

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: False Prophets - False Teachers****False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/10 16:15**

After seeing and being apart of many threads about certain "ministers" or "pastors" with people either saying they are false, and some saying no they are not i started wondering.

How do we discern who is false? how do we judge who is satan disguised as an angel of light? or from whom we should withdraw from?

My wish is not to bash a certain minister or pastor or church or denomination or anything of the sort. But rather discuss how to obey all the commandments in scripture from Jesus himself and the apostles to be watching out from these who will deceive many.

And seek out what scripture CLEARLY teaches about these things.

This verse to me speaks about those who preach "get rich gospels" from such run away. If they say believe in God he will make you rich and those gospels....

1Ti 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

then we have the wolves
how do we know who these are?

Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

And Jesus also said this: to me this is a very serious thing he says "take heed", take extra special effort making sure no one deceives you. Many shall be claiming to serve Christ but in reality serve satan.

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Mat 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

and here we have many who actually believe they are serving the real Jesus, but are deceived

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

and this one, how can we recognize or expose satan when trying to come to us as an angel of light?

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Please try avoid naming names or ministries if possible please. Thank you

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers, on: 2007/12/10 17:13

I believe brother, that the Lord gives His Sheep, who hear His Voice and won't follow another voice - Discernment.

They read His Word, they are Bereans, they don't follow men for their beliefs and depend like a little child on His Spirit to do the warning of wolves in the flock.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

Actually - posted by dohzman (), on: 2007/12/10 17:43

The Apostle Paul came against a few elements of his day 1) those who were legalistic, those who added circumcision and the law to the gentile church in order to be saved. They had changed simple faith into a works religion, we have that to day also. 2) those who mishandled the word of God 1Ti 6:3 If anyone teaches other doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, The teachings that don't promote godliness, that's the real benchmark for church doctrine, many of the prosperity teachings have an element of truth but are easy enough to turn toward the sinfulness of man's flesh, which is what is happening. 3) Jud 1:4 For certain men, who were designated for this judgment long ago, have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into promiscuity and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. These men pervert the gospel to a self-serving gospel that eventually denies Jesus entirely, we see that through doctrines that accept certain parts of the gospel but then deny the resurrection or maybe the virgin birth or some other pivotal element in church doctrine, they breed doubt in the heart and mind of those who follow them. There's more but this is a good quick list :-)

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2007/12/10 17:59

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:
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I personally think "NotMe" said it best on another thread:
From NotMe:
Paul warned the Corinthians about claiming to be followers of different teachers (some said they were of Apollos, other of Paul, third of Christ), for this divisiveness was a sign of their carnality. The Lord Jesus Himself knew what was in man and didn't commit Himself to any man (John 2:24-25). Neither should we, but we have one Teacher, the Christ (Matthew 23:8). The question is that as long as we trust in the authority of men more than in God, we are sure to be deceived, one way or another. You choose whether you are going to make some man's authority truth for yourself or make the Truth your only authority. Authority before men is worth nothing, regardless of what people--or the majority of people--may say. One day we will all appear before the judgement seat of Christ to give an account of what we've done in the flesh, to be confronted with Truth Himself, and what shall we do then with our doctrines, and beliefs, and preferences?

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2007/12/10 18:57

Quote:
-----HE_Reigns wrote:
I believe brother, that the Lord gives His Sheep, who hear His Voice and won't follow another voice - Discernment.

What was Galatians about? Or 2 Corinthians for that matter?

2Co 11:3-4 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his cunning, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

:4 For if he that comes preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you receive another spirit, which you have not received, or another gospel, which you have not accepted, you might well bear with him.

These Churches were of "His Sheep".

Don't be so bold as to say that those who are following some False Prophets or False Teachers are not HIS own.

False Prophets & False Teachers are rampant in the Philippines, there is not a "sound" church there except for maybe a few. However, there are more of His "sheep" than one might expect.

Re:, on: 2007/12/10 19:35

There is a state of one's spirit where they have calloused themselves to the Spirit of Truth so many times, that they are not considered His Sheep.

I'm fully aware that some of His Sheep are caught under false teachings, but you know why your Pastor Randles and the others from ACT do what they do.

In the "end" - His Sheep will not follow *another*.

Re: ???? - posted by dohzman (), on: 2007/12/10 20:02

Quote:
----- There is a state of one's spirit where they have calloused themselves to the Spirit of Truth so many times, that they are not considered His Sheep.

Can you show us that from scripture?

Who's Randles and whats ACT?

Quote:
----- In the "end" - His Sheep will not follow another.

I wish this was true but both bible teachings we call doctrine and also history teach us differently.

Re:, on: 2007/12/10 20:19

ACT - <http://op.50megs.com/act/page2.html>

Hi Dohzman, I high-lighted "end" and Italicized *another* because Jesus warned us that the reason that these are being deceived is to persuade them over to antiChrist. Jesus Himself called him, "another". Joh 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Doctrine is mentioned 44 times in our N.T.
Sound doctrine is equal to right living. One with the other will eventually fall.

John 15 and 16 talk about the Spirit of Truth Who is Always testifying to truth.

It is no different than the Holy Spirit witnessing into a person's heart that their lifestyle is in error. The longer that conviction is thrown off and the Spirit is grieved, how long will that person stand?

The Spirit convicts of sin and to the Truth.

Sin and Doctrine go hand in hand. Both are the non-stop witness of the Holy Spirit. He is constantly speaking - unless someone shuts their ears to Him. No one knows how long that will go on, before the Holy Spirit is grieved enough to the point of giving the person over to what they "choose" for themselves.

This thread is about False teachers and false prophets - what do you believe should be said on this topic.

I know we're living in the Apostasy from Truth now - and that becomes more apparent every day.

Next is 2 Thess 2:10 & 11.

Do we say, "Oh no problem, keep following false teachers and prophets." ?

I'm confused by these questions so far.

Joh 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

edited for a quicker link. <http://op.50megs.com/act/page16.html>

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2007/12/10 22:33

I really wish it was that simple, to say that everyone that follows a false doctrine or false teacher is false, but it is not, in the communion table of the Lord there is a principle of chastisement unto death (1Co 11:30 This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep.) that needs to be noticed, this was to spare the person on the day of the resurrection so that they would not be judged with the world. The same will hold true for many who are duped by false teachers and false prophets. They'll partake of the wrong communion and be sickly and sleep for it but they themselves will be spared on the day of judgement, the Lord knowing the thoughts and the intents of their hearts.

Generally speaking>>>this is a blanket statement>>>not directed at anyone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The trouble as I see it in many that post so strongly against False Teachers and False Prophets or false whatever is that by the end of the day everything is false, everyone in any kind of leadership is false and the person posting always is really one of the few who has the ultimate truth which leads to salvation, but they themselves have no disciples, generally speaking, and they aren't out actively seeking the misguided masses who are being led by these false teachers and prophets. Which really makes their sin greater by comparison than that of the false teachers and prophets, since they knew the way and did nothing to stop the misguided.

Re: - posted by FireinmyBones1 (), on: 2007/12/11 0:22

I would say that to stay free from deception one must be careful that they do not become fixated on only one form of deception. Most who frequent this site seem to be passionately opposed to the errors of Joel Osteen and the Rick Warren types, but these are just one of many deceptive teachings out there. An over emphasis on any one truth will always lead to a neglect of another. An over emphasis on "holiness" (which is typically seen not through the lens of NT scripture but rather through the writings and preaching of "holiness" preachers...) is just as dangerous as an over emphasis on grace. The majority of the errors Paul countered were not those in the "greasy grace" genre, (although he certainly did confront this...) or the prosperity types. Rather his biggest "beef" seemed to be with the legalists and those pseudo-watchmen types who took away the brides cloak of imparted and imputed righteousness by constantly beating the self-denial drum. (SOS 5:7-)

Perverved prosperity messages, greasy grace/seeker sensitive types, and watchman wannabe's are all in the same category to me. One is not more dangerous than the other. One leads you into selfish materialism, one leads you into lasciviousness, and one leads you into legalistic bondage, cross mocking, worship of the human will (yes even the calvinist), and ultimately far from the face of Jesus.

It is important to be balanced! So many of us live on the defensive instead of the offensive. Everything we do is in RESPONSE or in REACTION to sometime someone else did. We are always countering the false. This can ultimately lead to the creation of error in the name of correcting error. Most errors are just exaggerated versions of the truth (although this is certainly not always the case). Most error can be corrected by adding something more to the diet instead of subtracting. When we subtract in response or reaction to error, we are always left with a mutilated portion of the gospel.

I was getting really close to error once in my life because I developed an unhealthy addiction to repentance preaching. It was ALL that I listened to. If every message was not a slam in the face, I counted it as being compromised, cupcake Christianity. But why was I so addicted? I would search my heart for every little impure motive, every area of secret sin, y

ou name it, I searched it out. Yet I was living a moral life as much like Jesus as I knew how. I had so separated myself from anything that may have smelled similar to something that looked like it may have smelled like something that tasted like deception, that I was missing about 99.9% of the gospel. I was living off of the "foundation of repentance from dead works..." (Heb 6) which the scriptures encourage us to grow beyond.

I was stuck. Yet in the midst of it I had truly deceived myself into thinking I was right and everyone else wrong. I would not even witness many times out of fear that my witnessing was being done out of impure motives. Sometimes even praying was fearful! Was I praying so that I would be anointed by God so that when I stood in the pulpit to preach men would look at me and say "What a holy man of God!?" AHH! Even my prayers and desire for intimacy with God had impure motives behind them! This constant examination of the motives and "navel gazing" had me crippled and dying. I was desperate to be more like Jesus and for revival. I prayed and fasted and fasted and prayed. Yet my doctrine was horrible. I reveled in concepts like "dying daily", "crucifying the old man" etc... I had no idea that these were total misinterpretations of scripture. Maybe that was why I felt so stuck!

I've come to see that those who are most desperate for genuine revival and most hungry to bear and manifest the character of Christ are also typically those who really don't know the true gospel of the NT but only that of the holiness camp. I have discovered that most of what is taught as "holiness" and the "deeper life" (by the way-since when are elementary truths the "deeper life"?) could not really be seen through the teachings of Paul and the apostles when taken by themselves. It was only in addition to the writings and teachings of those with a repentance fetish that I could see the scriptures saying those things.

In Song of Solomon 5:7- , the woman tells of how she is desperately searching for the one her soul loves. (as i was) When she encountered watchmen who beat her, bruised her, and took away her robe. It is often those who are most desperately seeking Jesus who fall into the hands of abusive watchmen. The scripture says that she "bruised" her. Bruising is indicative of internal bleeding. It's an interesting note that she DID not have these internal problems until she met up with the "watchmen". In my life I was actually living in much more victory over sin, much greater intimacy with God, much greater efficacy in witnessing and preaching before I encountered the watchmen - the unbalanced holiness message. But the unbalanced words bruised me and actually created within me problems that were not there before. I was just lead to believe it was the "self-life". Then my robe of righteousness was stolen. I could no longer see myself through the blood of Jesus - only the bruised condition the watchmen had left me in.

I write this only to say that I was nearly deceived by a more subtle form of deception. It wasn't gross prosperity or greasy grace - rather it was an over emphasis on the elementary truth of repentance. The less I tinker with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the more I simply find my pleasure in intimacy with God in the garden, the more holy I live!

these are just my thoughts,
God Bless!
Jeff

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/11 2:22

Found an interesting and powerful word by Art Katz

(The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy)

(<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid5806&commentViewItemComments>) Against false prophets

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/11 2:35

Quote:

Logic wrote:

Quote:

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Don't be so bold as to say that those who are following some False Prophets or False Teachers are not HIS own.

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But does not Paul indicate that maybe the believers in Corinth, or some of them was not his sheep?

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

Re: - posted by Tears_of_joy, on: 2007/12/11 3:05

(http://www.benisrael.org/writings/online_books/anatomy_of_deception/taod_contents.html) The Anatomy of Deception by Art Katz

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/11 3:11

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly **bring in** destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

2Pe 2:3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

It seems to me we have to watch out when someone or when something new is "brought in". Something which was not here from beginning.

2Pe 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

And here it speaks about such teachers make our own flesh and lust and our self the center of attention

this whole chapter is interesting i think when talking about this

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

2Pe 2:3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

2Pe 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)--

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

2Pe 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,
2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.
2Pe 2:12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,
2Pe 2:13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,
2Pe 2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.
2Pe 2:15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
2Pe 2:16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.
2Pe 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.
2Pe 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.
2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.
2Pe 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.
2Pe 2:21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.
2Pe 2:22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by Tears_of_joy, on: 2007/12/11 3:51

I think one of the main characteristics of false prophet is preaching peace when there is no peace. Preaching material prosperity, when calamity and judgement is coming. Preaching that you are healthy when you are sick and you are to die in your sins. Preaching that you are rich and you are good, when you are blind, and miserable, and poor. This is called false security, this lie to the core. This is tragedy by any means. Because sudden tragedy will come.

Jer 14:13 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, **the prophets say unto them**, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

Jer 14:14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Jer 14:15 Therefore **thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not**, yet they say, **Sword and famine shall not be in this land**; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.

Jer 14:16 **And the people to whom they prophesy** shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them.

In other words, false prophet and a teacher gives you false comfort. It makes you comfortable in your sins and it leads you to hell and eternal destruction.

The Lord already warned us, we are without excuse, we are given enough admonition to recognize the false prophets.

2Ti 4:3 **For the time will come** when they will not endure sound doctrine; but **after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears**;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall **turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables**.

2Ti 4:5 **But watch thou in all things**, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Here is the test. Is he itching your ears, leaving you comfortable in the way you are living in your sin? If yes, then run for your life with all your might.

If he is not speaking to you about the wrath of God, His righteousness, His holiness, His justice, your sin, your wretchedness, your need of mercy and grace in the light of His wrath! Run from him and save your life.

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by Tears_of_joy, on: 2007/12/11 4:09

A PLEAD TO THE PASTORS/TEACHERS/PROPHETS

Dear Pastor,

Preach to me no more sermons on God's love, unless it is accompanied by a message of His holiness. Preach to me no more sermons of His amazing grace without mentioning from what His grace saves me. Preach to me no more sermons of my Lord's mercy except it be contrasted with what He would otherwise be just and righteous to do.

I cannot understand this God of love without hearing of His many other characteristics. My God is woefully complex, but He has been reduced to a god of mere sentiment and romance, which god has no power to save. Explain to me the wrathful God of the Old Testament. Acquaint me with His jealousy; why is His Name Jealous? When God says He "hates," tell me what is it He despises? Show me His anger in full that I might know the object of this anger and avoid it in my own life. Don't down play and trivialize His anger, I know He doesn't change.

Show me the horrors of hell that I might truly prize my salvation and seek to share Him with others. Teach me to be hopeful of Judgment Day but to share with those whom are lost they should greatly fear it. Declare God's holy commandments that I might have a portrait of His purity and holiness and conversely, that I might know what sin is. Proclaim to me my sin – that I lie, that I cheat, that I hate and covet. Tell me of my helplessness to keep said commandments that you might impress upon me my dire need of a Savior.

Once I have a grasp of the abomination of sin, then and only then, show me my Savior! When I fully comprehend the depth and breadth of my personal sin, my original sin, my self-righteousness and my unbelief, then the Gospel will really be Good News! When I realize my nakedness before God, my utter bankruptcy with respect to sin, I might esteem my deliverance utterly. Pastor, teach me the meaning of repentance, that I might truly be forgiven. Show me true humility that I might know its semblance.

Declare to me the offense of the cross and expound upon its meaning. Tell me, Pastor, why does it offend? Don't merely tell me this is God's love; help me to see His perfect justice in this Event. Describe for me also the representation of His holiness and righteousness at Calvary. Explain to me that this is what I have escaped through a life laid down for Christ; that this is the hell I deserved and instead Jesus took the punishment. Tell me that on that day, He became sin for sinners.

Then permit me to see by example how to live for this beautiful Savior. Help me to see in you the life of the redeemed. Show me your love for the lost; teach me likewise how to pour out my heart for them.

Then finally, tell me of God's wonderful love for me. Then I think I will really understand "how great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" Then I know I will understand. Then I will be truly in His loving grip.

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id19934&forum35#155687) Digged from SI archive.

Re: Just to add - posted by dohzman (), on: 2007/12/11 7:51

Just wanted to add Jesus' own words to the 7 churches in Revelation. I see those 7 churches as always having existed even to the present time. It's worth the read, as Bro. Ron Bailey says, read it more slowly.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/11 8:25

generally when pastors preach to their congregations they are preaching to saved people. hence people that should be taught to repent without the help of a pastor.

Otherwise people will go to church to hear all the bad and how bad they are and I suppose this type preaching if not accompanied by an alter call leaves the saint condemned.

David

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2007/12/11 10:10

FireinmyBones1 or Jeff that was a really good Honest, Genuine, Sincere, Humbling, Self examining post, we need more like this here.

Thanks

Mr. Bill

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/12/11 14:34

Quote:

-----by psalm1 on 2007/12/11 7:25:18

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David

bro david, i understand what you are saying, but i think we need to be careful in assuming that almost everyone in the congregation is saved. some may be religious, some may be unsaved, some may believe in "another jesus".

paul in acts 20:27 says that he declared to them the full counsel of God. how many people can say that they hear the full counsel from the pulpit on sundays?? praise God that some do, but some do not. we need to hear the good and the bad (as some call it).

i don't think the type of preacher is what matters (ex. repentance, grace, etc), but rather preaching the word the Holy Spirit desires for you to give. being obedient to the Lord, saying what He wants you to say, ya know? and if one is doing that, they will declare all the will and counsel of God.

just some thoughts,
phil

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/11 15:03

The signs of a flesh-pleaser or sensualist are these:

1. When a man in his desire to please his appetite, does not do it with a view to a higher end, that is to say to the preparing himself for the service of God; but does it only for the delight itself. (Of course no one does every action consciously with a view to the service of God. Nevertheless, the general manner or habit of a life spent in the service of God is absent from the flesh-pleaser.)
2. When he looks more eagerly and industriously after the prosperity of his body than of his soul.
3. When he will not refrain from his pleasures, when God forbids them, or when they hurt his soul, or when the necessities of his soul call him away from them. But he must have his delight whatever it costs him, and is so set upon it, that he cannot deny it to himself.
4. When the pleasures of his flesh exceed his delights in God, and his holy word and ways, and the expectations of endless pleasure. And this not only in the passion, but in the estimation, choice, and action. When he had rather be at a play

, or feast, or other entertainment, or getting good bargains or profits in the world, than to live in the life of faith and love, which would be a holy and heavenly way of living.

5. When men set their minds to scheme and study to make provision for the pleasures of the flesh; and this is first and sweetest in their thoughts.

6. When they had rather talk, or hear, or read of fleshly pleasures, than of spiritual and heavenly delights.

7. When they love the company of merry sensualists, better than the communion of saints, in which they may be exercised in the praises of their Maker.

8. When they consider that the best place to live and work is where they have the pleasure of the flesh. They would rather be where they have things easy, and lack nothing for the body, rather than where they have far better help and provision for the soul, though the flesh be pinched for it.

9. When he will be more eager to spend money to please his flesh than to please God.

10. When he will believe or like no doctrine but "easy-believism," and hate mortification as too strict "legalism." By these, and similar signs, sensuality may easily be known; indeed, by the main bent of the life.

R.Baxter

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/11 15:15

I found this article, and it was very interesting and good

The Distinguishing Marks of False Teachers by Thomas Brooks

'But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.' 2Peter2:1-3

Satan labors with all his strength by false teachers, which are his messengers and ambassadors, to deceive, delude and forever destroy the precious souls of men. The prophet Jeremiah declared, 'And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.' (Jeremiah 23;13). And through the prophet Micah, the Lord himself complained 'Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err,' (Micah 3.5a). They seduce them and carry them out of the right way into by-paths and blind thickets of error, blasphemy and wickedness, where they are lost forever. Jesus Himself warned, 'Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves' (Matthew 7:15) These scoundrels lick and suck blood of souls, 'Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers,' (Phil. 3:2) These evil men kiss and kill; they cry, 'Peace, Peace' until souls fall into everlasting flames (see Proverbs 7) Now the best way to deliver poor souls from being deluded and destroyed by these messengers of Satan is to display them in their true colors, so that being known poor souls may shun them, and flee from them as hell itself. Now you may know a false teacher by the following distinguishing marks.

1. The first distinguishing mark is that they are men-pleasers. They preach more to please the ear than to profit the heart. Isaiah thus described the longing of God's rebellious people. 'Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:' (Isaiah 30:10). And again the Lord complained through Jeremiah in these words; 'A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means, and my people love to have it so and what will ye do in the end thereof?' (Jer 5.30,31) These men handle the holy things rather with wit and entertainment than with godly fear and reverence. False teachers are soul-destroyers. They are like evil surgeons, that skin over the wound, but never heal it. Flattery destroyed Ahab and Herod, Nero and Alexander. False teachers are hell's great enrichers. It is not bitter, but flattering words which do all the mischief, said Valerian, the Roman emperor. Such smooth teachers are sweet soul-poisoners (Jeremiah 23:16,17)

2. The second distinguishing mark of false teachers is that they are notable for casting dirt, scorn and reproach upon the person, names, and credits of Christ's most faithful ambassadors. Thus Korah, Dathan, and Abiram charged Moses a

and Aaron that they took too much upon themselves, seeing all the congregation was holy (Numbers 16:3). 'You take', they said, 'too much state, too much power, too much honor, too much holiness on you; for what are you more than others, that you take so much upon you?' And likewise Ahab's false priests fell, upon good Micaiah, paying him with fits and fits instead of a reasonable reply (see I Kings 22 10-26). Yes, even Paul, that great apostle of the Gentiles, had his ministry undermined and his reputation blasted by false teachers: 'For his letters,' they say, 'are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.' (2 Corinthians 10:10). They rather despise him than admire him; they look upon him as a dunce rather than a doctor. And indeed the same harsh treatment had our Lord Jesus from the scribes and Pharisees, who labored as if their life depended on it, to construct their own esteem upon the ruins of His reputation. And never did the devil have a more prosperous business in this way than he does in these days (Matthew 27:63). Oh, the dirt, the filth, the scorn that is thrown upon those of whom the world is not worthy! I suppose false teachers fail to consider that saying of Augustine 'He that willingly takes my good name unwillingly adds to my reward'

3. The third distinguishing mark of false teachers is that they spew out the devices and visions of their own heads and hearts. The Lord said to me. 'Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.' (Jeremiah 14:14). 'Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord.' (Jeremiah 23:16). Are there not multitudes in this nation whose visions are but golden delusions, lying vanities, brainsick fantasies? These are presently Satan's great benefactors, but one day divine justice will hang them up in hell as the greatest malefactors, unless the physician of souls graciously delivers them.

4. The fourth distinguishing mark of false teachers is that they easily pass over the great and weighty things both out of the law and the gospel, and dwell mostly upon these things that are of the least importance and concern to the souls of men. Thus Paul warned Timothy: 'Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling. Desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.' (I Timothy 1:5-7). And our Lord rebuked the Pharisees: 'Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye have done, and not to leave the other undone.' (Matthew 23:23). False teachers are meticulous in the lesser things of the law, and quite negligent in the greatest! Once more the Apostle Paul spoke strong words to Timothy when he said: 'If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself' (I Timothy 6:3-5). If such false teachers are not genuine hypocrites, I know nothing (Romans 2:21.22). The earth groans to bear such wicked men, and hell is fitted for them.

5. The fifth distinguishing mark of false teachers is that they cleverly disguise their dangerous principles and soul-deceiving notions with very attractive speeches and golden expressions. Many in these days are bewitched and deceived by the magnificent words, lofty strains- and stately terms of deceivers, such as illumination, revelation, and deification. As harlots paint their faces and adorn and perfume their beds, the better to allure and deceive simple souls, so false teachers will put a great deal of paint and garnish upon their most dangerous principles and blasphemies, in order that they may better deceive and delude poor ignorant souls. They know that sugared poison goes down sweetly: they wrap up their pernicious, soul-killing pills in gold. In the days of Hadrian the emperor, there was a man Ben-Cosbi who gathered a multitude of Jews together, and called himself Bencocuba, the son of a star, applying the promise of Numbers 24:17 to himself, but he proved to be Bar-chosaba, the son of a lie. And so will all false teachers, for all their lofty expressions will prove at last to be the sons of lies.

6. The sixth distinguishing mark of false teachers is that they strive more earnestly to win men over to their opinions, than to improve their behavior. The Lord Jesus again spoke with soberness when He said 'Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves' (Matthew 23:15). They busy themselves, most about men's heads. Their work is not to better men's hearts and mend their lives; and in this they are much like their father the devil, who will spare no pains to gain converts.

7. The seventh distinguishing mark of false teachers is that they exploit their followers through covetousness. The Apostle Peter, nearing his own death (see 2 Peter 1:12-15), warned his followers: 'But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by

reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.' (2 Peter 2:1-3). They eye your goods more than your good; and care more for serving themselves, than the saving of your souls. So long as they have your possessions, they care not that Satan possess your souls (Revelation 18:11-13). In order that they may better pick your pocket, they will hold forth such principles as are very indulgent to the flesh. False teachers are the great worshippers of the golden calf, as the Lord declares: 'For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness, and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely' (Jer.6: 13). Crates threw his money into the sea, resolving to drown it, lest it should drown him. But false teachers care not who they drown, so long as they may have their money.

Now by these seven distinguishing marks you may know false teachers, shun them and so deliver your souls out of their dangerous snares. And that you may, my prayers shall meet yours at the throne of grace.

Thomas Brooks

Re: - posted by FireinmyBones1 (), on: 2007/12/11 15:53

Ultimately false teaching is best recognized when you are intimately acquainted with the truth. Think of the proverbial movie script in which two seemingly identical persons switch places for an extended period of time. When people get suspicious they come to notice that the person is missing the tell-tale birthmark (or some other exclusive feature) that the real person bore. (Sorry for the cheesy example...)

The point: they were so intimately acquainted with the truth, down to little details like unseeing birthmarks, that they could distinguish the true from the false.

Likewise the best way to avoid deception is to love and explore truth to its depths. Do not spend your time studying about deception or fearing deceivers - rather delight yourself in the truth of God's word.

The best way to distinguish a true from a counterfeit bill is to know the distinguishing marks of a true bill. It is not in knowing the blemishes that may or may not mar the appearance of a fake - but it is in knowing the characteristics that ONLY a true bill carries.

My advice - love truth! Devour the scriptures and bask in the presence of the Holy Spirit that he may teach you what they mean. Do not go on doctrinal witch hunts, because you will burn MANY innocent brothers and sisters. You will also create grave error in your crusade against error. More truths get stomped on during doctrinal crusades than at any other time.

Just my thoughts,
God Bless
Jeff

Re:, on: 2007/12/11 16:36

Hia Brother Jeff. I agreed a lot with your first post.

I'd like to just give my opinion touching the last paragraph you wrote.

There are certain "Discernment/Apologetic" Sites that are called to do what they do and I thank them for the sweat and persecution they put up with for their work. There are movements in the Church now, that I would have never known about to protect others from, if it weren't for their hard work. Like this more recent "contemplative prayer/spirituality" and that some false teachers/prophets are using a Dominionist's way to merge with the one world gov/religion. Thank God for the Internet or else I wouldn't have known, who was doing what, nor able to explain it for others to avoid.

When I first got saved I got radical - still am - but what I mean is - I went the full-blown Jesus Freak way. But thanks to these Discernment Groups, I didn't get spiritually deceived in my desire to go as far as a human being/body could go in desiring His Presence.

Folks like Paul, Peter, Jude, John and then Evan Roberts, Jesse Penn-Lewis, even Watchman Nee and Chip Brogden helped me considerably.

I grew up feeling as though, I never could do enough or do anything right - so coming to the Lord that way - I needed folks to help me see when and where to draw the line with "sacrificing all" even unto death, etc.. There are folks out there that are sincere and bereans, yet there are demons smarter than us, that know where to aim their attacks, even in well meaning folks.

I don't need to go on "witch hunts" - the witches come to us and I thank GOD for those I mentioned above for showing me where the limits are in things like "demonology - fasting - feeling conviction vs. condemnation" etc..

The good guys are there "to perfect the Saints" as is written and even protect them - but never to replace personal responsibility, as you've well said.

Thank you Brother.

Re: - posted by FireinmyBones1 (), on: 2007/12/11 20:39

Dear brother,

I certainly didn't mean to discount the great job that many godly discernment ministries do. I do occasionally take issue with some of what I read for I have known some things to be posted that are either downright lies or that have been truly and publicly repented of by the accused parties.

My reason in saying what I said was because I truly think that is the best way to avoid deception. Surround yourself with tried and true biblical teachers, voraciously study the scriptures for yourself as a berean, fall madly in love with Jesus, and find your greatest pleasure in His presence. Certainly though, we must be as wise as serpents while maintaining our "dove-like" innocence. Sometimes that's a hard balancing act. Sometimes I have found (in my own life) when I get wrapped up in identifying deception, I may have been as wise as a serpent, but I lost my dovelike innocence.

does that make any sense?

God bless,

Jeff

Re:, on: 2007/12/11 21:19

Hi Jeff. Nice to meet you.

Thank you for not throwing out these Ministries.

I'm sort of chuckling here at them. I got thrown headwise into that ministry shortly after I got saved. My intent was to be a missionary and take care of the sick, because I was so shy, I'd wait to enter a Church until just as they were starting and sat in the back and tried to get out quick afterwards. :-)

The furthest thing from my mind was Apologetics and "heresy hunting" - but it entered my first real Church almost 30 years ago and there it started and it's always been that way ever since. I've tried to escape it, but if that's what you're stuck with - He has big fish prepared for when we decide to take off. I'm in one now. I was about to go to South America in 2002 for missionary work, instead He disabled me and stuck me in front of a computer. Drats of all drats. I stayed depressed for a long time about it and still get depressed sometimes though. Anyhow - having been in that ministry, when I came on-line, He didn't have me starting my own website - Thank The Lord !!! - but had me unintentionally finding so-called Discernment Ministries that were teaching junk or using "Discernment" articles about others to hide their real agenda behind.

Well, in the process, I met the real McCoys. Bless Jesus!

I know there are some I wouldn't recommend neither, so I understand where you're coming from.

Some use exposing others to hide their own guilt, one way or another - so I think I know what you're trying to say. Some folks are just called to that Ministry so that the rest of us don't have to 'wonder' about so many things or find out the hard way, by being hurt by some of these churches or by the teachings out there.

I don't have to "work at it" anymore, because these others who are physically stronger and younger than I am, are doing it all for us now. Bless the LORD and God bless them. The good ones out there never 'asked' for that ministry - it was forced on them.

Love in Christ.

Annie

Re: - posted by FireinmyBones1 (), on: 2007/12/11 23:04

Amen!

And WOOPS! I should have headed the last post with: "Dear SISTER"! I'm sorry! :)

God bless,

Jeff

Re:, on: 2007/12/11 23:33

My fault Jeff. I should have signed it for you.

Thanks again for your posts.

And Thanks to hmmhmm for these threads. Amen!

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/13 2:31

I thought i post this excerpt from a book by Art Katz, I think it is a good read for all of us

"As we come to the end of the age, we must be particularly wary of the phenomena of 'lying' signs, wonders and miracles. If there is a void in our lives, if our present church life is dull, and we are not receiving in our relationship with the saints the kinds of things that should constitute the true and apostolic life of believers that makes for our maturity, engaging our spirits and minds and the totality of our being, we will have an itch to fill that void with running to the venues where such impressive demonstrations of power are being displayed; we will be drawn to individuals who seem to have it, and to ministries that demonstrate it. We will be open receptors for this because of the condition of our inadequate conventional Christian life. One of the preventives, therefore, is the work of God in our churches, so that we do not have to find compensation outside of them.

To maintain and guard our spirits, to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord cannot be performed in an environment of a Sunday service and a mid-week Bible study. True church is not a Sunday supplement. We are coming to the end of the age! God has great purposes to consummate through the Church, but only that remnant of the Church that knows Him and will do great exploits out of that knowledge, and that knowledge only. Paul understood this when he said, "that I might know Him and the fellowship of His sufferings!" There is a knowledge of God in His sufferings that is so exquisite, and it is not to be obtained from any other source. What is our present attitude to the sufferings of Christ? Have we been inducted into the mind-set of the world with its pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of pain, protecting our life, our privacy, and guarding ourselves lest there be any injury or pain? No wonder that much of the Church is hardly more than a conglomerate of individualities living their privatistic lifestyles. Where is the Church of the apostolic kind where those who believed were together?

And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33).

We are going to have to break down the brick walls we have built, and the sanctity of our separate and privatistic lives, contrary to the ethos, character and genius of true church. True church is a suffering before it is a glory, just by what we are in ourselves, together, in the intensity of that life, and until we will go that way, we will not move anybody to jealousy, certainly not Jews.

When we see a phenomenon touted as revival, in which the word of God is conspicuously absent, or denigrated as not being the source of God's greatest blessing, our alarm bells should start ringing. When those who are at the forefront of any revival phenomenon begin to deprecate their own preaching, saying that what they are now seeing far eclipses any result that they saw from their preaching, then we have already embraced a deception. If the avenues by which the 'blessing' comes are not the word of God, or our response to God's word, which has always been the operative principle of God, but rather, it comes through the hearing of the testimony of others, or seeing men decompose before one's eyes in drunken stupor, sagging and collapsing on the platform, accompanied by shrieks of delight and the inducement to join in, then we have already crossed an invisible line of truth. It may be an avenue of receiving alleviation from dullness and boredom from church programs, but we have already succumbed to deception.

Even if what we have been observing in recent years is not the lying signs and wonders about which we have been warned as characteristic of the Last Days, when those lying signs and wonders do come, how will they be substantially different in form and appearance from the signs and wonders we presently see? And how will we exercise then the

discernment that we are incapable of exercising now? When the lying signs and wonders come, will we recognize them? There will be signs, wonders, miracles, demonstrations of power and much 'benefit'! But they will be lying signs and wonders, and if we are concerned only with the benefit of them, and not all that much with their source, will we be able to discern the one from the other?

There is a gift of discernment, but there is also an exercise of discernment that is corporate, that is somehow the reflection of the stature, quality and maturity of the corporate people of God. Are we able to discern not only the things that are evil, but the things that are 'good'? The things that are good are most likely to trap us. It is 'good' to go here; it is 'good' to do this, and it is 'good' to take care of that need. But it is 'good' that will be our undoing because evil is so much more blatant and evident. The 'good' thing is the most difficult to discern unless our discernment has been strengthened by the exercise thereof. Is 'good' good enough? Unless we have a priestly jealousy for that which is perfect, 'good' will be our downfall.

There will be demonstrable miracles, an evidence of power with a result, but does that power mean the result is from God? Or is it a work of the flesh, or of the enemy? If men need only to employ the 'name of Jesus' to perform many wonders in His name, what do we know about the source of these wonders? It may even be that those men are sincere, that they mean well, and that they think they are doing service to God. One safeguard to keep us from an emptiness and shallowness that makes us responsive to the appearance of power is to be so solidly in relationship with Christ and with God's people in an earnest and authentic way that the void is filled. That saves us from being easily convinced by lying signs and wonders.

Are we in a fellowship that is a fellowship indeed, rather than a mere aggregate of individuals meeting casually on Sunday for an hour or two? Are the people leaving in the same condition in which they came? I am talking about the real thing to which God has called us, moving from glory to glory and beholding in each other's faces the glory of God, going again from house to house breaking bread, and at the same time hearing and sharing the kinds of things that in fact make up our life, and experiencing the redemptive work of God working through each other. If our Christian life is a boredom and a drag, and we are looking for excitement and demonstrations of seeming power, we need, really, to look at what the structure and the whole make-up of our Christian life is.

We are urged to exhort one another daily while it is yet today, because next Sunday is too late. How many of us are in a relationship with saints of God daily? How many of us are willing to give up the privacy that we so enjoy, and the time before the television set to make room for that kind of relationship? I am not talking about merely dropping in, putting your feet up on the coffee table and making small talk; that is not a synonym for fellowship. Do we love the other brother enough to say, "My spirit is disturbed. I heard your singing at the service and I heard your testimony, but there is something about it that does not ring true. It lacked the real joy of the Lord. I sense that you are drifting into a kind of performer mentality and spirit. If I am wrong, forgive me, but love compels me to express the sense of alarm and caution in my heart."

Is there something in our lives, something wrong, that is beginning already to show itself, especially in the place where we think ourselves spiritual? And do we prefer privacy to daily exhortation? Do we prefer coming together for a Sunday wing-ding and feeling good, then going back again into the same pattern of privacy and seclusion? If so, we are guaranteed that the world will have its opportunity to invade, compromise and ultimately destroy us? The church in which the people are not in authentic relationship with one another daily is not church. True church relationship is costly, both in terms of pride and humiliation, as well as in terms of privacy and time. Are we willing to make time for it? Is it of that great a value to us, that the name of God not be blasphemed in the earth, for we are His witness people?

The full sanctification we so desperately need in order to live an authentically Christian life comes not by a wand magically passed over us, but in the interaction of the saints. It comes with the grit, the strains and the tensions that are only to be found in true church, where the saints are going on with determination from glory to glory. Sanctification belongs to those who love the truth, and who recognize that there is only one agency by which that truth can be formalized and demonstrated in the earth, namely, a Church that is called to be the ground and the pillar of truth. But if the Church becomes a flaky phenomenon, if it is soft, indulgent and corrupt, if it loves its flesh and its luxury, if it is willing to cut corners, then what hope shall we have for its effectiveness in the world?

Self-Centered Church

When sitting in meetings, I have often been astonished when the appeals for healing come. Almost everyone comes out of their seats. I have never seen such a sick Church everywhere, and I think that we will continue to be sick, both physically and spiritually, so long as we live egocentric lives. For example, what is the first question you raise when you leave the building Sunday morning? Is it, "What did you think of the speaker? Did you like him? Did you like the worship? Did you like the sermon?" Is your "like" the center of your being? If we have shifted from carnal centrality to spiritual centrality, we are still the center. No wonder we are sick; no wonder we need continually to be healed. Until we make God, His glory, His honor, His name and His eternal purposes the center, we will continue to be sick. We have a false center, and it is in ourselves.

To think in terms of our own benefit and to have our central focus on what we receive is, in itself, the breeding ground of deception. The saving grace from God is to have another center outside of ourselves and other than ourselves, namely, the eternal purposes of God, which redound to His glory. Our sickness is a preoccupation with ourselves, even our spiritual selves, which makes us candidates for deception, and the only corrective is to replace our self-centeredness with that which God intends, a jealousy for His glory. Our mistake is to think that our concern with spiritual things is not as much a form of egocentrism as a concern with carnal things. Let the spiritual benefits come, not because they are our principal focus, but let them come out of a life of obedience and discipline that seeks first and foremost the things that pertain to God. Out of that may come the benefits that accrue, but we are not to be seeking them as the things in themselves. That would still make our focus egocentric, and therefore, by very definition, the posture of deception itself.

To seek God is painful to the flesh. We are lazy and indolent; we cannot find the time; there are too many distractions, even of a valid kind. Another safety for the Church is the seeking of God in the "closet" and in the holy place. The first results of that seeking will be dullness, deadness and nothing; our prayers will not go up beyond the ceiling. It is a testing, and we need to persevere beyond that point until finally we come into a place of grace where God Himself is giving us divine assistance, and we are not looking for an experience, and we are not looking for the benefit of receiving the fire of God, or revelation for preaching. No, we are seeking Him because He is God, and He is the thing in Himself, and not for any benefit that accrues to us. Any seeking of God that seeks benefit is by that definition no longer a seeking of God. Seeking God must be without any concern or consideration for ourselves. We seek Him because He is God, and God deserves our prostration before Him; He alone is God. Only in that place can we begin to sense the awe of God, the fear of God and the holiness of God. These are some of the criteria that will save us from the things that are false.

"The bar is open. Come on in now and drink! Have your fill! There is no limit!" The vulgarity of that invitation (which I have witnessed) is flagrantly contrary to the holiness of God and so patently a contradiction of God. How can we even respond to invitations of that kind unless we are mindless and so bent on "experience"? When we see people "slain in the spirit" or in a stupor of drunkenness, we mindlessly want it too, though, if we had even the most rudimentary sense of God, we would be turning and running in the opposite direction. When the Lord reveals what all of this is about, those of us who have opened ourselves up for this kind of thing will be astonished that we had been so easily deluded. Out of the depth of the repentance and the acknowledgment of our sin there will come a seeking of God and a true knowledge of God that will enable us to endure in the Last Days' stresses and trials. Who is a greater candidate for deception than those who think that they cannot be deceived?

The enemy's whole purpose in deception is either to destroy or to divert. Deception that springs from wanting to "do" for God and to be used by God is the most subtle, the most powerful and the most difficult to recognize. Are we in a fellowship predicated on a man's vision for a work? Is it a situation where he can be corrected, or is he surrounded by affirming people whom he calls "intercessors"? And how much are they working toward the success of that ministry for the benefit that might accrue to them? In other words, the whole basis by which those people are related to one another and to him is a soulish vision, rather than the vision of the Lord and His over-arching and eternal purposes. Can you predicate a fellowship and a ministry of intercession on the basis of this one thing? Where is the safeguard?

Why is the fellowship dull and the services predictable? What is lacking in our normative Christianity that makes us susceptible to this kind of alternative? My own answer would be that we have forsaken, or never known at all, the apostolic and prophetic configuration of the faith centering in the Cross. We do not know the sacrifice, the suffering, the embracing of the eternal purposes of God, not the least of which is the mystery of Israel in the Last Days that requires a Church of an ultimate kind. For the lack of that kind of format and orientation enlivening the entire faith and the issues of the faith, we condemn ourselves to finding an alternative to the blandness in our lives, the end thereof being spiritual death."

(http://www.benisrael.org/writings/online_books/anatomy_of_deception/taod_contents.html) The Whole Book ~ Anatomy of Deception by Art Katz

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers, on: 2007/12/13 5:42

Hi

No time to read all this thread now but just to say that I gradually realised over these last several years that I was actually seeing the formation of **cults** from out of the true Christian Church.

I also realised that some well established cults, such as the JW's may also have begun within the Church, even as serious attempts to follow the teaching of the Bible as they understood it.

Even ordinary denominational movements began like that - often because the "Establishment" had become pretty dead spiritually and "new wineskins" were needed for the "new wine". Or even that they were forced or pressurised out of a denomination by the authorities (the early Methodists and Baptists for example, or the Salvation Army that found traditional churches unwilling to accept their "disreputable" converts).

That they became denominations rather than cults (by retaining basic Biblical truth and teachings) is probably due to their calibre and faithfulness of the founders and original members of the movement.

so it sounds as if the character of the founder/leadership is the key to the development of a cult...

What can cause a leader (who may once have been a true man of God) to go astray and become a false teacher/prophet? I can think of a few things, others will probably be able to add to it:

Come to think on, the RC Church is probably the greatest cult in the world by these criteria...

1. Desire for personal glory and recognition. Result: a ministry or church or movement based on an individual rather than on the Word
2. Love of money. Result: A ministry that is rooted in greed and materialism
3. Desire for power and influence over others. Results:
 - a) Some form of "heavy shepherding", where the leader is the "head honcho", not God, and his word is law, and his writings or particular interpretation of Scripture is placed above the Word of God.
 - b) an attempt to control God and use His Power for oneself. Often leading to tapping to occultic powers rather than the power of the true Holy Spirit.
4. Loose moral attitude. Result: all kinds of sexual immorality, lying and deception etc. Often the cult leader justifies this by twisting Scripture, or merely by prophesying that "God" told him it was OK. Polygamy for example was endorsed, or even commanded, by both Mohammed's and Joseph Smith's "God"
5. An "inferiority complex" in the founder of the cult. Result: Seeking after power and influence, and/or some kind of esoteric knowledge that no-one else has, in order to feel superior instead of inferior***
6. Unwillingness to repent and humble oneself before the true God

Of course these things are interlinked, and one may arise from another.

Love in Him who alone is the Way the Truth and the Life

Jeannette

Re:, on: 2007/12/13 5:56

Thank you for that Jeff.

That's basically been my experience too.

When, only a couple of years ago, I finally let the Lord take away the deep guilt and inferiority that was driving everything I did and said, I "saw" (not with the outward eye), a hand going into a secret drawer. There was a pistol in it that I knew was loaded. The hand took it out and carried it away out of sight.

When you are filled with guilt you are constantly shooting yourself in the head!

You also *love* to repent, even of things you haven't done! It can become a kind of masochism, as you described...

Praise the Lord for setting us free!!

Love ion Him

Jeannette

Quote:

FireinmyBones1 wrote:

I would say that to stay free from deception one must be careful that they do not become fixated on only one form of deception. Most who frequent this site seem to be passionately opposed to the errors of Joel Osteen and the Rick Warren types, but these are just one of many deceptive teachings out there. An over emphasis on any one truth will always lead to a neglect of another. An over emphasis on "holiness" (which is typically seen not through the lens of NT scripture but rather through the writings and preaching of "holiness" preachers...) is just as dangerous as an over emphasis on grace. The majority of the errors Paul countered were not those in the "greasy grace" genre, (although he certainly did confront this...) or the prosperity type. Rather his biggest "beef" seemed to be with the legalists and those pseudo-watchmen types who took away the bride's cloak of imparted and imputed righteousness by constantly beating the self-denial drum. (SOS 5:7-)

Perverved prosperity messages, greasy grace/seeker sensitive types, and watchman wannabe's are all in the same category to me. One is not more dangerous than the other. One leads you into selfish materialism, one leads you into lasciviousness, and one leads you into legalistic bondage, cross mocking, worship of the human will (yes even the calvinist), and ultimately far from the face of Jesus.

It is important to be balanced! So many of us live on the defensive instead of the offensive. Everything we do is in RESPONSE or in REACTION to someone else did. We are always countering the false. This can ultimately lead to the creation of error in the name of correcting error. Most errors are just exaggerated versions of the truth (although this is certainly not always the case). Most error can be corrected by adding something more to the diet instead of subtracting. When we subtract in response or reaction to error, we are always left with a mutilated portion of the gospel.

I was getting really close to error once in my life because I developed an unhealthy addiction to repentance preaching. It was ALL that I listened to. If every message was not a slam in the face, I counted it as being compromised, cupcake Christianity. But why was I so addicted? I would search my heart for every little impure motive, every area of secret sin, you name it, I searched it out. Yet I was living a moral life as much like Jesus as I knew how. I had so separated myself from anything that may have smelled similar to something that looked like it may have smelled like something that tasted like deception, that I was missing about 99.9% of the gospel. I was living off of the "foundation of repentance from dead works..." (Heb 6) which the scriptures encourage us to grow beyond.

I was stuck. Yet in the midst of it I had truly deceived myself into thinking I was right and everyone else wrong. I would not even witness many times out of fear that my witnessing was being done out of impure motives. Sometimes even praying was fearful! Was I praying so that I would be anointed by God so that when I stood in the pulpit to preach men would look at me and say "What a holy man of God!?" AHH! Even my prayers and desire for intimacy with God had impure motives behind them! This constant examination of the motives and "navel gazing" had me crippled and dying. I was desperate to be more like Jesus and for revival. I prayed and fasted and fasted and prayed. Yet my doctrine was horrible. I reveled in concepts like "dying daily", "crucifying the old man" etc... I had no idea that these were total misinterpretations of scripture. Maybe that was why I felt so stuck!

I've come to see that those who are most desperate for genuine revival and most hungry to bear and manifest the character of Christ are also typically those who really don't know the true gospel of the NT but only that of the holiness camp. I have discovered that most of what is taught as "holiness" and the "deeper life" (by the way-since when are elementary truths the "deeper life"?) could not really be seen through the teachings of Paul and the apostles when taken by themselves. It was only in addition to the writings and teachings of those with a repentance fetish that I could see the scriptures saying those things.

In Song of Solomon 5:7- , the woman tells of how she is desperately searching for the one her soul loves. (as I was) When she encountered watchmen who beat her, bruised her, and took away her robe. It is often those who are most desperately seeking Jesus who fall into the hands of abusive watchmen. The scripture says that the "bruised" her. Bruising is indicative of internal bleeding. It's an interesting note that she DID not have these internal problems until she met up with the "watchmen". In my life I was actually living in much more victory over sin, much greater intimacy with God, much greater efficacy in witnessing and preaching before I encountered the watchmen - the unbalanced holiness message. But the unbalanced words bruised me and actually created within me problems that were not there before. I was just lead to believe it was the "self-life". Then my robe of righteousness was stolen. I could no longer see myself through the blood of Jesus - only the bruised condition the watchmen had left me in.

I write this only to say that I was nearly deceived by a more subtle form of deception. It wasn't gross prosperity or greasy grace - rather it was an over emphasis on the elementary truth of repentance. The less I tinker with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the more I simply find my pleasure in intimacy with God in the garden, the more holy I live!

these are just my thoughts,
God Bless!
Jeff

Re:, on: 2007/12/14 7:57

(http://www.benisrael.org/writings/online_books/anatomy_of_deception/taod_contents.html) The Anatomy of Deception

Thank you Brother hmmhmm for leaving this link.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/14 9:22

It would seem that we should look at miracles as God does and not man.
"And stephen full of faith and power,did great wonders and miracles among the people."
I see no reason to reject what God has given his people to walk in.
I think Art must have a paranoia concerning miracles.
And btw, where are the Lying signs and miracles attached to the apostles?
I cant find it!

David

Re: - posted by destinysweet (), on: 2007/12/14 21:47

Seems to me there is an enormous amount of references in the old testament too, concerning God's mighty signs and wonders..why would we want to believe that in a time of such trouble with the need for real power, that God would withdraw all that He can and will do for and through His people miraculously? I am alarmed at the 'guards at the gate ' of this rich freedom. Simply because Satan will use counterfeits to deceive...doesn't make sense to me... and isn't at all what Jesus has to say about it either...(greater things He said) however looking for them in everything,waiting around for them and chasingafter them is one thing..I for one know that when my eyes are fastened securely to my Father's hand to watch Him closely to know what He wants me to do,signs and wonders show up all the time in big ways and small,but they are not there to make me look good..no way! they appear/happen for His glory, and purposed will made manifest...definitely not some side show circus event to promote some ministry...I was thinking today that not too many miracles were recorded having been performed by Jesus,within the church/temple buildings...He taught there mostly and it was outside as He went out into the highways and the byways that He did the best stuff...these were drawn to Him from their daily activities. May I be allowed to proclaim that almost all the miracles/healings that I've seen/performed have been a natural outflow of a HolySpirit-filled life tending to the needs of the least of these,my brethren,potential brethren or actual...bringing the good news to those who were perishing and in rescuing the folks from His flock who were nearly destroyed by false brethren...I don't think "church on sunday as usual" folks realize all that God is doing through Jesus'surrendered and obedient friends,He says we are His friends...for one thing ,they don't go run to the nearest fellowship to bring it to everyone's attention.. but rather go on with the work and the next miracle.In fact you lose track there become so many... Not to say they do not ever speak of these things..no just when God wants them to...because even speaking of the mighty works of God releases power!Besides in much of today's church do you realize how envious people can be...how meanspirited ? sometimes I think the believers inside the buildings are in a bigger mess than those who no longer go there,but love Him deeply. How fun it would be for me to find a group of believers where I am living now..but I've not been here very long yet..I will keep believing while I go where God sends me and Pray.

I believe that folks get too comfortable with the safety/familiarity of how they've set up the order of their religious lives. ..perhaps never really encountering the Word of God in their study of Jesus' words first..this flesh they haven't begun to digest before they are taken the direction which seems right because of what they are taught when they come together to worship and study the Bible..This bread of life that is fresh- Jesus - challenges man to do what the 'church' today deems quaint but impossible in today's earthly system...too radical.What most have never understood is that the authority structure isn't plumb and so there is very little authority,thus power. With the fields so white with harvest...Perhaps we should

uld all pray for Him to send out His workers to gather it in. And so we say what would you have me do Father...then just do it.

He's still doing the same things He was then...because He doesn't change...now He likes to do these through us...wow! What a honor..huh?

Re:, on: 2007/12/14 22:11

It seems that folks are commenting on a book that they have not read.

I believe everyone here believes in "signs and wonders", but this is about Jesus' warning that it will be 'through' signs and wonders and false prophets and teachers that many or most will be deceived in these last days.

I've had some encounters lately of folks using two scriptures to say that we can or need to do things that contradict Scripture. The one verse was where John said, that if all that Jesus did were put into books, the world couldn't contain them and also the "greater than these" verse - which only meant - greater in quantity, because He was only ministering for 3 1/2 years, whereas, we have a lifetime.

We don't need threads to convince us all to believe in signs and wonders - but we do need those that speak to the hour that we are living in, with what Jesus said would happen - as in a Massive Increase in False Prophets and Teachers and lying signs and wonders. Over and over again, that warning went out from Him and His Apostle's writings.

All here are acquainted with the Real McCoy in these areas, but the onslaught of the counterfeit is what this and other threads are about and they are Much needed.

What makes SI different, is that they don't have the phony-phenomena-propaganda that most sites have now and we pray it will stay that way. I believe because The Classics were the foundation of this website - the truth of them will not allow anything counterfeit to be built upon that foundation.

I'm grateful for threads like this one and pray they will continue to be a marker for those seeking a safe dwelling place in these last days of spiritual-maham, that's out there. Amen!

Re: - posted by destinysweet (), on: 2007/12/14 22:22

I concur wholeheartedly! And I love what Jeff had to say about the counterfeit and the real bill...may we become so immersed in the Truth that is Jesus in all His fullness that we would glorify God with our faith in all that He can and will do for His beloved who are trusting in Him and Him alone to get through such a dark and perilous time...mayhem...exactly! And far worse than it's ever been or ever will be again, that is after His appearing for all to see! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/14 23:57

I think if a person keeps it simple they can avoid a lot of complex extra biblical rabbit trails.

Jesus gave good advice concerning the devil

God good

devil bad.

Earnestly desire the gifts.

To connect the devil to miracles done at the hand of modern day christians is appalling.

As if they were not bretheren but instruments of the devil?

The word over and over attributes these to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

There is lack of miracles, not a runaway devil outdoing the modern apostles.

If I took Art Katz teaching to heart I surely would be wary of power, wondering if maybe the devil was manipulating something.

No sir I will look to God and expect his word and presence and testimony to always agree that no devil can duplicate the miracles of God.

Show me one place where a devil healed anybody or isn't God's word true when it says if a boy ask for a fish will his father give him a stone?

No sir to emphasise what the devil can falsely doI don't want that to my charge.

I would rather be like Elisha. If I have to chase the mantle of God across 3 continents and wait for the prophet to be taken off the earth.....When the man of God receives his mantle no wimpy demon can stop him. and the devil cant stop the power of God.

If Jesus is still alive then he still heals,raises the dead,and casts out demons
"for this purpose the son of God was manifestedto destroy the works of the devil"

David

Re:, on: 2007/12/15 0:03

David, I don't think you understand.

Art was a Prophet. He died this year.

Enjoy his messages.

http://www.benisrael.org/writings/artkatzarticles_main.html

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers, on: 2007/12/15 0:23

I started another thread on the topic of Seventh Day Adventist but I saw this thread and thought that I need to post it here too.

Some professing Christians are claiming that alot of Seventh Day Adventist are saved and born again. Here is a portion of Ellen White's statements a well known heretic quoted in her own book. These beliefs are seeping into the church and many are fellowshiping with these people professing them to be believers and brothers in Christ. I wanted to post these comments another brother posted who fortunately stepped in at just the right time, an answer to prayer as I was trying to dissuade these brothers from further fellowship with them and as he was trying to witness to these cult members.

This is a very unfortunate thing that is happening in the body of Christ.

If someone is saved even if they do not believe all of this womans teachings should totally renounce being a part of this cult by not having anything further to do with it.

Romans 16:17

17Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

2 Timothy 2:16-18

16But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

18Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Galatians 1:8-10

8But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

2 Timothy 3:5

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Jude 1:3 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

From Ellen White's own book:

Can we be saved by keeping the Law?

Ellen White said: "The condition of the eternal life is now just what it always has been - perfect obedience to the Law of God" (Steps to Christ, page 65,67)

The Bible says: "Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." - Galatians 3:11 (ESV)

Who bares the sins of the world?

Ellen White said: "Satan, the author of sin, upon whom the sins of the penitent will finally be placed." (The Great Controversy, page 419,422,485,486)

The Bible says: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." - 1 Peter 2:24

Does the Blood of Christ cleanse us from sin?

Ellen White says: "The blood of Christ was not to cancel sin. (Patriarchs & Prophets, p.357)

The Bible says: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace," - Ephesians 1:7

"...the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." - 1 John 1:7

Should we pay for our sins?

Ellen White says: "The best you can do is to bring a trespass offering to the altar of the Lord, and he will accept and pardon you." (Testimonies 5:339)

The Bible says: "Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin." - Hebrews 10:18

Can we be assured of salvation?

Ellen White says: "Those who accept the Saviour should never be taught to say or feel that they are saved." (Christ's Object Lessons; Two Worshipers, p.155)

The Bible says: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have

eternal life. " - 1 John 5:13

Re:, on: 2007/12/15 13:14

Quote:

psalm1 wrote:

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David

Hi David

I'm bewildered by your view of Art Katz' writings! I haven't read many of his sermons yet, but just beginning to read the link wow'd me. The spiritual power and understanding is tremendous.

Don't you realise that, while there are indeed true prophets in these days, and true miracles, also there are the false and counterfeit? To discern the false you need the true gift of prophecy and of discernment, which certainly Art Katz had.

Jesus warned of deception and false prophets in the Last Days, even deceiving, if possible, the elect, and of miracle workers doing wonders in His Name, who yet don't belong to Him.

Take care that you be not deceived...

Lu 21:8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

1Co 6:9 Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Ga 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Revelation also warns of demonic miracles, do you think that book is obsolete yet, or that it contains "complex extra biblical rabbit trails"?

Of course Revelation was considered extra-Biblical at one time...

Revelation 16: (my emphasis)

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, *working miracles*...

In Him

Jeannette

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/15 15:55

It doesnt matter to me if i am the only christian on the planet that believes benny hinn, rodney howard browne, and steve hill are all men of God. People can say or think what they will.

It also doesnt matter to me if they go down in history as men that made a mistake or two, or men that were slightly off. Because all men are those things.

I object to the blanket indictment of these men. They are maligned , lampooned and put on the same level than the devil himself.

read art katz link ch. 3.....I am one of those deluded souls.

Art portrays the dying and emptying of the believer as "total christianity"

The infilling is portrayed as deluded and wrong.

Dying? yes suffering ?yes ...These are only part of the walk.

I dont believe poonen or katz are circumspect or balanced teachers.

I disagree with them in lots of areas.

But i do believe they are men of God.

A bit "off" but men of God none the less.

I would NOT call them false prophets or devils.

Alsodo a study on "lying" signs and wonders and miracles.

This is mainly referring to the beast and anttichrist.the time of "false" is given power

And this is what is talked about concerning last days deception.

Peter missing it on so many fronts and needing rebuke is NOT last days deception.

David

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/15 16:05

our Lord gives us a general caution against the way of the many in religion. It is not enough to think as others think, and do as others do. It must not satisfy us to follow the fashion, and swim with the stream of those among whom we live. He tells us that the way that leads to everlasting life is "narrow," and "few" travel in it. He tells us that the way that leads to everlasting destruction is "broad," and full of travelers. "Many are those who enter in by it."

These are fearful truths! They ought to raise great searchings of heart in the minds of all who hear them. "Which way am I going? By what road am I traveling?" In one or other of the two ways here described, every one of us may be found. May God give us an honest, self-inquiring spirit, and show us what we are!

We may well tremble and be afraid, if our religion is that of the multitude. If we can say no more than this, that "we go where others go, and worship where others worship, and hope we shall do as well as others at last," we are literally pronouncing our own condemnation. What is this but being in the "broad way?" What is this but being in the road whose end is "destruction?" Our religion at present is not saving religion.

We have no reason to be discouraged and cast down, if the religion we profess is not popular, and few agree with us. We must remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in this passage: "The gate is narrow." Repentance, and faith in Christ, and holiness of life, have never been fashionable. The true flock of Christ has always been small. It must not move us to find that we are reckoned singular, and peculiar, and bigoted, and narrow-minded. This is "the narrow way." Surely it is better to enter into life eternal with a few, than to go to "destruction" with a great company.

In the last place, the Lord Jesus gives us a general warning against false teachers in the church. We are to "beware of f

alse prophets." The connection between this passage and the preceding one is striking. Would we keep clear of this "broad way?" We must beware of false prophets. They will arise. They began in the days of the apostles. Even then the seeds of error were sown. They have appeared continually ever since. We must be prepared for them, and be on our guard.

This is a warning which is much needed. There are thousands who seem ready to believe anything in religion if they hear it from an ordained minister. They forget that clergymen may err as much as laymen. They are not infallible. Their teaching must be weighed in the balance of Holy Scripture. They are to be followed and believed, so long as their doctrine agrees with the Bible, but not a minute longer. We are to try them "by their fruits." Sound doctrine and holy living are the marks of true prophets. Let us remember this. Our minister's mistakes will not excuse our own. "If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch."

What is the best safe-guard against false teaching? Beyond all doubt the regular study of the word of God, with prayer for the teaching of the Holy Spirit. The Bible was given to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm. 119:105.) The man who reads it aright will never be allowed greatly to err. It is neglect of the Bible which makes so many a prey to the first false teacher whom they hear. They would have us believe that "they are not learned, and do not pretend to have decided opinions." The plain truth is that they are lazy and idle about reading the Bible, and do not like the trouble of thinking for themselves. Nothing supplies false prophets with followers so much as spiritual sloth under a cloak of humility.

May we all bear in mind our Lord's warning! The world, the devil, and the flesh, are not the only dangers in the way of the Christian. There remains another yet, and that is the "false prophet," the wolf in sheep's clothing. Happy is he who prays over his Bible and knows the difference between truth and error in religion! There is a difference, and we are meant to know it, and use our knowledge.

J.C Ryle

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/15 16:11

True spiritual discernment is much lost sight of as a real Christian grace; discernment between the evil and the good, the false and the true. 'Beloved, believe not every spirit; but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world' (1 John 4:1). This 'discernment,' which belongs to every one who is taught of God, is the very opposite of that which is called in our day by the boastful name of 'liberality.' Spiritual discernment and 'liberal thought' have little in common with each other. Truth is a mighty thing in the eyes of God, whatever it may be in those of men. All error is, more or less, whether directly or indirectly, a misrepresentation of God's character, and a subversion of His revelation.

Satan is the consummate deceiver! It is Satan who gives to the ballroom, and the dance, and the theater, and the voluptuous music their special power to harm; for these are Satan's baits and nets, by means of which he allures the unwary, and leads back the believer to unbelieving ground, disarming our watchfulness, dazzling our vision, reviving our worldliness, and perhaps, for a season, lulling us wholly asleep. We know that the last days are to be like the days of Noah and Lot (Luke 17:26-32), days of reveling, and banqueting, and luxury. Let us be wary, lest, standing as we do on the edge of these days, we be drawn away into the sins of an age led captive by Satan at his will.

H.Bonar

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/15 16:20

"The prophets who lead my people astray." Micah 3:5

Satan labors by false teachers, who are his emissaries to deceive, delude, and forever undo the precious souls of men! They seduce them, and carry them out of the right way into by-paths and blind thickets of error and wickedness--where they are lost forever!

As strumpets paint their faces, and deck and perfume their beds, the better to allure and deceive simple souls; so false teachers will put a great deal of paint and garnish upon their most dangerous principles and blasphemies, that

they may the better deceive and delude poor ignorant souls. They know sugared-poison goes down sweetly. They wrap up their pernicious, soul-killing pills in gold! "Peace, peace!" they say, when there is no peace." Jeremiah 6:14

"Beware of false prophets, for they come to you in sheep's clothing--but inwardly they are ravaging wolves!" These lick and suck the blood of souls! These kiss and kill! They cry, 'Peace, peace!' until souls fall into everlasting flames!

False teachers handle holy things with wit and trifling, rather than with fear and reverence. They are soul-murderers! They are like evil surgeons, who skin over the wound--but never heal it. False teachers are hell's greatest enrichers! Such smooth teachers are sweet soul-poisoners! This age is full of such teachers--such monsters!

They eye your goods more than your good; and mind more the serving of themselves--than the saving of your souls. So they may have your substance--they care not though Satan has your souls! That they may the better pick your purse--they will hold forth such principles as are very indulgent to the flesh.

These are Satan's great benefactors, and such as divine justice will hang up in hell as the greatest malefactors!

T.Brooks

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/15 16:26

The True Gospel And The False - Zac Poonen

Christians are generally speaking, categorized into two groups as follows:

- (1) "Roman Catholics" and "Protestants" - depending on birth.
- (2) "Episcopal" (conformist) and "Free church" (non-conformist) - depending on church-pattern.
- (3) "Born again Christians" and "Nominal Christians" - depending on an "experience";
- (4) "Evangelicals" and "Liberals" - depending on doctrine.
- (5) "Charismatics" and "Non-charismatics" - depending on "speaking in tongues".
- (6) "Full-time Christian workers" and "Secular workers" - depending on profession.

There could be other such categorizations too. But none of these categorizations deal with the root of the problem that our Lord came to solve.

Many know that "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor.15:3). But many do not know that the Bible says that Christ also died "that we should no longer live for ourselves but for Him" (2 Cor.5:15).

A more Scriptural way of categorizing Christians therefore would be as follows: "Those who live for themselves" and "Those who live for Christ"; or "Those who seek their own" and "Those who seek the things of Christ" or "Those who seek earthly things first" and "Those who seek the kingdom of God first"; or "Those who love money" and "Those who love God". (Jesus said it was impossible to love both -Lk.16:13)

But I have never heard of such a categorization being used. This categorization deals with the Christian's inner life and private walk with God, whereas the methods mentioned earlier deal with the external details of his life. Yet it is in this latter way that heaven categorizes Christians. And if that be the case, then this is the only categorization that matters! In this method, others cannot categorize us. We have to categorize ourselves - for no one but we ourselves know our inner motivations and desires. Even our wives may not be aware what we are living for.

Our Lord did not come primarily to give people a doctrine, or a church-pattern or to make them speak in tongues or even to give them an experience!

He came to "save us from sin". He came to lay the axe to the root of the tree. And the root of sin is : Being centered in ourselves, seeking our own and doing our own will. If we do not permit the Lord to axe and uproot this "root" from our lives, we will be Christians only superficially. Satan may however deceive us into imagining that we belong to a higher class than other Christians, because of our doctrine or our experience or our church-pattern!

Satan doesn't care even if we have the right doctrine, experience and church-pattern, so long as we continue to "live for ourselves" (This, by the way, is just another phrase for "living in sin"!!). Christendom today is filled with Christians who seek their own and live for themselves, who are yet convinced that God views them as superior to other Christians, merely because of doctrinal differences or church-pattern or "experiences". This shows what a great work Satan has succeeded in doing in Christendom.

In John 6:38, our Lord said that He came from heaven to earth:

(1) To deny His human will (that He had acquired, when He came to earth as a Man), and (2) To do the will of His Father, as a Man. Thereby He became our example.

Throughout Jesus' earthly life -- during all His 33 1/2; years - He denied his own will and did His Father's will. And He told His disciples clearly that those who wanted to be His disciples would have to go the same way. He came to hit at the root of sin in our lives - "doing our own will" - and to deliver us from that.

In the realm of science, for thousands of years, man made the mistake of imagining that the earth was the center of the universe. It looked like that to human eyes - because the sun, moon and stars did indeed appear to be revolving around the earth once every 24 hours. It took the courage of a man like Copernicus to question this popular notion, just about 450 years ago, and to show that it was utterly false and that the earth was not even the center of the solar system, leave alone the universe. The earth, he showed was created to be centered in the sun. As long as man had the wrong center, his scientific calculations and deductions were wrong - because his center was wrong. But once man discovered the right center, then these calculations and deductions turned out right.

It is the same with us when we remain "self-centered" instead of being "God-centered". Our understanding of the Bible and of God's perfect will (our calculations and deductions) will then be wrong. But just as men were convinced for over 5000 years that they were right (as we saw above), we too may imagine that we are right! But actually, we will be 100% wrong.

This is what we see even among many "good Christians" today. They have so many different interpretations of the same Bible - and yet each one is convinced that his interpretation alone is right and everyone else's is wrong. The others, they will say are "deceived". Why is this so? Because they've got their center wrong.

Man was created to be centered in God and not in himself. And when Christians have got their center wrong, their "gospel" will be wrong too. Basically, there are only two gospels being preached today - one man-centered and the other God-centered.

The man-centered gospel promises man that God will give him everything he needs to make his life on earth comfortable and will also give him a seat in heaven at the end of his life. Man is told that Jesus will forgive all his sins, heal all his diseases, bless and prosper him materially, solve all his earthly problems, etc., etc.

Self still remains at the center of such a man's life, and God revolves around him - as his servant - to answer his every prayer and to give him whatever he wants!! All that he has to do is "believe" and "claim every material blessing in Jesus' Name"!!

This is a false gospel, because no mention is made of "repentance". Repentance is what John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, Peter and all the apostles preached first of all. And repentance, unfortunately, is what is not preached today, even last of all!!

The God-centered gospel, on the other hand, calls upon man to repent. It explains that "repentance" means:

Turning FROM Self as the center of one's life, from doing one's own will, from walking along one's self-chosen way, from

loving money, and from loving the world and the things in the world (the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life), etc., and

Turning TO God, loving Him with one's whole heart, making Him the Centre of one's life and doing His will henceforth etc.,

Faith in Christ's death on the cross can forgive a man his sins only when he has repented. Then he can receive the power of the Holy Spirit empower him to deny himself daily so that he can live a God-centered life. This is the gospel that Jesus and the apostles preached.

The false gospel makes the gate wide and the way broad (easy to walk along, because one does not have to deny one's Self or stop living for one's own interests or stop seeking one's own gain). Millions attend meetings where such a false "gospel" is preached. And many enter through this gate and walk along this way, imagining that it leads to life. But it actually leads to destruction. The evangelists of this gospel however gloat in, and report about the large numbers of people who "raised their hands and made decisions for Christ" in their meetings!! But it is all a deception. Although some are indeed genuinely converted in such meetings, because of their sincerity, many such "converts" end up becoming "twofold children of hell" (Matt.23:15) - deceived about their true state.

The true gospel however, makes the gate small and the way narrow - not smaller or narrower than Jesus Himself made it, as some "super-spiritual" cultists do, but just the same size as Jesus made it. Few there be, that find this way to life. There is not much for the evangelists of this gospel to report about, and the statistics are not impressive. But this gospel leads people to the Lord Jesus and to heaven.

"Be careful how you listen. Whoever obeys what he has heard, to him more light and understanding will be given. But whoever does not obey what he has heard, even what light and understanding he thinks he has will be taken away from him." (Paraphrase of Luke 8:18).

He who has ears to hear, let him hear

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/15 16:28

one would have to wonder if God himself knew what he was talking about when he said "if a son asks for a fish will his father give him a serpent?"

Since the devil is so powerful to deceive maybe we should not even pray to God for fear the more powerful devil will instead answer our prayers

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/15 16:37

almost everything with God is man centered. he even gave his son for man.

Even the gospel is man centered

Maybe God hasn't read the Katz books

David

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/15 16:44

A very interesting (http://www.cfcindia.net/vbvaudio/Matthew/08_Matthew_Ch7-6_Ch7-29.mp3) bible study about Jesus words in Matt 7:6-7:29 by Zac Poonen

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/15 16:47

alsoI dont know of anyone who got saved just to make God happy

no, we all got saved for us. We wanted something for us.....Salvation!
we are man centered.

what do you think pride is?

We all have it and we are all sefish.

Do you know i can glory in my great accomplishments of sanctification and dying?

Mayby those that seem the holiest seem that way because they convinced us?

pride,pride,pride!

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/15 16:54

yes all those people wrote books. Are they about God? or their preoccupation even obsession with man and the devil.

They tell you the opposite and yet look at the subject matterMAN!

repentance message is man centered. Ask any english teacher.

God is not the one repenting.

Guess what Man isSo repentance message is a man centered message.

David

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/15 16:56

westminister: "the chief and of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever"

David: "the chief and of God is to make man happy"

;-)

Quote:

I dont know of anyone who got saved just to make God happy

I know Jesus did everything for his father, so that is available to us.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/15 17:03

I will say this...you nor I could stand in Gods presence very long. It takes getting used to. It is Gods presence that convicts.

Not my abilitty to preach or have such right on doctrine.

His presence absolutely disarms and brings the best of us to our knees.

When God shows up the worrk begins in man. Man is the center of all God does.

Better to have God show up then all the "doctrinally correct 'ministers' on the planet"

David

Re:, on: 2007/12/15 18:15

Quote:

psalm1 wrote:
It doesnt matter to me if i am the only christian on the planet that believes benny hinn, rodney howard browne, and steve hill are all men of God. People can say or think what they will.
It also doesnt matter to me if they go down in history as men that made a mistake or two, or men that were slightly off.
Because all men are those things.

It ought to matter to you Bro. That you seem unable, and even worse, unwilling to discern between truth and error is very disturbing for any who wish you well.

This isn't a matter of different opinions, or of men of God who "made a mistake or two", or "were slightly off", but that **you personally are in spiritual danger because of lack of discernment!**

If you *really* don't care then there is nothing anyone can do to help you, and your blood is upon your own head, but I beg you to listen, and at least ask the Lord to show you if there is any truth in what is being said to you about this. That is what I would do in your situation, not defy the whole world to wrest these human "idols" from you! I would be very distressed about it, but would go to the Lord Himself to know what HE thinks.

He always answers an honest prayer like that...

Quote:
-----Alsodo a study on "lying" signs and wonders and miracles.
This is mainly referring to the beast and antichrist.the time of "false" is given power
And this is what is talked about concerning last days deception...

Exactly! And we are already in those days of deception!

This is already happening...
2Tim 3: 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

If we are deceived by those who are so deeply in deception we may even end up in the camp of those who welcome the Antichrist by mistake, as many German Christians apparently welcomed Hitler!

Re the speakers who were mentioned, I'm not sure about the others, (especially Benny Hinn, who I get the impression he is only "gone off" comparatively recently) but I saw a meeting with Rodney Howard Browne, and he showed *obvious* demonic manifestations, which were claimed to be of the Holy Spirit!

I didn't need people like Zach Poonen or Art Katz to show me that there was something wrong!

If you think such a one as Rodney Howard Browne is a man of God then you are in trouble - especially if you don't even care!

But don't say that you haven't been warned...

love in Jesus

jeannette

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/16 2:11

Dear David.

Have you ever considered prayerfully that you may be following a false teacher(s) ? you know there is a chance you may be wrong ? your experiences can be be very wonderful, but that is no guaranties they are from God. I know we have discussed it before brother about the fake thing of "holy" laughter . And about some of the people promoting such. Like Little Gift i dont need Art Katz or Zac Poonen to tell me some "prophet" is false, it was my desire not to mention names in this thread, but some of the names you mentioned I just found for example Art or brother Zac they put in words what my spirit told me first time i heard Mr Hinn, or the first time i saw people bark like dogs claiming they are filled with the spirit and laughing like they have taken an overdose Lsd. My spirit went off as an alarmclock. Now i read Art Katz and find he puts in word what my spirit felt.

Have you ever considered brother you may be deceived? these men might have fooled you? You are only in deception when you think you have the genuine but in reality, you dont....

I will pray for you brother, God knows all things and can reveal everything to a humble heart seeking him.

God bless you

Brother Christian

Re: - posted by Tears_of_joy, on: 2007/12/16 3:22

Quote:

-----hmmhmm wrote:

you know there is a chance you may be wrong ? your experiences can be be very wonderful, but that is no guaranties they are from God.

Minutes before to see this post, I was reading this:

A skilful liar lies not only in word but in gesture and deed ; he can as easily pass a bad coin as tell an untruth. The Devil is a skilful liar, and we cannot expect him to stop at words in his lying. **He will resort to lying signs and feelings and experiences in his attempts to shake us from our faith in God's Word.**

You probably know the illustration of Fact, Faith and Experience walking along the top of a wall. Fact walked steadily on, turning neither to right nor left and never looking behind. Faith followed, and all went well so long as he kept his eyes focused upon Fact; but as soon as he became concerned about Experience and turned to see how he was getting on, he lost his balance and tumbled off the wall, and poor old Experience fell down after him.

All temptation is primarily to look within; to take our eyes off the Lord and to take account of appearances. Faith is always meeting a mountain, a mountain of evidence that seems to contradict God's Word, a mountain of apparent contradiction in the realm of tangible fact- failures in deed, as well as in the realm of feeling and suggestion-and either faith or the mountain has to go. They cannot both stand. But the trouble is that many a time the mountain stays and faith goes. That must not be. **If we resort to our senses to discover the truth, we shall find Satan's lies are often enough true to our experience ; but if we refuse to accept as binding anything that contradicts God's Word** and maintain an attitude of faith in Him alone, we shall find instead that Satan's lies begin to dissolve and that our experience is coming progressively to tally with that Word.

-Taken from *The Normal Christian Life* by Watchman Nee

Re:, on: 2007/12/16 7:59

Kire, hmmhmm and LittleGift,

I can't tell you how refreshing it is to come on-line and find such posts.

There is so much "stuff" being taught out there, that if one had any doubts if we're living in "those days", then all of these false doctrines and manifestations would prove it unequivocally.

31 years is not a long time to be saved, but never in all of those years have I seen such an avalanche of "stuff". It is a snow-balling avalanche. And it's forming into one big suffocating mass out there.

Funny words for this early in the morning, but nonetheless true.

Very grateful for you all and the Classics here, once again. The Old Paths seems to be holding as a strong foundation. Praise The Lord!

LORD Thank You and protect all. Amen.

Re: Duplicate efforts - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/12/16 8:49

Quote:

-----If I took Art Katz teaching to heart I surely would be wary of power, wondering if maybe the devil was manipulating something. No sir I will look to God and expect his word and presence and testimony to always agree that no devil can duplicate the miracles of God.-----

And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. Exo 7:10-12

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. Mar 13:22

~~~~~  
*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1Jn 4:1*

**Re:, on: 2007/12/16 11:52**

Benny Hinn and Witchcraft

<http://www.pfo.org/bhncro.htm>

Aimee S. Mcpherson and Kathryn Kuhlman's bodies are dead and buried but they have reserved power, at least according to Hinn. He even frequents their graves. This is a Grave Deception.

Å“Benny Hinn said, "One of the strangest experiences I had a few years ago visiting Aimee's tomb in California... Friday I am gonna go and visit Kathryn Kuhlman's tomb. It's close by Aimee's ... I've been there once already and every so often I like to go and pay my respects 'cause this great woman of God has touched my life. And that grave, uh, where she's buried is closed, they built walls around it. You can't get in without a key and I'm one of the very few people who can get in. But I'll never forget when I saw Aimee's tomb. It's incredibly dramatic. She was such a lady that her tomb has seven-foot angels bowing on each side of her tomb Å... I felt a terrific anointing when I was there. I actually, hear this, I trembled when I visited Aimee's tomb. I was shaking all over. God's power came all over me. ... I believe the anointing has ling

ered over Aimee's body.

Someone asked me how is it you can feel the anointing around a tomb? I have no idea man, but I sure felt it. You gonn a feel the anointing...I've heard of people healed when they visited their tomb... ( Double Portion Anointing, Part #3, Orlando Christian Center, April 7, 1991. From the series, Holy Ghost Invasion. TV# 309,)"

God's warning about witchcraft or the practice of Necromancy.

Saul & The Witch of Endor

Endor was a city of the tribe of Manasseh, located about 9 miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee. Samuel was a faithful prophet of the Lord, and serves as a righteous judge for Israel before the times of the kings.

In the early part of his ministry, Samuel served as a traveling judge of Israel. From his home in Ramah, he made a yearly circuit to the cities of Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. Under Samuel, the judgeship of Israel developed into something more than a military leader called upon for dramatic leadership in times of national crises. He became a judge with a permanent leadership office, an office approaching the stature of a king in other nations. When the people clamored for a king like the surrounding nations (1 Samuel 8:5), Samuel was reluctant to grant their request. At first, Samuel thought the people of Israel were disgruntled with him and he took this as a rejection of his long years of godly service on behalf of the people. He also was very aware of the evils that went along with the establishment of a royal house. But the Lord helped Samuel to see the real issue, namely that Israel aspired to be like the other nations of the world, and have a king. In their aspiration for a king, Israel was in essence turning their backs on God. The Lord God remarked to Samuel: "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them." (1 Samuel 8:7)

This serious subject matter of Kingship in Israel, and Israel's blindness to the Divinely mandated right of God to appoint kings in Israel is part of the reason that Israel has become compromised with worldly whoredom, and missed out on the identity of her true Messiah King.

Israel has always wanted to be like the other nations of the world, and to be accepted by them, and to have a king comparable to other nations. (1 Samuel 8:4-5 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

The person (Saul, whom the people esteemed because of his physical stature) whom Samuel anointed as the first king of Israel turned out to be a poor choice. Saul was handsome, likeable, tall, and an imposing physical specimen. Saul was Israel's perception of the ideal prototypical king, one like the other nations had. But he had a tragic spiritual flaw that led ultimately to his own downfall. He capitulated to the will of the people and disobeyed God by taking war spoils in a battle rather than wiping out all living things, as God had advised and commanded. (1 Samuel 15:18-26) Saul's false pride and extreme jealousy toward David, who had slain Goliath, also led him into some serious errors of judgment and jealousy. Thus, when God finally rejected Saul as king, God once again used Samuel to announce the prophetic words of Saul's impending judgment.

(1 Samuel 15:10-11 Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.)

Later, when Saul felt threatened by the warring Philistines, Saul decided to disguise his appearance, and approach the witch of Endor for consultations with her to act as a medium to Samuel, so he could receive some much needed advice from the deceased Samuel. Saul had previously developed a reputation for disposing the country of witches, because he had been advised of Samuel to not suffer any witches to remain in Israel. Now, without having access to the wisdom of Samuel, Saul needed to disguise himself before the witch of Endor, so as not to alarm her. When the witch conjured up Samuel, the apparition caused her to become affrighted, for then she realized that her client was none other than Saul, a close confidant of Samuel.

1 Samuel 28:11-16 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

A medium (such as the witch of Endor) was a person thought to have the power to communicate with the spirits of the dead. (Isaiah 8:19; 19:3; 29:4)

Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Isaiah reveals that spirits and powers of the dark world have the ability to peep into our affairs, and to observe the on goings of things all around us, and therefore to know much about us that we would only expect someone personally close to us to know about. God says that by seeking after wizards and witches, one is demonstrating that they are placing more faith in the false gods of this world than in the one true God. In Luke 20:38, God further reveals that he is a God of the living, and not a god of the dead.

According to the Law of Moses, anyone who professed to be a medium or a channel of communication to the spirit world was to be put to death by stoning, and this was the judgment prescribed by Samuel. A medium was considered a necromancer, or communicator of the dead. The practice of being a necromancer was the craft or practice for extracting information of guidance from a Pagan god. For this reason alone, the spirit of Samuel conjured up by the witch of Endor should be viewed with great skepticism. The Bible explicitly teaches against expecting any legitimate contact with the dead, for its participation can only serve the purposes of Satan.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

The witch of Endor reveals that she saw gods (plural) ascending out of the earth. There is much debate as to whether or not the gods out of the earth were from Heaven or from Hell, and as to whether or not the apparition that was conjured up

p by the witch was the real Samuel. The witch described Samuel's appearance to Saul as being an old man covered in a mantle. A mantle was a type of robe, or coat for the upper portion of the body. There was something about this mantle that convinced Saul that the apparition was indeed Samuel.

It may be that Saul remembered that Samuel's mantle had become torn in a prior meeting between himself and Samuel. Samuel informed Saul, that like the renting of his mantle, so had God rented the kingdom of Israel from Saul. Perhaps the torn mantle was a sign that deceived Saul into perceiving that the apparition was none other than the real Samuel.

You will notice that in verse 15 of chapter 28 of I Samuel that the apparition appearing as Samuel addresses Saul in this manner; "why has thou disquieted me, to bring me up?, and, why then dost thou ask of me, seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is thine enemy?" One can almost hear the harsh anger intoned by these remarks directed towards Saul. It is as if the apparition is immediately and intentionally trying to intimidate Saul. By intoning this strong invective against Saul, the apparition has placed Saul on the defensive, and shown that he has super-knowledge about Saul's dilemma. This insidious demonic game-manship was never Samuel's reaction and attitude towards Saul while Samuel was alive. Samuel was always respectful of Saul and demonstrated immense love for Saul, even after the Lord had withdrawn his favor from Saul. (1 Samuel 15:35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.)

1 Samuel 15:26-28 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou.

It is often assumed that the apparition conjured up by the witch of Endor was the real Samuel, allowed by God to emerge on the scene when the witch called him up. Most scholars that follow this line of interpretation feel that the fact that the apparition correctly predicted Saul's defeat and his son's deaths verifies that the apparition was from God. But this theory seems to fly directly in the face of the Lord's own instructions.

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

Also, the scriptures informs us that there is a great gulf fixed between heaven, hell, and the earth that inhibits human passage from one place to the other. The rich man begged the Lord to send Lazarus to forewarn his brothers of the torments of Hell, so that they could avoid that place. But the Lord informs the rich man that passage by Lazarus was impossible because of the gulf that was affixed between them. Furthermore, the Lord informs the rich man that people such as his brothers would not even be persuaded of the truth even if someone appeared unto them though they were returned from the dead. So, it seems highly unlikely that the apparition appearing as Samuel was anything other than a demonic trick.

Luke 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

How then was the apparition able to correctly predict the defeat of Israel at the hands of the Philistines, the deaths of Saul and his son's just a mere day after the conjured visit of the apparition by the witch at Endor?

It should be noted that the Lord had already announced his abandonment of Saul because of his utter disobedience in chapter 15, and before Samuel had died, and had announced that his kingdom would be taken away from him. The forces of Hell were aware of the judgment of the Lord upon Saul, and when God abandoned Saul, he was left completely open and vulnerable to the devices of Satan. Moreover, the Lord through Samuel flatly informed Saul that his rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and his stubbornness against the Lord was as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee (Saul) from being king. From that point onward, Satan could have taken Saul and his camp anytime that he wanted. It was simply through the instrument of the Philistine armies that Satan devoured Saul and Israel.

Love in Christ  
Katy-Did

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/16 12:19**

creschk, I am making a point and not pitting one leader against another. I am FULLY aware of what is true and what is false.

By everyones own admission there is FAULT in ALL leaders.

Now suddenly one camp enjoys the exclusive rights as to who gets the false prophet crown.

I am NOT anti Art katz.

I am not necessarily pro wof,hinn, or r. h. browne.

I have a bible and a teacher.

I refuse to jump on the false prophet band wagon.

Why would anyone want to demonize a ministry.

Please look closely at YOUR formula for determining who is demonic and who is of God.

All reference is supposedly put through a FOOLPROOF DETECTOR and out pops a list of demonic false leaders.

Please look at the anti christ and the beast.

This is the last days deception the bible refers to. To make it something else is to indict even the true prophet.

Peter was so messed up paul had to go go rebuke him to his face.

peters sin made ananias and saphira look like saints.

My objection continues in that this demon labeling promotes false conception to the bretheren as to the power and manipulation of the devil.

Thats why i say the things i say. It is possible to be so enamored with a leader that they get a pass on error.

So you see my objections evoke great wrath from the "berreans"

Can you just humor me with a speck of "audience" that the "microscope" of the "berreans" should in turn work equally as well in both camps.

The false signs and wonders label connected to the modern day saints , in my opinion , is damageing to "seeking" saints that are babes looking for more of God.

Unchecked I feel this continued lampooning of ministries will ultimately damage even the participants.

In my short time here I have brought forth valid points that i feel have been met with anger and resentment.

Notice pauls exposing of false prophet immediately qualified by his EXAMPLE OF THE TRUE PROPHET .....himself!

This great example should be herolded as a viable litmus test. I never see this point taken. But paul doesnt stop there he goes on to say that Miracles signs and wonders AUTHENTICATED his ministry.

I keep bringing up the father and stone analogy that Jesus taught.

You CANNOT get a demon from the hand of God!!!

It is IMPOSSIBLE!!

John did not come back from patmos wondering if the devil blessed him with a vision from hell.

He knew his redeemer as does mr hinn,steve hill and rodney.

Theese are true men of God . I have spent many,many, possibly hundreds of hours in these camps and I KNOW my redeemer.

My God does not deliver a demon into my hand .

He promised his people this . and i belong to him.

When in florida i passed through horrendous demonic attacks that just almost got me.  
But Jesus came along side and showed me what to do.  
Now i have a "understanding " with the devil.

I know we win everytime. I want this for the saints.  
I lived my whole christian walk with a "win sometimes" walk.  
Now I win because HE wins . HE NEVER loses. So now I never loose. The devil goes down everytime.

I can assure you these ministries are wrongly demonized.  
Are they off ?....you bet!  
But ALL of us walk a little sideways. But we are not demonic.

David

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/16 12:31**

both the mantle staying behind and the transferring of the anointing are scripural.  
you shouldnt criticize those that are seeking.  
some have one ministry some another. just because some have a different ministry doesnt qualify them for the demon label.

david

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/16 13:05**

YES YES YES! i love that little story with pharoh and the serpents.  
Did you notice that arrons rod swallowed up the demons!!  
Even if a man of God might have a meeting where signs wonder and miracles are present the devil will try to duplicate what God does.  
I believe you will never see the devil heal one person.  
Notice if the devil even tries to copy the anointing and power of God the true swallows up the false.  
I forgot about this. But now that you mention it . this happened a lot at the Brownsville revival. The devils distraction was always swallowed up by the power of God.  
If you ever have the privlidge to be in a true revival you will see thousands saved and you will take with you many memories of watching the devil loose.  
You will also notice two strange phenomenon. 1 the religious peeeple will accuse you of being in a false demon "revival"  
2You will stand in awe of the great anointing and power of God and you will see the religious people get mad and stomp out.

David

**Re: - posted by destinysweet (), on: 2007/12/16 20:30**

The 22nd chapter of 1 Kings gives us insight concerning how things can work in the kingdom of heaven. Micaiah is given a rare view of a rather 'unorthodox' meeting of all the host of heaven standing before the throne of God. What spirit do you suppose told God that he would be a lying spirit in the mouth of the kings prophets? These prophets were all gathered (about 400 men)to inquire of the Lord concerning whether or not to go to war with Syria with whom Israel had been at peace with for 3 years. Even the opposing kings of Judah and Israel were coming together in regards to this proposition.

I especially like what Micaiah says to Zedekiah,who struck him on the cheek demanding, "which way did the spirit go from me to speak to you?"

"Indeed you shall see when you go into an inner chamber to hide!"

This speaks to me of those who have been in the limelight, receiving recognition, of an elite crew who may have had the word of the Lord at one time but for whatever reason couldn't be trusted to give speak the truth, needing to step down and go 'hide themselves in their inner 'closet'. Perhaps the exposing of their falseness makes them want to go and hide.

Micaiah having heard the strategy beforehand tries to play along but when the truth is demanded he spills the beans... not that it made any difference. The king had already determined in his heart what he wanted to do and did it. God wanted him to fail and got Ahab in the bargain. So as far as what God will or will not allow or even devise when He is against someone's agenda...think again. Our thoughts are not His thoughts..unless He reveals them to us. God desires that we know the true from the false...will we trust Him to do so?

**Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/17 3:33**

DANGEROUS DAINITIES

Arthur W. Pink (1886-1952)

"When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you" (Proverbs 23:1). We suppose that this verse has little or no voice for many of our readers, inasmuch as there is scarcely any likelihood they will ever be invited to dine with the President of the United States or the King of Great Britain. Alas that such a thought should find place in any Christian's mind. Alas that the tendency to carnalize God's Word should now be so general. Alas that our spiritual interpreters of the Living Oracles have well-near vanished from the earth. Yet even though there be no anointed teacher available to open up the Scriptures, ought it not to be self-evident that the Holy Spirit would never have placed such a verse as this in the Word if it had no application unto the rank and file of God's people? And ought not that very consideration cause us to prayerfully seek for its hidden significance?

"When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you." There are other "rulers" mentioned in Scripture beside civil ones. Do we not read of "rulers of the congregation" (Exo. 16:22), the "ruler of the synagogue" (Luke 8:41), as well as the "rulers of the darkness of this world" (Eph. 6:12)? Now, not all of the religious "rulers" in Christendom today have been appointed by God. No indeed, far from it. Personally the writer very much doubts if two out of each thousand of the preachers, ministers, and missionaries, the world over, have been Divinely called! Many of them are self-appointed, some of them sent out by men, most of them raised up by Satan. The attentive reader of the Old and New Testaments will find that the false prophets have, in every age, greatly outnumbered the true. It is for this reason that God commands us to "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Thus the admonition given in Proverbs 23:1 has always been a timely one for God's people to pay strict attention unto, and perhaps it was never more needful to give heed unto it than in the degenerate and apostate time in which our lot is cast.

The preaching we listen to, and in measure absorb, has precisely the same effect upon our souls, as does the food we eat have upon our bodies: if wholesome, it is nutritious; if injurious, it works harm. "When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you." The tragic thing is that many of God's own children today are so unspiritual, and therefore so spiritually ignorant, that they know not how TO "consider diligently" what is set "before them." They know not what tests to apply, nor how to examine what they hear. So long as the preacher is "orthodox" and approved by those whom they consider "sound in the Faith," they think his message is alright. So long as the preacher holds to the "fundamentals" of the Faith, they suppose that he is a true servant of God. So long as the preacher sticks close to the letter of Scripture, they imagine their souls are being fed with the sincere milk of the Word. Alas for the credulity of such unwary souls.

Is the reader ready to ask, "But what other tests are we to apply?" Let us help you to answer your own question by asking another. What criterion do you apply to the material food you eat? Are you satisfied if it has been prepared and cooked according to the best culinary books? Of course not. The chief thing is, what effect does your food produce? Does it agree with or upset your digestive system? Does it promote or injure your health? We are agreed, are we not? Very good, now apply the same rule or test unto the spiritual— or, we should say, more correctly, the "religious"—food of which you are partaking; what effect is it having upon your character and conduct, what is it producing in your heart and life? But we must not stop there with a mere generalization. If souls are to be helped today, the servant of God must be precise, and enter into details. Ponder carefully these questions, dear reader.

Does the preaching you listen to come home to your heart in the power of the Holy Spirit? If not, what is the use of hearing it? Does the preaching you hear pierce you, search your conscience, condemn you, and make you cry, "O wretched man that I am"? Or does it add to your store of intellectual knowledge, minister to your delight, and make you feel self-satisfied? Do not treat these questions lightly, we beg you, or you are very likely to prove your own worst enemy. Face them fairly and squarely, as in the presence of God. "Consider diligently" what is set before you from the pulpit, for it must do one of two things: help or harm you. It either promotes humility, or feeds pride. It either stimulates to work out your own salvation "with fear and trembling," or it fosters carnal security and self-confidence. It either drives you to your knees, or it more and more lulls your spiritual sensibilities. It either makes you more conscientious and careful about all the details of your daily life, or more careless and callous. It either causes you to cry unto God day and night for Him to work in your heart a deeper and more constant hatred of evil, or (probably unconsciously) leads you to think more lightly of sin—excusing "little" failures, and consoling yourself with the thought that none of us reach perfection in this life; whereas God says, "Be holy in all manner of behavior" (1 Peter 1:15).

"And put a knife to your throat, if you be a man given to appetite" (Proverbs 23:2). This is strong language, is it not? Yes, and the subject calls for it. So very few realize the fearful consequences which follow from a disregard of that command of Christ's, "Take heed what you hear" (Mark 4:24). False doctrine has the same effect upon the soul as poison does upon the body. But Satan appeals to the pride of so many, and succeeds in making them believe they are immune, that they are so "well established in the Truth" that listening to error cannot injure them. Therefore does the Holy Spirit say, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33): not they may, but DO! Yes, even though you are quite unaware of it. "And put a knife to your throat, if you be a man given to appetite." This is plainly a word of warning for those who are consumed with curiosity to hear every new "evangelist" or "Bible-teacher" who comes to town; those who have an insatiable appetite to sample every religious "feast" that is spread in their community. That is what is meant by "a man given to appetite": one who craves to hear the latest pulpit or platform sensationalist.

To all such God says, Take yourself in hand, and use no half measures to check this dangerous tendency. It is at your imminent peril you disregard this Divine admonition. If you disobey, Satan will either slay you, or else drug and put you soundly to sleep. "Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful food" (Proverbs 23:3). Yes, he has "dainties" to offer you: that is why so many are attracted to his table. These "dainties" are skillfully varied to meet different tastes. For "prophetic students" they are spicy items from the newspapers, served under the name of "signs of the times." But these are "deceitful food," for they leave the soul starved and barren: there is no spiritual nutriment in them! For the energetic young people, there is a pleasing presentation of "Christian service," calling upon them to engage in "work for the Lord": these too are "deceitful food," for they neither edify (build up) nor lead to a closer walking with Christ; instead, they take the eye off Christ, unto the "perishing multitudes": as though God were unable to save His own elect without our assistance! "Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23) is God's word unto you.

For others there is a regular exposition of "our doctrines" which are indeed "dainties" unto those of a theological turn of mind. "Yes, but 'our doctrines' are Scripture doctrines, and surely they cannot be 'deceitful food'!" Ah dear friend, Satan frequently transforms himself into "an angel of light"; he knows full well that no harm will be done unto his cause while doctrinal dissertations are addressed to the intellect, and the conscience is not searched. Unless there be a practical application made of each Scripture doctrine, the heart is not touched nor the soul humbled; instead, pride is fed and the head is merely stuffed with a theoretical knowledge of the Truth. Mark this well: doctrine divorced from experimental and practical preaching is highly injurious!

What the writer and reader most need is not "dainties," but "bitter herbs" (Exo. 12:8) to purge us of pride, independency, self-love! We need to be fed "with the bread of tears" (Psalm 80:5) and "the water of affliction" (Isaiah 30:20). Only that ministry truly helps which causes us to mourn before God, which brings us into the dust, which makes us loathe our selves. Perhaps some will reply, "I want a ministry where Christ is exalted." Good; but do you relish a ministry which gives you to see how un-Christlike you are in your ways, how little you are following the example which He has left us? A faithful and well-balanced ministry of "Christ" includes His teaching upon Discipleship, His claims and demands upon us, His precepts and warnings. Beware of flesh-pleasing "dainties," dear reader.

We pass over the intervening ones and come to verse 8 of Proverbs 23, "The morsel which you have eaten shall you vomit up, and lose your sweet words." Yes, if you are really a child of God, this is what the Spirit will, sooner or later, work in you. He will yet make your heart nauseated with those flesh-pleasing "dainties" which you now so much relish; He will yet cause you to turn with disgust from that which the empty professors feed upon with such avidity. We speak from painful experience. Sheep cannot thrive on that which goats eat! If your preacher is admired and eulogized by white-washed worldlings, you may be certain that his ministry cannot help you. If large crowds enthusiastically hear him, it is a sure sign that he is not ministering the Word in the power of the Spirit!

In closing, let us point out that all we have said above about "considering diligently" what preaching you attend, applies with equal force to listening on to the radio! "Take heed what you hear": if it does not make your conscience more tender, it will make it more callous. The same applies to your reading. The great majority of the "orthodox" and "sound" magazines being printed today, can only harm you, for they contain nothing to make you weep before God, nothing to increase the "fear of the Lord" in your soul, nothing that will lead to an increasing mortifying of your members which are upon the earth. If you have proven this to be the case, then from now on shun them as you would a plague. "Cease from man!" (Isaiah 2:22) and feed upon the Word.

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/17 10:45**

Wait a minute.....You guys wouldnt be of baptist origin would you? It seems as if you think anyone operating in the gift is false. OK,lets start from here .....Does God still do miracles or did all miracles cease? I think this could be the root of the false prophet labeling.

I started thinking last night,Its funny how only those operating in the gifts get such a low score with the bretheren here.

David

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/17 11:05**

hmmhmm, do you see what you are doing? You find material you think supports your suppositions. But your material indicates not only the teachers but the stooges that sit under them. As if i am so deluded I dont know what false is.

"I am the false and represent all that is detrimental to the bretheren."

You got any idea how it feels to see such widespread deception and yet practically an entire movement call you and what you know to be Gods people demons and worse?

David

**Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2007/12/17 11:07**

Gifts are still for today.

I will make a bold statement here and say that anyone who does not believe that the gifts are for yesterday, today and tomorrow doesn't know the word of the Lord. To my understanding, there is not one place in the bible that says that the gifts are not for today and tomorrow. There are references about tongues ceasing, but ssssoooooo many take that out of context.

The gifts are mightily in use today. Honestly though, the only folks I know that disagree with the use of giftings as not for today, or feel that the gifts are now somehow satanic, are the same folks that have not been part of a giftings experience.

Yes, there are false teachers out there that mimic the Lords giftings. All you have to do is turn on your TV and watch some of these ungodly preachers lie and extort. They will have to answer for that.

Regardless... No one should chase after the giftings of God, but should pursue the Lord in all things. If you pursue the Lord and ask for the gifts of the Spirit, He will work in you. If you pursue the giftings for fleshly gains, He may not work in you. The Lord is good no matter the giftings. Focus on the Lord and the rest will come.

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/17 11:17**

All that's being proven here is that anybody can hold selective scripture against anyone and come up with the desired effect.

David

**Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/17 11:34**

Can you show me where in this thread I have stated I do not believe in the gifts? I believe in the gifts, but I also believe gifts apart from the fruit of the spirit is of Satan. I believe there are genuine gifts from God, also believe there are false gifts by Satan.

I post articles I feel are according to what I consider to be in line with what the sum of all scripture teaches, and for your information I am currently attending and sharing fellowship at a Pentecostal church.

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2007/12/17 11:43**

Quote:

psalm1 wrote:

hmmhmm, do you see what you are doing? You find material you think supports your suppositions. But your material indicts not only the teachers but the stooges that sit under them. As if I am so deluded I don't know what false is. David

Not that I want to get involved in this over my head thread but David you're right! "anyone" here that copies and pastes anything like a lot of the stuff in this thread it is just another's "opinion" and really holds no more water than our own opinions. I really wished we "all" could post more stuff from our own words and knowledge and find the scriptures to back up our opinions on our own it would hold a lot more water and also we could probably understand the post better.

I know there is a lot of good info. out there but really if you post "anything" here that is not "scriptural" it's only opinion and it's sad when we start using "others" opinions to talk for us. Would it not be better to post an original opinion from us to debate our points and not let someone else's opinions talk for us? To me that is very unfair for the original writer because he or she is not here to defend what they wrote or meant.

Personally "anything" posted here that is not our original opinions or findings should not be used to debate with, it's very easy to argue with someone else's opinions, but our "real" knowledge is best expressed through our original opinions.

Mr. Bill

**Re: - posted by Micah (), on: 2007/12/17 11:55**

hmmhmm wrote:

Quote:

Can you show me where in this thread I have stated I do not believe in the gifts?

Hmmhmm

I was making this statement in general and not pointing it at you. I do not know what your beliefs are on the matter and was not trying to accuse you of such one way or another. I apologize if that is how my posting came off. It was not intended to be such.

: -)

**Re:, on: 2007/12/17 11:57**

Quote:

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hmmhmm wrote:

Can you show me where in this thread I have stated i do not believe in the gifts? I believe in the gifts, but i also believe gifts apart from the fruit of the spirit is of satan. I believe there is genuine gifts from God, also believe there are false gifts by satan.

I post articles i feel are according to what I consider be in line with what the sum of all scripture teach,

and for your information i am currently attending and sharing fellowship at a pentecostal church.  
-----

Amen & Grateful for your threads Brother Christian.

I also strongly believe in ALL of the gifts.

I also have been accused, (not here though), of not believing in "walking in the spirit or knowing about the gifts." :-P I just don't believe in posting "spiritual exploits & phenomena", as some like to focus on. (Again, not here.)

It seems as soon as you turn to the Acedemics of the WORD, you're labeled Baptist.

Well, that's a compliment to Baptists then. :-D

We're just asking for the balance ~ "Spirit & Truth." It's a beautiful thing to see, when it happens.

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/17 13:22**

wow I ask a question and envoke such responses.

I am only asking and not putting anyone on the spot . I only am making an observation from reading threads that focus on scrutinizing one segment of the body.

I went back and read my question and from it could not come up with any thing derogatory.

Remember we are talking about false miracles of Gods people. Since this is not seasoned with true miracles, it would seem appropriate for someone to present that side

would it not?

David

**Re:, on: 2007/12/17 13:45**

Quote:

-----  
psalm1 wrote:

Wait a minute.....You guys wouldnt be of baptist origin would you? It seems as if you think anyone operating in the gifts is false. OK,lets start from here .....Does God still do miracles or did all miracles cease? I think this could be the root of the false prophet labeling.

I started thinking last night,Its funny how only those operating in the gifts get such a low score with the bretheren here.  
-----

Hi again, David

Like most contributing to this thread, I move in spiritual gifts and have seen miracles, therefore no-one is putting a "low s

core" on such. It seems you *choose* to misunderstand this fact because you don't want to face the truth.

The plea is for *discernment*, which you seem to see no need of.

It isn't a matter of criticising one group of people against another. Neither is it to do with whether we disagree with particular speakers or not. ***It's a matter of understanding, and being able to recognise the difference between genuine and counterfeit.*** Which you seem totally resistant to even wanting to do!

I begged you to ask the Lord to show you. Have you done it? Why not?

Are you afraid of what He would say?

Love in Him

Jeannette

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/17 14:25

Quote:

psalm1 wrote:

Remember we are talking about false miracles of Gods people. Since this is not seasoned with true miracles, it would seem appropriate for someone to present that side

I have seen people claiming they healed a person, one of the persons you named, and when some TV reporters followed up the story it turns out the boy was never healed, and when they do some more research it is just case after case of claimed healings that never took place. And this man is also caught on camera lying. I can PM you the link to this documentary, it is on youtube. It is also interesting it is a secular channel that made this documentary. Not the "baptists" ;-)

And i really dont have to see a false miracle to believe in them, because the bible speaks about them.

you may disagree but i dont think you seen a demon or an angel, yet you believe, i presume in the reality of such.

I have never seen a dead man raised, but i belive such things may happened just as scripture says, scripture also says false miracles happened, and Warns again, and again of being deceived....

so, we can ignore it and say it is all from God , or we can believe what it says, and continue to talk about how to discern who and what is false. And how we best come to that conclusion.

I think you Americans have a saying that goes

"better safe then sorry"

God bless you mightily!

**Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/12/17 15:31**

Littlegift, Yes i do see your point and I dont want anyone in false anything including myself.

But I will say this, Peter missed it but wasnt demonic and you and i miss it and I know you are not demonic.

I learned a couple of things in walking with God and I learned from sermon index.

the last few years in my walk have been intense and had i have known what was damaging at first I could have saved a lot of grief.

But what I do know i will never give up.

It came from heaven and nothing can replace it.

My experience is almost exactly opposite of youguy's.

I invert almost everything said.

most of what i see in the gifts is exactly backwards from you.

I only went to one benny hinn crusade and it blew me away.

You guys seem to think I hang on every word of benny hinn.

I have checked him against the word and found him wrong. But mostly right.

I love doctrine and I absolutely love talking to you guys. It is the highlight of my day!

I disagree with hmmhmm on so many things, but he seems so big hearted.....how can you not love the guy?

yes we do disagree but i feel we all are at lest trying to love one another.

And I can assure you I will endeavor to stay pure doctrinally.

I learned that things that seem virtuous sometimes will barely stand the light of heaven.

And clice's sound good but mostly are empty.

my walk is so different from yall and it burns inside me to see the dead raised and lepers cleansed and blind eyes opened.

I did see blind eyes opened once. Its like cathing a big fish, it will make you go back.

Are we so distracted in celebrating the false we miss opportunities to raise the dead.

I have tried raising the dead twice, I was right there at the corpse, but i lost my nerve and never prayed.

There is something about those dead people that gets to me.

I know one day i will.

Now do you see??

Who will teach me??? who will show me?? who is doing this?? I have no one to show me!! It is imparative to me that the WORD lives!! I am an infant in miracles.

The ministry of elisha is almost non existant.

Does our God live????

The apostles FLOWED in miracles. What are we???

religeous people with no power? May it never be !!!

David

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/17 16:59**

David and I agree on that we disagree with each other :-)

we look at it differently, we do share this view and burden

Quote:

-----it burns inside me to see the dead raised and lepers cleansed and blind eyes opened.

and when i read that brother the words of Art Katz came to me

and even as i know what you think brother, maybe this you can agree that there may be some truth in it. Even if you don't, still my own personal belief is there is something of great importance in this excerpt

*The account of Ananias and Sapphira in the Book of Acts is a remarkable episode of an incident that occurred in another age, in an hour when the Spirit of God prevailed in such magnitude and purity that the very same act which might well be applauded today, resulted, in that day, in sudden judgment and death. By applauded, I mean that we do not ask que*

stions about those who give great contributions to the Church, but instead, we give such a person a place of honor and acknowledgement, a deacon at least, if not an elder. But the Church, which identified the lie and was not impressed with the sum, is not the Church of today.

It was the Church in its glory then, because it was alert to the issue of truth and deception, because it knew that before the Spirit of God manifests as the Spirit of power, He is first and foremost the Spirit of truth. When truth is disallowed, when truth is compromised, can we think that the dove is going to be around to perform the expressions of power that serve our needs and gratify our souls, if we have forsaken Him and His first designation and identity as the Spirit of truth? There needs to be a jealous regard for the truth that Peter exercised, enabling him to discern the fraud of a man and his wife giving a sum of money, however impressive, presenting it as the whole, though it was only in part.

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it (Acts 5:3-5).

Almost in the next breath we read, And at the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico (Acts 5:12).

In other words, the respect for the Spirit of God as **the Spirit of truth makes way for the Spirit of God as the Spirit of power**. The contemporary Church has **reversed** it; we have celebrated the power, the signs, the wonders, and relegated the truth to a distant consideration, if indeed, any consideration at all. And which of us has not played the game of giving the part and making that to appear to be the whole?

maybe the POWER we long to see will come brother, when we do away with the false? when truth, the real truth.... comes...the miracles and wonders follow?

May Gods peace overflow in your hearts.

Christian

Re:, on: 2007/12/17 17:11

Brother Christian, I think in all my days on the internet, I've yet to see a more Powerful word. It actually brought tears to my eyes.  
Truly taken aback.  
Thank you so much for this quote Brother.  
In Jesus.

Edit: to add - bottomline.

Quote:  
.....maybe the POWER we long to see will come brother, when we do away with the false? when truth, the real truth.... comes..  
..the miracles and wonders follow  
.....

Re:, on: 2007/12/17 18:50

Quote:

-----  
psalm1 wrote:  
Littlegift, Yes i do see your point and I dont want anyone in false anything including myself.  
-----

I'm so glad to hear that, Brother. If that is so, then listen again to some of those preachers you are defending, with the aim of discerning rightly. *Specifically* ask the Lord to show you if there is something spiritually wrong or not. He knows your heart and He is faithful. We all make mistakes, it has taken me many years of the Lord's dealings to get to the place of discerning - even a little - in these matters. For example, the first time someone gave me a tape of Kenneth Copeland I thought he was wonderful.

Quote:

-----But I will say this, Peter missed it but wasn't demonic and you and I miss it and I know you are not demonic.  
-----

I was not talking about merely "missing it", of course we all do, and that needn't be a problem.

The question is not "Does this person teach truth or error?", but "What *spirit* is he of? What is the source of his power when he performs these wonders?" As I said, I have personally *seen* demonic manifestations in the ministry of Rodney Howard Browne and Kenneth Copeland. Also Cindy Jacobs.

Not naming names for the sake of it but because of personal experience.

There have been others. There was a very strange experience re the main speaker in a women's conference I once went to. (Forget the name, but she was very into signs and wonders)

As she spoke, now and again, I got the impression as of a rat peeping out of its hole. There was plainly a demon present, manifesting through her. At first I told myself off for being judgmental, but it happened again and again, until there was no doubt.

Yet the majority there, including the national leaders of the movement, thought she was wonderful, and never seemed to occur to them that there might have been an alien spirit operating through her.

Quote:

-----...I did see blind eyes opened once...  
-----

My friend's son was miraculously healed of cancer. The Lord told us he would be healed, and he was!

A lady I know was praying for someone else and her own leg (that was shorter than the other) *grew* as she prayed!

My neighbour was recently healed of scoliosis (curvature of the spine) while she was having an operation for something else! When she came round her back was in agony for a time, but a couple of days after being discharged she suddenly realised that her trousers (pants) fit without her having to tuck up one side into the waistband, as she always used to, and that her back was now straight!

There have been deliverances too...

Quote:

-----...I have tried raising the dead twice, I was right there at the corpse, but I lost my nerve and never prayed.

There is something about those dead people that gets to me.  
I know one day I will.  
-----

I don't doubt it, but, on that particular occasion, did the Lord *tell* you to pray? We do need His permission, you know, we can't just do things of our own will!

Quote:

-----Now do you see??  
-----

Yes, and I now believe that your heart is right and your passion is right. But in seeking these things, it seems you are going to wrong *sources* by mistake.

Quote:

-----Who will teach me??? who will show me?? who is doing this?? I have no one to show me!! It is imperative to me that the WORD lives!! I am an infant in miracles.  
-----

So am I Brother, and your longing to know "that the WORD lives" is a challenge to me too.

But first there is a need to discern between the true and the false, the clean and the unclean, the real and the counterfeit, the divine and the demonic, and the merely fleshly.

Quote:

-----The ministry of elisha is almost non existant.

Does our God live????

The apostles FLOWED in miracles. What are we???

religious people with no power? May it never be !!!  
-----

You are right, and the Lord sees the longing of your heart. And you are not alone in that longing.

But more than you yearn for miracles yearn for HIM, and miracles will follow! Jesus said "These signs shall follow those who *believe*", not "those who pray for miracles".

When Solomon prayed that the Lord would forgive His people, when the sacrifices were on the altar, then the Fire fell - though he wasn't even asking for it!

Focus on the Lord Himself, "seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added..."

That is the only way to come into the place where we can receive true miracles.

False, demonic miracles are no substitute for the real thing. It is these that you are being warned about, not the miracles that are truly of the *Holy Spirit*.

Elijah sat by the brook Cherith until it dried up.

He knew the Lord was a God of miracles, and had experienced them in his own life (fire from heaven, *ravens* bringing food...!!!) He could have died of thirst, but he wouldn't move from there until the Word of the Lord came to him.

Wait on the Lord, and be of good courage...

Love in Him

Jeannette

**Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/18 3:27**

I found this, and it was interesting. It contains much scriptures to meditate on. I dont agree on everything this author say s otherwise or doctrines he hold but i find this excerpt to be very good.

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There is a false faith by which multitudes are deceived and will perish for ever in hell.

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A false faith may be peaceful and carnally secure (The Five Foolish Virgins).

A false faith may even persevere and hold out until the day of judgment (Matt. 7:22-23).

If you have the faith of God's elect, it will bear examination.

If you do not, if you are resting in a false faith, you need to be awakened so that you may flee to Christ in true faith.

D.Fortner

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2007/12/18 5:24**

Another interesting thought about the real and the unreal.

I have heard it said that the way bank tellers are trained to detect counterfeit notes is to handle only the genuine. They get the 'feel' of a genuine note. Maybe someone in the industry could clarify if this is true.

Any miracle, any driving out by the finger of God, any move of the Holy Spirit which does not point people to Jesus Christ, deserves are close scrutiny and more often than not our rejection.

It is really all about him, the raising of the dead, the opening of blind eyes, etc it is about him and his compassion and grace on mankind, not on the super annointed's gift. These men/woman should rend their garments like Paul and Barnabas and proclaim, why do you do these things, we are men of like passions.

It creates a gospel that draws men because of their own lack and desire to be like God and not on the work of God's grace. Like Peter said to Simon, your money perish with you if you think that the gift of God could be purchased with money. How many people invest huge amounts of money on tapes, seminars and books to 'learn' how to 'flow in the anointing'. Maybe if they took Peter's words seriously and they understand the real reason why they are so powerless then God could

Id do something with them.

Act 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Act 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. Act 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Like Ravenhill also said : Oh how we want people to recognise the gifts that God has given you, but you stink with pride.

This is a sword that is directed at my own heart. I don't know of many people that have operated at this level, let alone have stayed true to the Lord. But like the rest here there is a place in God in where I know and believe and trust in the grace of God to do more than I can ask or imagine.

**Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/12/18 10:05**

Quote:  
-----In other words, the respect for the Spirit of God as the Spirit of truth makes way for the Spirit of God as the Spirit of power. The contemporary Church has reversed it; we have celebrated the power, the signs, the wonders, and relegated the truth to a distant consideration, if indeed, any consideration at all. And which of us has not played the game of giving the part and making that to appear to be the whole?  
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dear hmmhmm,

thank you so much for the link to the art katz website. the e-book was such an amazing book. it is always so refreshing to see someone else put words to how you feel about a particular issue.

anyways, thank you so much for that. benisrael.org is now in my favorites. thanks.

phil

**Re:, on: 2007/12/18 10:10**

AMEN Bro Zeke

That is a tremendous word, thank you!

Quote:  
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I have heard it said that the way bank tellers are trained to detect counterfeit notes is to handle only the genuine. They get the 'feel' of a genuine note.  
-----  
I've heard this too, makes sense. There's also the story of the experienced ship's pilot who was asked how he managed to navigate a dangerous channel with many shoals and sandbanks. "Do you know where all the hazards are?" "No", he said, "but I know where the deep water is!"

Talking of deep and shallow, I recently checked out Kenneth Copeland's website to see if he had changed. (Sorry to keep on about him. Nothing personal, but he's the one I know most about). I browsed among his teachings and read a few of his prophecies. My main impression was of shallowness - there just seemed no *substance* in it. If you simply want a lift from an upbeat message that may, or may not, be from God, then OK, but otherwise...

Reminds me of Jeremiah 23:21 I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.  
22 But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings...

26 ...How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;  
27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.  
28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.

29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

"What is the chaff to the wheat?" Wheat is solid, it has substance, it has in itself the potential of multiplying many fold. It "falls into the ground and dies and bears much fruit".

The chaff is spoken of in your own handle, David - Psalm 1. Chaff bears no fruit, it is blown by every wind, scattered and lost and useless. You don't want to become like that, I know you don't...

Quote:  
-----Any miracle, any driving out by the finger of God, any move of the Holy Spirit which does not point people to Jesus Christ, deserves are close scrutiny and more often than not our rejection.

It is really all about him, the raising of the dead, the opening of blind eyes, etc it is about him and his compassion and grace on mankind, not on the superannointed gift. These men/woman should rend their garments like Paul and Barnabas and proclaim, why do you do these things, we are men of like passions...

-----  
**YES! About HIM!!! AMEN and AMEN!!!**

I expect that at least *some* of the miracles done by those who love money more than they love God are genuinely of the Holy Spirit. But it is still a risk to follow such men and women.

Like Samson, the true Anointing they had at the beginning may yet linger for a time, even while they are living lives that dishonour the Lord.

I think that may well be true of Benny Hinn. A friend went to two of his meetings several years ago. She said that the first meeting was really great.

But in the next meeting, not so long afterwards, she said there was a sense of something "not quite right" in the ministry.

Indeed I pray that these present day preachers, once probably true men of God, who then began to live unto themselves will be like Samson at his end. He repented and his power was restored in glorious victory. But the cost of his unfaithfulness was imprisonment, slavery, mockery of his enemies, the loss of his sight...

What a shock Samson must have had, to suddenly discover that the Power he took for granted had suddenly vanished, leaving him at the mercy of his enemies! But this was really God's love and mercy on him, so that he should repent.

But some have become like King Saul, where the Spirit of the Lord departed and an evil spirit was sent instead, and he refused to repent...

If the preacher is that hungry for money and power, the Lord may well allow such a spirit to perform lying signs, though of course that didn't happen with Saul.

Quote:  
-----This is a sword that is directed at my own heart. I don't know of many people that have operated at this level, let alone have stayed true to the Lord. But like the rest here there is a place in God in where I know and believe and trust in the grace of God to do more than I can ask or imagine.

-----  
Me too

in Him

Jeannette

Re:, on: 2007/12/18 10:16

Quote:  
-----  
hmmhmm wrote:  
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D.Fortner  
-----

I like this quote, Brother. You dig up some great stuff!

thank you

in Him

Jeannette

Re: False Prophets - False Teachers - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/12/18 17:09

#### SATAN'S CONVENTION

(The following article was edited with additions and subtractions. The original author is unknown.)

It is said that Satan called a worldwide convention; and in his opening address to all his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep the real Christians from going to church services. We can't keep them from reading their bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from holding godly values. But we can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding fellowship with

Christ. This is most critical for our cause, for if they have intimate, abiding fellowship with Christ, then we can have no power over them, and no chance of gaining strongholds in their lives. Therefore, my evil comrades, this is what I want you to do-- DISTRACT THEM!"

"But how shall we do this?" shouted one of his demons.

"Keep them busy in non-essentials of life! Invent unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds. Tempt them to spend, spend, spend and to borrow, borrow, borrow! Convince them to work 6 and 7 days a week with both husbands and wives working 10-12 hours per day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. Let televisions, VCR's, CD's, video games, and movies baby-sit their children. By these tactics alone, we will fragment their families."

"Over stimulate their minds with high energy sounds and entertainment so that they cannot hear the still small voice of our dread enemy, the Holy Spirit. Entice them to listen to music and to watch programs, even many of the religious ones, which will jam their minds with our agenda and our philosophies. Flood their schedules with every kind of sports activity you can imagine. They are especially gullible to these kinds of tactics, since there is 'nothing wrong with them!' Fill them with dread by pounding their minds with news and weather reports 24 hours a day. Flood their mail and email boxes with "stuff"; and have them pass trivia to and fro to one another. Fill their minds with incredible amounts of sports trivia. You see, my dark friends, we shall JAM THEIR MINDS AND KEEP THEM FROM COMMUNION WITH CHRIST!"

"In their recreation, entice them to be excessive. Fill church calendars with sports and recreation. Exhaust them, so that they will be too tired for serious bible study and prayer. Exhaust them so that they will have no time for Christian hospitality. Exhaust them so that they will have no heart for ministry to the lost. O evil one, our plan will cause them to forget that the lost are lost! Keep them going to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies; keep them consumed with the cares of this life! And when they do meet, instead of spiritual fellowship, have them involved in gossip and small talk and card games."

"And don't forget to crowd their lives with causes and events that are 'good and acceptable'. Again, our strategy is to so exhaust them that they have no time to feed their souls, or to cultivate love for our dread enemy, Christ. Thus, they will have no spiritual power over temptations, over habits, over wrong attitudes and so much more. They will have less and less discernment as to what is true and what is false, as to what is good, and what is evil. They will not even suspect us!"

Well, as you can tell, it was quite a convention!  
And the demons went eagerly to their assignments.

Can we judge the success of their convention? Yes!  
Just give an honest answer to this one question--  
Do you know any busy, busy, busy, exhausted Christians  
who are running to and fro, who have knowledge about  
many things, but have precious little time to sit at  
Jesus' feet, and who are fast losing their grip on peace  
and holiness and love and purity and forgiveness, and  
who have less and less time and heart for eternal things,  
or for the souls of others (even their own children!)  
because their minds and hearts are jammed with  
the things of this world?