

'Subtle Spiritism'

The inroads of Spiritualism among The professed people of God.

"My message to you is: No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth." 1SM 196.

"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

"The detector, the Bible, is destroyed in the minds of thousands, and Satan uses his arts and devices, which are received as from Heaven. And Satan here receives the worship which suits his Satanic majesty. Thousands are conversing with and receiving instructions from this demon-god, and acting according to his teachings. The world, which is considered to be benefitted so much by phrenology and animal magnetism, never was so corrupt. Satan uses these very things to destroy virtue and lay the foundation of Spiritualism. 4bSG 86.

"I was directed to this scripture as especially applying to modern Spiritualism. Colossians 2:8. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Thousands, I was shown, have been spoiled through the philosophy of phrenology and animal magnetism, and have been driven into infidelity. If the mind commences to run in this channel, it is almost sure to lose its balance, and be controlled by a demon. "Vain deceit" fills the minds of poor mortals. They think there is such power in themselves to accomplish great works, that they realize no necessity of a higher power. Their principles and faith are "after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Jesus has not taught them this philosophy. Nothing of the kind can be found in his teachings. He did not direct the minds of poor mortals to themselves to a power which they possessed. He was ever directing their minds to God, the Creator of the universe, as the source of their strength and wisdom.

"Especial warning is given in verse 18. "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshiping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind." The teachers of Spiritualism will come in a pleasing, bewitching manner to deceive you, and if you listen to their fables you are beguiled by the enemy of righteousness, and will surely lose your reward. When once the fascinating influence of the arch deceiver overcomes you, you are poisoned, and its deadly influence adulterates and destroys your faith in Christ's being the Son of God, and you cease to rely on the merits of his blood.

"Those deceived by this philosophy are beguiled of their reward through the deceptions of Satan. They rely upon their own merits, exercise voluntary humility, are willing to even make sacrifices, and debase themselves, and yield their minds to the belief of supreme nonsense, receiving the most absurd ideas through those whom they believe to be their dead friends. Satan has so blinded their eyes, and perverted their judgment, that they perceive not the evil. They follow out the instructions purporting to be from their dead friends, now angels in a higher sphere. Satan has chosen the most certain, fascinating delusion, calculated to take hold of the sympathies of those who have laid their loved ones in the grave." 4bSG 87.

Here it is itemized with the modern equivalents:

1. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Both in the church and out of it, we are deluged by 'self-help' programs, 'success seminars', all kinds of workshops promoting psychology, meditation, visualization and so on. Counselors abound and rake in big money- but people just get into worse and worse messes because the Word of God is laid aside for the 'traditions and rudiments of men'.

2. "Thousands, I was shown, have been spoiled through the philosophy of phrenology and animal magnetism, and have been driven into infidelity."

I have seen the stories of people who paid for and attended 'workshops' each weekend and longer ones on holidays, for years—each time really believing "this one has the answers, this one will show me how to straighten out my life!" All that happened was thousands of dollars were wasted and the person was in a worse mess.

What today is 'phrenology'? It was a system of analyzing a person's character by feeling the shape of his skull. Today it is any and all theories that seek to sort out people and pigeonhole them into categories: The 5 humors, the 5 elements, the 16 character types, Astrology and all its relatives, category A, AB, and so on personality types, and in the church we have--- what 'tribe' you are in theories, and 'what spiritual gift' category you come under, and so on. It is all misleading, time wasting, and gets one focused in at himself and out to analyze others, and totally away from Present Truth and preparing a heart for the judgment. It also is a very good way to rationalize a lot of personal sin!! ("Well, I had to leave my husband, you see we went to this seminar and I am a "" —"" whatever and he is a "" _"" something else, so you see we could never be happy together! and I met this guy, who is my soul mate---a perfect match for me!")

What today is 'animal magnetism'? It was a system of hypnosis and mind control and spiritualistic healing back then. Today it is a huge class of 'energy' based theories where one person seeks to influence the inner energies of another by touch, manipulation, focusing his 'chi' to heal the sick, and goes by many names, 'Touch for Healing', "Healing Touch", Martial arts, Yoga, Reiki and so on.

3. "If the mind commences to run in this channel, it is almost sure to lose its balance, and be controlled by a demon."

Once the interest gets channeled into these theories and concepts, a bewitching power causes the person to go on and on, thinking he is getting more and more light---when he is going away from all true light! These people also seem blind and deaf to anyone who would show them the things they are after are unbiblical and from Satan! A desire fills the person to introduce others to these 'wonderful things' and he especially seeks to convince fellow church members! He scorns the few wise enough to reject the whole thing as demonic.

4. "Vain deceit" fills the minds of poor mortals. They think there is such power in themselves to accomplish great works, that they realize no necessity of a higher power."

This is one of the big points, whatever the pleasing theory or sophistry the person has latched onto, he has the feeling that just knowing about it, places him in a 'higher category' than those ignorant ones who don't know it, or reject it. One thing that all of these theories have in common is that they promote the idea that man has in himself powers, that he just has to learn to use properly, and he can

solve all his problems and live a successful and power filled life and help others too! They all promote the idea that their theory makes you 'something special'. Persons going into these things, seldom realize that what they are studying puts the lie to all that Present Truth for these days teaches us. Like the readers and listeners of the Alpha heresy, they claim to have a better and closer spiritual life than ever before!

5. "Their principles and faith are "after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Jesus has not taught them this philosophy. Nothing of the kind can be found in his teachings. He did not direct the minds of poor mortals to themselves to a power which they possessed."

Nearly all 'eastern philosophies' and New age and 'positive thinking seminars' claim that the Powers of Jesus are the same as what they teach. This is a huge disgusting lie! But only a good acquaintance with the Bible allows people to see through the lie, and when people are all enthused and running from one theory seminar to another self-help group---who has time for the Bible?

6. "He was ever directing their minds to God, the Creator of the universe, as the source of their strength and wisdom."

When any of these theories point to God, it is in vague and strange ways, not in the simple, basic Bible way. They never teach a humble dependence on God, but rather an approaching to God through developing latent powers.

7. "Especial warning is given in verse 18. "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."

Many New Age and Eastern philosophies promote the concept of ascetism and types of 'self-discipline' that, while claiming to promote humility, actually exalt pride! Some groups pay a lot of attention to spirit visitations they or someone else have had, placing their counsel above that of Bible and SOP. (Note not part of book: Not long ago Adventism was humming with a supposed visit of the angel Gabriel to a girl named Soo from 'Taiwan' I think it was—the message is very tricky and misleading, part true and part not, and distracting many Adventists.)

It is also very sad that people in these spiritist theories think they are humble and serving others, while really inside they are bursting with pride: the Bible knows what it says!!

8. "The teachers of Spiritualism will come in a pleasing, bewitching manner to deceive you, and if you listen to their fables you are beguiled by the enemy of righteousness, and will surely lose your reward."

This is so true!!! These people who offer courses and workshops and seminars and promote theories all seem so concerned about you and they seem so sure they can 'help you' and many times are very 'loving', in some they really believe in what they are promoting, others know it is a lie but just want to rip you off, but they all sound so nice and so beautiful and so fascinating!!!

9. When once the fascinating influence of the arch deceiver overcomes you, you are poisoned, and its deadly influence adulterates and destroys your faith in Christ's being the Son of God, and you cease to rely on the merits of his blood.

Again so true, when one gets caught up in any of these things, almost imperceptibly you move away from simple, basic Bible Christianity into flowery phased spiritism jargon and if you follow far enough, you will be confronted by the fact that you cannot keep on with your new found interest and still believe in Jesus and the Bible as you once did. At this point is 'where the rubber meets the road', as they say, you have to choose – turn back to the Bible--- or follow the theory. There is hope for you in Jesus if you turn back! but if at this point, you decide you can't let go of the theory, and you decide rather to let go fully of Jesus and the Bible, there is little hope you will ever come out of it!!!

10. Those deceived by this philosophy are beguiled of their reward through the deceptions of Satan. They rely upon their own merits, ...

All these philosophies and theories tell you in some form that you have power within to change yourself, they all promote the 'latent powers of the mind' in some form, many even claim that you really already possess all knowledge, you just need to learn to tap into it and rely on your own 'inner wisdom'.

11. ...exercise voluntary humility, are willing to even make sacrifices, and debase themselves, and yield their minds to the belief of supreme non-sense, receiving the most absurd ideas ... Satan has so blinded their eyes, and perverted their judgment, that they perceive not the evil.

Yes, people in these things will go to great lengths to promote and teach others their ideas, they will make great sacrifices and spend money—they will dress in weird clothes and do the most demanding and ridiculous rituals and practices and think it is all so grand and beautiful and meaningful—when it is really so much silly non-sense!! If you try to warn them – they can't see beyond the rosy haze Satan has around them and they are so arrogant about it all too!

Note: In the Alpha, which was the beginning of the spiritualistic attacks of Satan against God's Professed People, the ideas of Kellogg were thought by many as so 'beautiful', 'deeply spiritual', 'drawing them into a closer walk with the Lord', 'the same truths as taught by EW but in a clearer form', 'opening their eyes to the deeper things of God' and so on. But these ideas we were told, if received would destroy our entire foundation !

"The spiritualistic theories regarding the personality of God, followed to their logical conclusion, sweep away the whole Christian economy. They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give John to give to His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to be given special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin, and rob the people of God of their past experience, giving them instead a false science." {1SM 203.4}

That this would not be the only spiritism attack against the professed people of God, the Messenger of the Lord warned as she told us that it was the 'Alpha of deadly heresies', in other words it was only the beginning; and Satan would keep trying to bring these deceptions in more and more until she trembled for our people at the time of the Omega!

The point is not just 'general spiritualism in the world', but about the sneaky spiritualistic practices in the church that people think are alright. Things like 'visualization', reflexology energy theory, mediation, yoga, 'Garden of Prayer' with laying on of hands to transfer spiritual 'energy', ecstatic utterances and Pentecostalism.