



## **Batteries Not Included**

### **A Temcat Testimony**

People that are into Paganism; Animism; Wicca; Earth goddess worship; Nature Worship; and so on, make many claims. For example they say it is the 'oldest religion' much older than Christianity. Well, the fact is that although the name 'Christian' began to be used about 2,000 years ago, the religion was actually the continuation of the worship of the Creator God, the only real God.

Paganism came about as people who refused to obey and worship the true Creator, chose instead to 'do their own thing' under the guidance of the enemy of all good; Satan. Each thing that came into Pagan or Heathen worship was a counterfeit of something from the true worship of the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Why do I entitle this message, "Batteries Not Included?" Well you see, the fact is that man does not have power in himself to enable him to carry out even his highest desires to do right and good. Everything humans aspire to do is mixed with various forms of selfishness. It's what you do, not what you say, that really tells the tale!

Many look at eastern religions and say, "Now, there is real truth". They look at the teachings of the American Indians also and say, "Oh yes, that's the way to live. That is Natural." But they forget the most vital point. You must take a good look at how those people actually lived, because it is not what they Say that counts, it is what they Did that matters! If you study true history, you will see that although they may have had many exulted proverbs and 'great wisdom' in their traditions, (it sounds like great wisdom to us as human beings) it may sound good, But the batteries are not included; there is no power to live up to a creed that you make up yourself no matter how nice it sounds.

Man has no power in himself to do good; not at all; absolutely none! So no matter how exulted the teachings of Buddhism may sound, or the teachings of Hinduism, or Taoism, or Hare Krishna; without God and without Christ there is no power in it to allow anyone to obey. You can profess the loftiest things, but there's no power to carry out your profession. So you will find that certain people, who have naturally very strong wills, excel in these religions. You see, some people do have a type of stubbornness and natural will-power, so that if they make up their mind to do something, they can live up to this externally at least, especially if by doing so they gain the admiration and acclaim of others as a kind of 'holy' person. You can find certain Yogis that seem to have, at least outwardly, will power to live a rigid, abstemious life through their own determination. (Sometimes

though, they just put on a lying, false front as well.) Satan helps some of these by not tempting them too much, because to have them seeming to succeed in his lying service is bait to others and good for his business. They can thus appear 'godly' when there is really no godliness in them at all.

I've had people who studied and even believed in these religions say to me, "How can people who advocate such noble sounding truths as these eastern religions and the North American Indians yet be so hideously cruel?" The answer is there are no batteries included when you make up your own religion or follow one made up by some other human. There's no power in it; and man does not have power to do anything but obey Satan and exult himself. No man can change his own heart and so these external restrictions are always a heavy burden to bear, but they can at times put on the front for the sake of worldly honor.

It is important to realize that the heathen don't have a monopoly on this problem. Any time we try to practice religious tenets of our own choosing, God can't empower us, and the best we can ever become is a hypocrite just like the Pharisees! They refused to accept God's doctrines in the simplicity in which they were given and added their own rules to God's truths and embroidered them. So they pulled the plug on God's enabling power and a life of externals and lying hypocrisy was the best they could ever have. Only religion that comes from God can lead to God, and can be empowered by God!

Notice what happened in the days of Nehemiah:

"In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people." Nehemiah 13:23, 24.

We see another example in the scriptures where people didn't recognize the language anymore; Jesus came among men and what was He teaching? Many claim He had completely new, unheard of ideas. Some even go so far as to claim Jesus went to the East, to Tibet in His youth and brought His teachings back from there. But everything He taught was taken from their own scriptures! He had nothing new, but they had so far mixed in Greek philosophical error, added their own traditions and departed from Bible truth that they didn't even recognize their own scriptures any more. Jesus, through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, stripped away the man-made additions and presented the pure scripture truth.

If you mix pure water with even a little muddy water, the result is muddy water. Whenever you mix the perfect Word of God with any heathenism, the result is heathenism; it's not perfect anymore once it's mixed, and it isn't the Word of God any more once it's mixed. The Jewish religion was mongrelized so badly they couldn't even understand simple Bible truths any more. Jesus cleared away the trash and when the disciples first went forth to carry the truth of Christianity to the world it was pure and it was powerful because God could bless it.

Very early in the 'Christian' era, however, scholars coming in from Paganism began to think they could improve Christianity by combining the 'best' of their own 'higher

education' with it and once again, a mongrel religion came about. God's power could no longer bless and before long the church took hold of the arm of the state to enforce its now powerless religion and the abomination of desolation, the papacy was born.

There are many man made theories that may seem to really make sense but in the long run, they don't work. Also, every year you can see on the bookstore shelves, [or on the internet] the latest crop of 'self-help' books with their methods and programs. Friends if they really worked, there would be one and everyone would say, "Yes, that is it; it really works!" and there would be no need of any more. But they don't work in the long run and most don't even work in the short run. The batteries are not included.

There is one book that works and that is the Bible; it is still there and it doesn't go away. But if you were to start looking for a self-help book of ten or twenty years ago, you'd be most unlikely to find it except in the discount bin of the used book store. There's a new crop all the time. Why? Because they don't work! They sound good but they don't work, because like the pagan religions, there are no batteries included!

I want to tell you a little about my own experience in studying heathen philosophy and many 'self-improvement' theories, as well as the psychiatry and psychology I had to take to become a registered nurse. To become qualified in nursing psychology you have to study various theories that oft times contradict each other and you end up with a confused bunch of soup in your head that is supposed to help you to care for mentally ill persons.

One theory had its roots as one man decided to keep a careful diary of the development of one baby, his own son as he grew and developed. Then from this careful diary of one baby, he made his theory, which is now taught as the normal way for all babies to develop. People think it has been scientifically studied with thousands of children; but no, it was from one man's observations of one baby. Also, I am sure the constant watching and documenting by his father would have had an effect on the normality of the child as well; not to mention it must have driven his wife up the wall!

There are many other theories that have been foisted upon the world by so-called educated people that came out of fictional works made up by the mind of a man. You see, when you write fiction, you can make anything work, but in real life it doesn't work as it is contrary to God's Universal Laws that govern how things really work. That, by the way, is why you'd better not read fiction, even so called 'good fiction' as you can be badly misled in your grasp of reality. Other theories, I have since learned, came directly through the person's contact and communication with evil spirits! [One well known psychologist talked with a giant white rabbit!]

Having acquired the habit of reading fiction from childhood, I started my quest through the rubbish heaps of Satan's counterfeit wisdom, with the study of Yoga. Influenced by the popular movie of the life of Gandhi, [largely fictionalized propaganda] I studied first his writings, then yoga theory and philosophy. Yoga, first used as a method to prepare Hindus for death, it is now popular as a road to 'incredible health and well being'. The principles of diet, morals, dress and exercise are similar to Adventist health reform, but based on spiritualistic principles of universal energy.

I began to practice these things, and there are some health benefits in these things, [Satan has to put some good grain with his poison!] but as I later studied the Spirit of Prophecy counsel more deeply, I found it already had all the good points for me, with none of the occult, spiritualist baggage that Yoga attaches to these things. We already have all the good in the 'Eight Laws of Health', all Yoga adds is the evil, in the form of spiritualistic theory, self-hypnosis, trance-meditation and devil worship. The ultimate end of Yoga is not super health, but rather demon possession and enslavement.

Buddhism, in the same way, has a lot of 'good' philosophy and health advice and teaches you to sit around and meditate. We are supposed to meditate, but not that way. We are not supposed to meditate by emptying the mind and opening it up to allow the devil to dump in it! We meditate by taking the Words of God and putting them into our mind, focusing our mind to understand, while asking for the Holy Spirit to teach us how these things are to become part of our lives. By doing this we think God's thoughts after Him and it lifts and recreates us. God's Word has great power to change us, as we think on it and lay it up in our hearts.

These false systems of religion have discipline and methods that one is supposed to use to lift one's own self up by one's own boot-laces, as it were. Many teach a series of steps that you seek to accomplish one at a time. Man can't change himself at all, but he thinks he can get around that, if he just breaks the change down to a series of baby-steps that he can work on one at a time. So people in these religions sadly wear away their lives, always hoping that if they try hard enough and long enough the big change will come and 'ye shall be as gods!' Oh; if you don't make it in this life, you have assurance that you'll be reincarnated to keep on trying. Again there are always some who are able to make a convincing display of accomplishment of the physical feats of these religions, and so become known as 'Masters' or 'Gurus' and then teach others.

These things are such pitfalls and snares as they lead you on, always expecting that just around the next corner is the 'real breakthrough' and things will really change if you just hang in long enough. You do accomplish certain disciplines and improvements physically and you just 'know' you'll get the rest in time.

Self-help programs are like this too, you keep reaching out to that 'carrot on the stick' thinking 'this time I really have it', only to have it recede before you. You are "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" 2 Timothy 3:7. and when you get in deep enough, they teach you that there really isn't any such thing as solid truth anyway! So you float along in the devil's fogs and mists always hoping for something real but always finding it lies just around the corner, or just beyond the next level, or maybe you'll get it in the next self-help workshop seminar.

With the things of the Lord, there is solid, authoritative truth and even though one can go on learning forever and not exhaust the bounties of the Lord, as soon as you submit to Him you are given real solid evidence and have something to stand on that makes sense. "Taste and see that the Lord is good," Psalm 34:8. God invites us, "Take of the water of life freely." Revelation 21:6. When we have a "thus saith the Lord" then we know what the truth is, we don't have to suppose and wonder.

There is another thing that all these systems of eastern and related philosophies have in common, they all cultivate pride. Because as you progress in Buddhism, Taoism, Martial arts, Yoga or such things you become more proud, self centered and detached from those around you. 'But they teach humility', you may say, but it is an external type of 'wearing of sackcloth' put on to disguise the pride within.

The incredible 'powers' that some of these 'gurus' develop, are all from the power of the devil, but they think it is from themselves. Now there are things that one can naturally develop, such as skill, dexterousness, agility, strength, balance, technique, but exactly where your ability leaves off and demonic assistance begins, is not really discernable. When you find out that you have para-normal or supernatural powers in some line then you are *really* proud. You feel your mind is superior to others and so highly developed and all that. Wow! What I can do!

The more you are able to accomplish in your own strength, the more proud and disdainful you become. That pride is a great barrier to really being converted and accepting the Lord, because you think you know certain things, and you can do certain things, and you have certain 'powers' within you and all these things bordering on spiritualism, make it hard to totally die to self and bow as a penitent at Jesus feet, admitting your hopeless lost-ness.

Satan leads you on, giving you just enough success to keep you wanting more; but remember, he can't give you total success, real victory, because he doesn't even have it to give you. Only God can give you that. All Satan can really give you are novelties and parlor tricks; they are unreal and largely meaningless performances. The only real thing he has to give you is eternal death!

He specializes in feelings and illusions; this is Satan's realm, making something appear real when it really isn't. He uses such things so much in these religions of yoga, martial arts and meditation because their practices allow him to give you impressions and feelings to tantalize you and lead you into his traps. So please realize that we must never have a religion that is based on feelings and impressions.

During the time I was studying eastern philosophies, I was a postulant and later a novice in an order called the 'Jahalda Knights', studying to become a leader in the group. There were books that we were encouraged to read which put forward the theories we were practicing. One book, and I won't give you the name of it in case someone would be curious and go looking for it or something, I don't want to promote it, but it was putting forth the spiritual side of martial arts. It went the round of those of us who were studying for the leadership of the Jahalda Knights. My immediate teacher over me, my Sifu, read it, and was greatly impressed with it and passed it to me and said, "Here, read this book!" So I read it; it was a medium-sized book and I read it from cover to cover and I have to tell you it was the most fascinating book I ever read! It was amazing! I thought it was a wonderful book. I said, "This is so enlightening; this is so wonderful; I really love this book!"

Later I returned it to my teacher and said, "I read this book right through and this is really a good book; it's a wonderful book!" Well for some reason or other, he didn't know why,

but I know why now, God had His hand in something there; he turned around and handed me back the book and said, "Well, if it is that good, don't just read it once, read it again!"

So I took it and said, "I will, I will read it again." I'll tell you how I know it was God who interposed there, because afterwards my teacher seemed so annoyed both with me and with himself; he said, "Do you have to do everything I tell you? Can't you think for yourself?" or something like this, but I said, "No, I will read it again." You know, we have no idea the spiritual battle that rages around us! Satan knew God was going to interpose and he was mad.

I didn't ask for God's blessing; I didn't ask Him to show me if this thing was true or not. I didn't take it to the Word of God and test it to see if it was truth; at that time, it didn't cross my mind. But our Lord is merciful beyond anything we can imagine, really! And He was gracious and merciful to me, who was deliberately seeking after things that I knew better than to seek after. God sent His Spirit and angels to be with me the second time I read that book. I didn't ask for this help, but I am so grateful to Him for this and I have thanked Him many times. He stopped the hypnotic spell of Satan and when I read it again, I never read such a pack of rubbish in my life. It was the same book! I had only read it two days before and thought it so wonderful. It was just a bunch of fabricated rubbish from cover to cover. There was no good in it, just stupidity, Disgusting! Why didn't I see it the first time? Satan was influencing me and God stopped him and let me see the truth.

When I read it the first time, one of the things it talked about was this experience they call 'enlightenment'. Now if you hang around 'New Age' people very much, you will hear a lot about enlightenment. It is supposed to be that all of a sudden when you are meditating or practicing, you get this experience where everything seems more real to you and more plain and clear and it's like light flooding into your mind. I will tell you that that kind of 'enlightenment' comes from Lucifer, the fallen light-bearer; he specializes in that kind of experience. You can hear or read something and feel that it is so wonderful, something that you feel has unlocked a whole new world to you and opened up your understanding like never before, and it is nothing but a feeling having no basis in reality at all! It is a hypnosis kind of a thing he uses and you can feel nothing has ever been so precious in your whole life.

I experienced this trick. I can still remember feeling this way after I first read that book. As I left my apartment that day to go to work, everything seemed so bright, and so wonderfully new and beautiful, so different, so much more real, and I had this feeling of enlightenment. It was all so incredible, but it doesn't last, friends, it doesn't last. In fact when it fades, you usually end up in discouragement and darkness afterwards because Satan and his nasty bunch have more things to do than to sit around and make you feel good all day. They really hate you with a passion, because you belong to Jesus. It's nothing personal; they just hate you, and delight to destroy you so as to hurt Jesus. But he gives people these sweet experiences to lead them to seek more, as they think there must be real truth in this because of what they saw or felt. The 'Master' of the order based all his confidence in a hallucination or dream he had in meditation one time, where he saw supernatural beings he thought were angels (if anything they were fallen angels), who told him to start this order.

Many people are given an experience when they first come into occult territory. They may visit a psychic-type therapist and receive a treatment and find it makes them feel sooo good! Then they really believe in it and come back again and again. Seldom is there any lasting health benefit, but the good feeling keeps them returning and spending their money. They may choose to take classes and begin to practice the therapy they have chosen. They also accept the spiritualistic explanation of the therapy as true.

Many times when a person first visits a psychic, he is told, "You don't realize it, but you have a rare gift, special powers, and with training you could really be good at this and help many people." The person thinks "What? Me? Special powers? I never knew that!" It really makes him feel important. The person is made to feel he is under obligation to develop this hidden 'gift' for the blessing of others. In reality, it boosts your pride to think that you have a 'special gift' that others don't have. Once pride gets in there, you are led like a beast to the slaughter. Satan will give you just enough success to keep you coming back for more.

I hope you are able to see the implications of this phenomenon in relation to alternative medicine. It is an easy thing for Satan's angels to give a pleasant sensation, or wonderful sense of well being, as you receive one of these therapies, but unless you bring your life into harmony with God's real health laws, there can be no lasting benefit. People seem now to base their choices of whether or not to use a particular modality of treatment by whether or not it 'seems to work'. This is not a valid way to make your choice! Satan can make many things seem to 'work'.

Sometimes a particular therapist seems to have power to make us feel so good that we are sure his treatments are really helping us. But often all that happens is that we become more dependent and in the long run, little lasting benefit, if any, is had. Often much money is spent for nothing.

Practices based on 'energy' theory, balancing of forces, eastern religions and such are not under God's blessing even if they seem to be 'natural' to us. It is safer to err on the side of caution and have God's blessing than to take one step beyond the boundaries He has placed and so lose it. Without God, there are 'no batteries included' and even though effects might be experienced, no lasting good can come of it and Satan may use it as the doorway to come in and destroy your soul and others through your influence.

Realize that these practitioners of occult based therapies, yoga, martial arts and so on, often have demons backing them and the hypnotic power involved can deceive any one who puts himself in their sphere of influence. I know of many times when God protected me so that such power was not able to take hold of me; but please don't feel that it is safe to investigate such things and that God will protect you while you satisfy your curiosity. There have been people who just get slightly involved with these things and they are swept away and never recover. I don't know how I came out, by God's incredible mercy is all I can say. God plucked me from the fire; He opened my eyes and led me out step by step.