* is true – God's Holy Scripture. New Age religion teaches that:

(1) All is one, all reality is part of the whole; (2) Everything is God and God is everything; (3) Man is God or a part of God; (4) Man never dies, but continues to live through reincarnation; (5) Man can create his own reality and/or values

through transformed consciousness or altered states of consciousness.

Let's look at "(2) Everything is God and God is everything". To the New Ager God is *impersonal*, but in the Scripture God is a Person. In Acts we see the account of Ananias:

(Acts 5:1-4 KJV) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, {2} And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it, at the apostles' feet. {3} But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? {4} Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

who *lied* to God. You cannot *lie* to an impersonal force! You can only *lie* to a person, and Ananias lied to God the Holy Spirit. We also read:

(Acts 13:1-2 KJV) Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. {2} As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Where God the Holy Spirit *directed* that Barnabas and

Saul be set apart to minister to the Gentiles. Again, this is not an impersonal force, but a Person giving orders to His Church. What about the New Age teaching that “(3) **Man is God or a part of God**”? The Bible *absolutely disputes this*. There is only One God (**Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Isaiah 44:6**). No one but God can be the Savior (**Isaiah 45:18, 21-23**), and this Savior is Jesus Christ our Lord (**Acts 4:12**; also cf. **Isaiah 45:21-23** with **Philippians 2:5-11**). Man is not god, nor God, but man is created by God in the *image of God* (**Genesis 1:26**). Man is sinful because of Adam's disobedience (**Psalms 51:5**), and Jesus Christ – God the Son – came to pay the penalty of our sin.

What about the New Age teaching that “(4) **Man never dies, but continues to live through reincarnation**”? The Bible, *in no place*, refers to the eastern religious teaching of *reincarnation*. Jesus told us that we had to be *born again* (**John 3:3**), but made it plain that He was not speaking of another *physical* birth but a *spiritual* birth (**John 3:5-6**). We only have this life to accept or reject Christ as Savior (**Hebrews 9:27**). If we refuse Jesus, we enter eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

New Agers do not recognize that man is inherently sinful, so see no need for a Savior. They say that “(5) **Man can create his own reality and/or values through transformed consciousness or altered states of consciousness**”. Yet the Bible teaches that man is sinful, and God hates sin. God Himself provided the sacrifice necessary to appease His wrath against sin (**Romans 3:23-25, Romans 4:4-6, 21-23; 5:17, 19; Philippians 3:8, 9**). Jesus Christ, God the Son, is our Savior – if only we believe in Him (**Acts**

4:12; 1 Timothy 1:15; 2:5, 6).

How Can I Witness To New Agers?

The *Christian Apologetics Research Ministry* (carm.org) suggests the following method for witnessing to New Agers:

1. Ask Questions

- If we are all God, then why do we act so badly?
 - They might say it is because we all have not come to a full realization of our true divine potentials. It is ignorance that leads to bad deeds.
 - Then ask them how, if we are divine, our mere ignorant self could so easily override our divine goodness.
- Why do your "realities" contradict each other?
 - They might say that they don't contradict each other. They are simply different shades of light on the same picture (or something vague like that).
 - Then ask if truth contradicts itself. It does not. The logic is that if we are all in different forms of truth, then these different truths can't ultimately contradict each other--or they wouldn't be true. However,...
 - The NAM says that Jesus is only one of many ways to God. But Jesus said He was the only way to God (John 14:6). They can't both be right; therefore, the NAM teaching that we can create our own truths can't be true.
 - Don't let them take Christian words and use them out of the context of biblical meaning.
 - New Agers recognize the tremendous influence and spotless reputation of Jesus. They want Him to

be associated with their beliefs. As a result, you might find yourself facing a New Ager who uses Christian words--but with non-Christian definitions. Listen carefully, and don't let them steal what is Christian and transplant it into their system.

-You must question the terms they use. You need to make sure that what they mean by Christian terms is the same thing that you mean by them.

2. Listen for internal contradictions.

-As mentioned above, truth does not contradict itself. You must listen to what they are saying and ask questions. Sooner or later you catch on to inconsistencies.

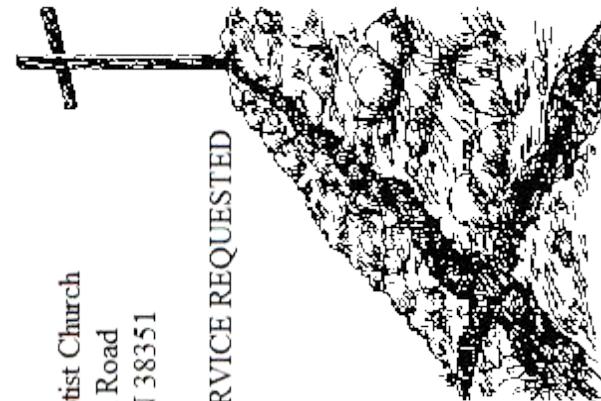
-Inconsistencies usually arise when discussing the relationship between reality and belief.

-For example, a New Ager might say that you can create your own reality. I might reply, "Good. Then if I believe red lights are really green, would you want to go driving with me?"

3. Tell them that God is personal, that he loves them, and that Jesus died for sin.

-The Word of God will not come back empty without accomplishing what God wishes it to (Isaiah 55:11). If you focus on Jesus, tell them the truth about sin and salvation, and use Scripture, then, at least, they will have heard the truth. Praise be to Jesus the Christ.

-Remember, God's word is powerful. Whether or not they accept it isn't the issue. You simply need to present the truth in an accurate and loving manner (Col. 4:5-6; 1 Tim. 1:5).



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