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FATH ON THE LINE
DARE TO STAND

EDITOR'S CORNER

The story of Nehemiah reveals lessons for us to learn about working for God. As the Israelites built the wall, they were harassed by their enemies. But Nehemiah assured the workers that God was with them.

"Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons and daughters, your wives and your houses" (Nehemiah 4:14).

To protect against attack, Nehemiah ordered the workers to carry a weapon as they worked and to be ready at a moment's notice to rally against any foe.

"And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons...They which builded on the wall and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded...And I said..."The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another. In what place therefore ye heard the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us" (Nehemiah 4:16-20).

It is Amazing Discoveries' mission to build up the wall of truth. But this is not just Amazing Discoveries' mission, but should be the mission of all Seventh-day Adventists. Are you helping to build the wall or tear it down? Do you have the sword at your side—the Sword of the Spirit in your mind? Are you ready to give an answer of the hope that lies within you, or to claim a promise and seek a solution for a problem?

I encourage you, dear reader, to be as the faithful workers in Nehemiah's day—refusing to be afraid of opposition and difficulty, ready to rise in defense when an attack is launched against our faith, against the Biblical foundations of truth, and against the very character of our God. Let us not be afraid to come to the wall when the trumpet is sounded, warning of danger.



Our aim is to urge men and women to stand for truth and resist error. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will equip you with solid information on current end-time issues and trends, and encourage you to live a life apart from worldly influences.

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Is Your “Get Up and Go” Gone?

Who needs iron?

- Women of childbearing age
- Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding
- Newborns, tots, teens
- Vegetarians and vegans
- Seniors
- Athletes and regular exercisers

By Lorna Vanderhaeghe



Women are three times more likely to feel fatigued than men. One in four North American women has low iron, or iron deficiency anemia, characterized by symptoms such as fatigue, peeling fingernails, hair loss, poor concentration, heart palpitations, pale skin, and dark under-eye circles.

So important is iron to health that even a mild deficiency can affect your ability to perform everyday mental and physical tasks. And you do not have to be diagnosed as anemic to feel the effects of low iron.

In a 2003 *British Medical Journal* clinical trial involving non-anemic women, simply taking 10 mg per day of elemental iron dramatically improved unexplained fatigue.

Iron is not only involved in energy production in the body but also in other functions including detoxification, cell protection, hormone manufacture (predominantly estrogen and progesterone), and the action of serotonin, your “happy” hormone. Even heavy metal toxicity is related to low iron. Women with low iron often are more susceptible to higher mercury levels.

For all these reasons, persistently low iron—even in those not considered anemic—is a serious concern.

Women are more susceptible than men to iron deficiency due to blood loss during their monthly cycles. Yet over 57 percent of

women do not get adequate levels of iron from the diet. Women require up to 20 mg of iron daily during the childbearing years, but most get less than 10 mg per day from food, and often it is poorly absorbed.

Important iron blood tests

Low iron status is commonly overlooked. Have your serum ferritin checked by your doctor. This will tell you how much iron is stored in your body and is a good indicator of whether you are low in iron or suffering iron deficiency.

A blood test that checks hemoglobin levels will only catch the problem once iron stores are close to depleted. Testing hemoglobin

alone is a bit like checking to see if the barn door is unlocked when all the chickens are already escaping down the road.

For hemoglobin, the test range is 117-160g/L for women and 131-180 g/L for men. A ferritin test will be 15-160ug/L for women and 15/410 ug/L for men.

Remember, even a low-normal iron can cause the symptoms mentioned above.

Why do doctors prescribe high-dose iron?

Doctors often don't explain to patients that when they prescribe 300 milligrams of iron, the patient is actually only getting a small percentage of iron as elemental iron—the usable iron you actually get from total iron. Many drug store supplements do not list the elemental iron, whereas health food stores do list elemental iron because that is the true and accurate way of labelling iron.

When you look at the label of an iron supplement, make sure it states “elemental iron” amounts so that you know what you're getting. Research has shown that 10 milligrams of elemental iron taken daily can improve low iron symptoms quickly and without the side effects of high iron, which include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, black stools, and stomach pain. Common iron supplements recommended by your doctor provide these approximate elemental iron amounts:

- A 300 mg tablet of ferrous gluconate contains 30 mg of elemental iron.

Iron deficiency symptoms

- Fatigue
- Pale skin colour
- Breathlessness upon even minor exertion
- Suppressed immunity (increased infections, poor wound healing)
- Poor concentration
- Feeling weak
- Dark under-eye circles
- Heart palpitations
- Dizziness
- Cold hands and feet
- Restless legs
- Poor sleep
- Appetite loss
- Hair loss
- Thin, brittle, or grooved nails
- Heavy periods
- Premenstrual syndrome

- A 300 mg tablet of ferrous sulphate contains 60 mg of elemental iron.
- A 300 mg tablet of ferrous fumarate contains 99 mg of elemental iron.

Liposomal iron: A girl's best friend

Not all iron supplements are equal. Make sure the iron you are taking states amounts of "elemental iron" on the package—10 to 30 milligrams per day is the preferred dose. Liquids are easier to digest and absorb than tablets that are coated and contain fillers and binders that make them hard.

Liposomal iron is the best choice. Iron delivered in a liposome improves iron absorption because the iron is able to travel through the acidic stomach and is delivered to the receptor in the small intestine. As a result, hemoglobin and ferritin increase quickly and the iron does not cause the stomach upset and constipation associated with iron tablets.

You can take liposomal iron with or without food, which is unique because most iron supplements must be taken alone to promote absorption. Liposomal iron is so safe that ev-

eryone, including children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, should use it. Some forms of iron are better absorbed than others. Recent research indicates that the absorption of liposomal iron in the form of ferric pyrophosphate, tested two hours after oral administration, is five times greater than ferrous fumarate, the most common iron recommended by doctors. And after 12 hours, the total iron count in blood for liposomal iron was far higher than all other regular forms of iron. In short, liposomal iron raises levels quickly and effectively.

There is no need to drag through your days feeling tired or suffering from other iron deficiency symptoms. Reclaim your "get up and go." ■

Lorna Vanderhaeghe, MS, is a woman's health expert who has been researching nutritional medicine for over 25 years. With degrees in nutrition and biochemistry, she is the author of ten books including A Smart Woman's Guide to Weight Loss and A Smart Woman's Guide to Heart Health. Visit www.hormonehelp.com to sign up for her free monthly e-letter.

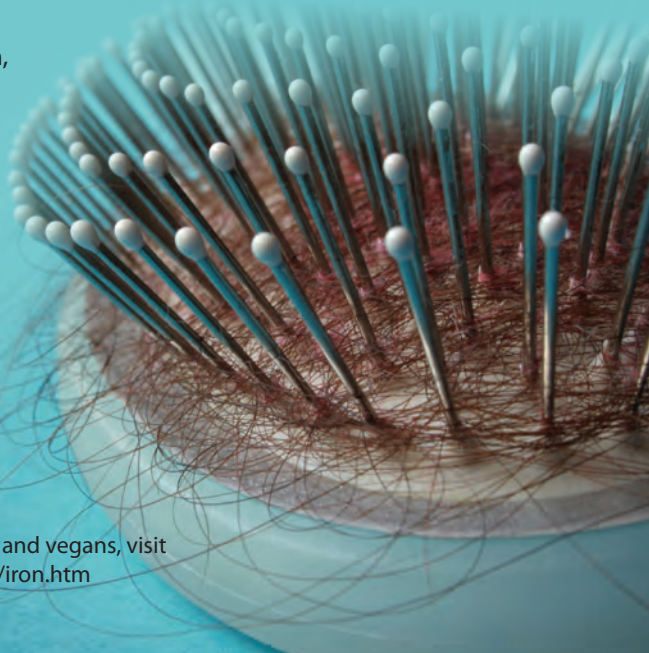
Losing your hair?

One of the least known causes of hair loss is low iron—and you do not have to be anemic to lose your hair.

Simple low iron will cause huge hair loss. This is often experienced in women after childbirth and during the perimenopausal years when heavy periods may occur.

Hair follicles contain ferritin, which is a protein found inside cells that stores iron so the body can use it later. When ferritin stores decline in the hair follicle, it affects the ability of the hair to grow. This can result in non-pigmented, fine hairs developing instead.

These hairs are often mistaken for androgenic alopecia. If you have been diagnosed with androgenic alopecia, supplement with iron to see if your condition improves.



For more information on iron and vegans, visit <http://www.vrg.org/nutrition/iron.htm>

Food Sources of Iron

Food	Serving Size	Iron Content (mg)
Soybeans, cooked	1 cup	8.8
Blackstrap molasses	2 Tbsp	7.2
Lentils, cooked	1 cup	6.6
Spinach, cooked	1 cup	6.4
Quinoa, cooked	1 cup	6.3
Tofu	4 ounces	6.0
Bagel, enriched	3 ounces	5.2
Tempeh	1 cup	4.8
Lima beans, cooked	1 cup	4.4
Swiss chard, cooked	1 cup	4.0
Black beans, cooked	1 cup	3.6
Pinto beans, cooked	1 cup	3.5
Turnip greens, cooked	1 cup	3.2
Chickpeas, cooked	1 cup	3.2
Potato	1 large	3.2
Kidney beans, cooked	1 cup	3.0
Prune juice	8 ounces	3.0
Beet greens, cooked	1 cup	2.7
Tahini	2 Tbsp	2.7
Veggie hot dog	1 hot dog	2.7
Peas, cooked	1 cup	2.5
Black-eyed peas, cooked	1 cup	2.3
Cashews	1/4 cup	2.1
Brussels sprouts, cooked	1 cup	1.9
Bok choy, cooked	1 cup	1.8
Bulgur, cooked	1 cup	1.7
Raisins	1/2 cup	1.6
Almonds	1/4 cup	1.5
Apricots, dried	15 halves	1.4
Veggie burger, commercial	1 patty	1.4
Watermelon	1/8 medium	1.4
Soy yogurt	6 ounces	1.1
Tomato juice	8 ounces	1.0
Green beans, cooked	1 cup	1.2
Kale, cooked	1 cup	1.2
Sunflower seeds	1/4 cup	1.2
Broccoli, cooked	1 cup	1.1
Millet, cooked	1 cup	1.1
Sesame seeds	2 Tbsp	1.0



For good iron absorption, always take iron supplements with Vitamin C.

Sources: USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 18, 2005 and Manufacturer's information.

The RDA for iron for vegetarians is 14 mg/day for adult men and for post-menopausal women and 33 mg/day for pre-menopausal women.



From the Mailbox

I am so impressed with the clearness and material Walter Veith presents in the DVDs and *Faith on the Line* Newsletter.

-GE in Oregon

Our whole family enjoys your magazine and all the books and DVDs we have purchased. We are encouraged to "keep the faith." We will pray for your ministry and we know that God has blessed and will continue to do so.

-The Garretts in Idaho

Amazing Discoveries, through the direction of the Holy Spirit, has enhanced my understanding of God's Word and made me keenly aware of Satan's deceptions. Amazing DVDs!

-DL in Ohio

Your ministry has given our family and friends a better understanding of the Bible and a better understanding of the world around us. You have inspired us to live a happier and better life closer to Jesus. Thank you a lot.

-RN in Tennessee

A few months ago I ordered the Total Onslaught Mini Series and the Genesis Conflict Series—which, by the way, are both absolutely amazing. I have been studying the topic of the evolution/cre-

ation controversy for years, and also for many years I was studying the international banking cartels and related subjects like the so called "Society of Jesus."

All roads kept leading back to Rome. But when I saw 'the secret behind secret societies' and 'behind the scenes' I was absolutely floored by the amount of information I was previously unaware of. Praise God for bringing these things so clearly to light.

-Anonymous

I am not a Christian. I grew up being very anti-religious as I blamed it for most of the wars in the world. I arrived at this website because I was looking for answers as to why the world is the way it is. After researching 9/11 and 7/7 I ended up doing a lot of research on the secret societies, the Illuminati and the New World Order which lead me to Walter Veith's secret societies lecture.

I then watched the Total Onslaught series and then for a 2nd opinion watched them with my Maltese staunch catholic girlfriend and it was amazing to see how much she was backing up what he was saying.

It is clear that there is a war against Christianity but through love I can see that even through these troubled times all will be well and I now have faith again.

As more people are "waking up" I am sure more people will visit your site. So thank you for restoring my faith in religion again.

-A friend on Facebook

I am immensely grateful that you now have a channel on satellite TV. Your programs are riveting, revealing truth and deceptions in this world, highlighting God's awesome power, and increasing one's faith.

-Eleanor S. in Pennsylvania

I just wanted to say thank you for making such an awesome website! It has helped me a lot, i just want you to know I am advertising your website in my blog. I hope more people find out about the truth!

-Kevin in India

Thank you very much for all the wonderful work here. I've been able to lead a few people to the feet of Jesus though your site and Walter's lectures. I'm very grateful to God and to all of you for this wonderful website!!

-Ronna F.

Thank you for making the DVDs available from Dr. Walter J. Veith. He is outstanding. God is surely leading this man as he exposes the errors and deceptions in the religious teachings of the agents of Satan.

-BP in Tennessee

This past February 25-27, 2011, my wife and I traveled from Ashland Virginia to attend a weekend seminar entitled "Prepare to Meet God" with Victor Gill as presenter. These programs were offered by the Remnant Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring Maryland. This was a very spiritual and Holy Spirit filled weekend. We most appreciated Pastor Gill's presentations and do highly recommend this seminar to others. We encourage Amazing Discoveries in its outreach ministries and do hope similar on-site programs will be offered. We were blessed, and know others were also. It was so exhilarating to hear truth and seek repentance. Thank you Pastor Gill. And thank you AD for coming to Silver Spring, MD. God bless and Maranatha!

-Anonymous in Virginia:

new

Single Sermons by Victor Gill



912 - Make Haste

"The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world... Everyone who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men." AA, 9, 10. For the consecrated Christian there can be no rest as long as there are unsaved souls. (45 min)

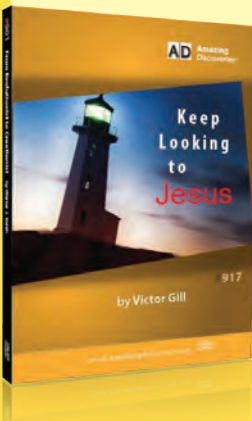
\$10.00



913 - Are you Ready?

We are facing the final events that will culminate in the coming of Christ and the destruction of the wicked. Are we, as a church, ready for what lies ahead? Are we ready for Jesus to come? (55 min)

\$10.00



914 - Fully Surrendered, Totally Committed

There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon His heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. (87 19). (55 min)

\$10.00



917 - Keep Looking to Jesus

When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, and the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him. We live His life." (Mar. 73) Our counsel is to keep our eyes focused on our Redeemer and to accept His perfect character that He offers to impart to us. (60 min)

\$10.00

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The EMERging Church

Perhaps one of the most significant developments in religious history was the formation of the Society of Jesus. Ignatius Loyola established the Jesuit order to destroy the Protestant Reformation and the churches that it spawned.

The Order took aim at their influence, and was especially interested in reconquering the world and placing it again under papal dominion. This has been largely successful, as their work with and within various denominations has been conducted in tandem with the ecumenical movement. They have historically worked in a network conspiracy that stretches throughout the world. They are masters of disguise.

This should be no surprise to the students of Bible prophecy. But I'm not going to go into the history of the Jesuits. Nor am I going to address their fundamental teachings, or their overall methods. Today I'm going to show you an emerging threat to God's Church that has come directly from this Roman Catholic Order.

There is a new approach to worship taking the Christian world by storm

There may be some who will be quite upset with me for this message today, for it will expose some things they appreciate or even promote. However, I would be an unfaithful pastor if I did not do my duty before God and warn you about things that will endanger your eternal salvation.

So I hope that if you are upset with what I say today, you will get on your knees and ask God to show you the truth of the matter.

A New System of Worship

I am amazed at how shallow some Christians are in their personal faith, even very educated ones. In some ways my own

faith is not what it should be. We need both knowledge of the truth and a close walk with Jesus every day.

Today however, there is a new approach to worship taking the Christian world by storm that, if followed, will lead the unwary straight away from the truth and into fables. They will lose their salvation because they do not know Jesus Christ, but are dependent on self.

Many don't study their Bibles, and they don't pay attention to what is happening around them. If a program comes along that is endorsed by those in religious authority, they think it is ok. It is even possible that Satan will use Scripture, or his own interpretation of Scripture, to lead the unwary away from a true experience with Jesus into an experience based principles inspired by Satan. Listen to the Apostle Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:3-4:

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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

This is a prophecy of the end times. We have to recognize that God has to permit Satan to do his work of unrighteousness in the Church in the last days as well as in the world. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 11:14 that "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

What does this mean and why does he do that? This verse means that Satan comes to you with temptations so disguised that you think he is a righteous angel and that his message will lead you to eternal life. Satan does this in order to deceive the unwary, superficial, lukewarm, Laodicean class into believing things that are false so that they lose their hold on Christ and their eternal salvation. But many people can't conceive of the idea that Satan might actually bring his deceptions into the

and Spiritual Formation

Church. That is beyond their capability to comprehend. Yet that is exactly what the Bible tells us he is trying to do.

We are also advised both in Scripture and in the Spirit of Prophecy that he will be successful to a considerable degree. Most Christian people either think that this is all in the past, or will perhaps be true in the future, but they don't think that it can actually happen now! Others are just too unspiritual and worldly to even recognize his deceptive arguments when they come and are so blind that they think some religious leader will alert them to any error that comes along.

I am alarmed at the interest of God's people in something called the "Emerging Church" and "spiritual formation." What I am going to show you about it today should alarm you too. The Emerging Church movement is being promoted by mega-churches such as those run by Rick Warren, of Purpose-Driven fame, Bill Hybels of Willow Creek, and many others.

The concepts are also entering the remnant Church through spiritual formation. And it is promoted by some of the most popular and respected preachers alive today. Their names are no doubt very familiar to you because you have probably heard of them in one way or another.

But before I give you more on spiritual formation, let us hear the words of God's prophet Ezekiel about the Church in the last days:

There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, (those would be false prophets) like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in

the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken (Ezekiel 22:25-28).

Many people can't conceive of the idea that Satan might actually bring his deceptions into the Church

These verses tell us exactly what is happening in the last days. There are many who are working together to try to get us to believe that we no longer have to follow the Bible, but that we will get more spiritual power and oneness with God by learning from some guru or mystic. Some of these mystics date back to the third and fourth century. Some are more recent.

What is Spiritual Formation?

You have probably heard the old saying, "things aren't what they seem." That is also the case with the Emerging Church and spiritual formation. There are many nice-sounding terms that are used to make you believe that this is all Biblical and right.

The term "Emerging Church" or "emergent teachers" is used to describe this movement. "Contemplative prayer," "meditation," "discipling," "discipleship," "spiritual discipline," "ancient-future worship," "vintage worship," "future church," and many other similar phrases are also terms used in connection with the Emergent Church and spiritual formation. Some even disguise the whole thing by naming programs in spiritual formation with bland and generic terms like "growing in Christ."

These seemingly wonderful concepts are very alluring to the uninformed and unaware. And while you may not hear all these words if the Emerging Church or spiritual formation movement comes to your church, you will certainly be introduced to the concepts behind them.

While words like disciple, meditation, and spiritual discipline have a true meaning, these words are being redefined and re-introduced into the Church with an entirely different meaning. Most people who hear them are not alarmed because many of these words are used in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy and they have heard them for years. Moreover, when these new concepts are promoted, they use many of the old terms that everyone is familiar with as a bridge into the new concepts.

What could be wrong with contemplative prayer or meditation anyway? Isn't prayer something that we are supposed to do? Of course it is. But when you understand what those terms actually

These seemingly wonderful concepts are very alluring to the uninformed and unaware.

mean when packaged with the Emerging Church concept, you will know that it is not the kind of prayer and meditation that the Bible is urging you to do. It is a whole different matter.

And since your spiritual destiny is at stake, it is vitally important that you be a good Berean and make sure you understand what these pleasant and spiritual sounding practices are all about.

If Satan comes as an angel of light it is so that he can deceive you. And he will give his programs very spiritual-sounding terms so that you think those promoting his program, are actually sent of God. They may even be well-respected men and women in high positions. They may even come from famous conservative TV programs, or well-known universities where future pastors are taught and trained. Do you remember what Ezekiel said about false prophets and ravening wolves coming in to destroy souls? Well, Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 7:15:

Doctrine comes with Christ. If you remove the doctrines, you don't have Christ.

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

Spiritual formation teachers promote something that is very familiar to anyone that understands the ecumenical movement that the Roman Catholic Church has promoted since the 1960s. Emerging Church leaders say that doctrine is not as important as your experience with Christ.

While we must have a daily experience with Christ, what they really mean is that doctrine is not important at all, and that we should not worry about, or discuss it.

Emerging Church leaders want all religions to blend together, and they are working with Rome to accomplish it. The trouble is that doctrine comes from Christ. And doctrine comes with Christ. If you remove the doctrines, you don't have Christ. If you don't believe Jesus' teachings, or the teachings of those prophets through whom He spoke, you can't say that you have a true relationship with Jesus.



1. Richard Foster, "Heart to Heart: A Pastoral Letter from Richard J Foster" (May 2003) <http://www.renovare.info/articles/a14>.



What is spiritual direction?

When a person finds a human “spiritual director” who guides him in his spiritual life, it is called spiritual direction. This takes the place of the Bible as the guide of life. The new focus is placed on a human being who guides the “cohort,” as the person being directed is called. The superior is known as the spiritual director, who is trained to do this sort of thing. He himself is a cohort under a spiritual director of his own, and so the hierarchy goes.

Seeking advice and counsel from godly men and women is important and can be helpful in dealing with difficulties and problems of life, but obedience to a spiritual director is quite another matter. Now even in seminaries, young pastors are taking courses in spiritual direction, and they learn how to relate to a spiritual director.

Experience versus Doctrine

One of the key evangelical religious leaders today who is promoting the Emerging Church concept is Leith Anderson, the current president of the National Association of Evangelicals, a religious and political association. Anderson made the following comment:

The old paradigm taught that if you had the right teaching, you will experience God. The new paradigm says that if you experience God, you will have the right teaching. This may be disturbing for many who assume propositional truth must always precede and dictate religious experience... That mindset is the product of systematic theology and has much to contribute... However, biblical theology looks to the Bible for a pattern of experience followed by proposition.²

Seeking counsel from godly men and women is important, but obedience to a spiritual director is quite another matter.

The idea today is that we are to just accept everyone as part of Christ’s body no matter what they believe, and as we experience Christ together, doctrine will be less and less important. Today, evangelicals, formerly known as Protestants, are deeply involved in the ecumenical movement, which is designed to bring them back into unity with the Roman Catholic Church. This is also leading them into a “new spirituality” which is really just old Roman Catholic mystical spiritualism.

One of the key thought leaders in the new spirituality is Richard Foster. He wrote this:

When I first began writing in the field in the late 70s and early 80s the term “Spiritual Formation” was hardly known, except for highly specialized references in relation to the Catholic orders. Today it is a rare person who has not heard the term. Seminary courses in Spiritual Formation proliferate like baby rabbits. Huge numbers are seeking to become certified as Spiritual Directors to answer the cry of multiplied thousands for spiritual direction.¹

Notice the bold link Foster makes between Spiritual Formation and the Roman Catholic Church. It is amazing how the Catholic concept of Spiritual Formation, invented by the Jesuits, found its way into mainstream evangelical churches.

So there you have it, right from the head of the largest evangelical association in America. He is saying that experience is more important than doctrine. This means that no matter what you believe, you can unite with others in an experience.

Friends, this is false. Jesus said that we are to worship God in spirit and in truth. Both are important. If one overbalances the other, there is going to be a spiritual problem in which Satan will take advantage of you.

2. Leith Anderson, as quoted in Eddie Gibbs, *ChurchNext: Quantum Changes in How We do Ministry* (InterVarsity Press, 2000): 126.

The idea of the emerging church concept is to limit the deeper teaching of doctrine and emphasize feelings. This makes your understanding of the Bible superficial. This is exactly what the Roman Catholic Church has been emphasizing in the ecumenical movement for many decades now so that the churches can unite with Rome.

This is a direct attack on the distinctive doctrines of God's last Church. If doctrine is not important, then why bother to keep the Sabbath?

If doctrine is not important why bother to study the meaning of the ministry of Christ in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary?

If doctrine is not important, than you can believe what you want regarding what happens after death.

If doctrine is not important, then why return your tithe to the Lord?

If doctrine is not important, we can join with all the other churches in an ecumenical kind of love and unity, which only emphasizes the things on which all churches can agree (which, by the way, isn't very much at all and is quite outside of its true setting).

In the Emergent movement, as the Emerging Church is sometimes called, there is a principle which teaches that you can believe anything you want, and you are still a part of Christ's family. Keep in mind however, that there are varying degrees in which the Emerging Church ideas are promoted.

Some of the more radical ones I will share with you today. Some emergent teachers inside God's Church may even deny that these concepts are real. If they do so, it tells you that either they don't know what they are talking about, or they are trying to deceive you into thinking that you are overstating the case against emergent theology and practice. And yes, there is a theology involved, and it is quite dogmatic. It is the inflexible doctrine that doctrine doesn't matter.

See what God's messenger says in *Great Controversy*, page 445:

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an im-

age of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.

So where is all this headed? When distinctive doctrine is overthrown by common doctrine, the ecumenical movement will lead to oppression of the religious minority that will follow all of God's commandments, and uphold the truth or doctrine as it is in Jesus. Persecution will certainly result. Jesus said in John 16:2, "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."

Here is a statement from the book *Great Controversy*, page 488 that ought to interest you:

We are to worship God in spirit and in truth. Both are important.

Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The archdeceiver hates the great truths [or doctrines] that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and an all-powerful mediator. He knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth.

This statement is referring to the Most Holy Place ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary and His power to overcome sin in your life. He offers to make you a consistent law keeper. The Emerging Church and spiritual formation will never help you do that. It is a counterfeit masquerading as the genuine.

Spiritual formation is touted as a way to be like Christ. You follow your mentor's instructions and you will become like Christ. But friends, this is impossible. Only Christ can make you like Christ.

Notice that Jesus and truth go together. You cannot have one without the other, for Jesus Himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." If Jesus is the truth, then everything he taught both during his earthly life, and through all of His prophets is doctrine of His wonderful kingdom that we need to understand and practice.

When distinctive doctrine is overthrown by common doctrine, the ecumenical movement will lead to oppression of the religious minority.

Do you think that Satan has cooked up one of his unnumbered schemes just for you? He certainly has. He is planning one for every follower of Jesus so that if possible he might deceive even the most alert, or the "very elect," as the Bible calls them. I hope you are among the very elect. They are probably the only ones who have a chance to escape Satan's snares if they continue to be

elect. That means that they are watching and praying lest they fall into temptation and naïvely accept his spiritualistic sophistries.

By the way, the “very elect” are not necessarily the ones with university degrees. In fact, a university degree often makes people more skeptical of God’s truth and His doctrine, with some exceptions, of course.

The Emerging Church movement is taking the evangelical world by storm, and it is very enticing to those who are not anchored in Scripture. When we embrace ideas and philosophies of men rather than the inspired Word of God, it does not take long to be led into false ideas. Jesus quoted Isaiah when he said, “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me.”

Then He said, “But in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8-9).

A “New” Church

Emerging Church leaders say that we need to reinvent Christianity for the 21st century. Brian McLaren, a key emergent leader wrote this:

*You see, if we have a new world, we need a new church. We won't need a new religion parse, but a new framework for our theology. Not a new spirit, but a new spirituality. Not a new Christ, but a new Christian. Not a new denomination, but a new kind of church in every denomination.*³

Another common theme running through the new spirituality movement in evangelical circles is the reintroduction of ancient liturgy. In her article “Ancient New” published in *The Lutheran magazine*, Julie Sevig says of the Emerging Church movement, “Evangelicals are using traditions from all liturgical churches from Orthodox to Lutheran to Catholic...”

In other words, now that they no longer have a strong hold on their Protestant faith, these churches are reverting back to a more ritualistic worship style of the medieval Catholic Church. This perfectly fits the plans of the Papacy to recover her power over the churches. The Emerging Church movement is step by step leading the churches back to Rome.

The Emerging Church also emphasizes the early century



mystics and monks. The late Robert Webber was one of the key thinkers and planners for the Emerging Church movement and spiritual formation in evangelical circles. His book, entitled *Ancient-Future Faith*, openly calls for churches to recognize and practice the ancient faith, but not the faith of the apostles. Instead, he endorses the faith of the ancient Roman Catholic mystics from the second to fourth centuries, as well as some more recent ones.

In this book he says, “the primary source of spiritual reading is the Bible. But we now recognize that in our love of Scripture we

dare not avoid the mystics and the activists. Exposure to the great devotional literature of the church is essential. More and more people are turning to the great work of the mystics. Richard Foster has called us to recover Augustine’s *Confessions*, Bernard of Clairvaux’s *The Steps of Humility*, [etc.]”⁴

While not all Emergent Church proponents are doing these rituals, the trend in that direction should not go unnoticed.

3. Brian D. McLaren, *The Church on the Other Side* (Zondervan, 2009).

Webber recommends books by Roman Catholic mystics like Thomas a Kempis, Meister Eckhart, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Thomas Aquinas, and Thomas Merton, and says this:

To immerse ourselves in these great works is to allow our vision to be expanded by a great treasure...The value of all these books as well as many not mentioned is indispensable to spirituality. Those who neglect these works do so to their harm, and those who read them do so for their inspiration and spiritual growth.⁵

When we embrace philosophies of men rather than the inspired Word of God, it does not take long to be led into false ideas.

In other words, Webber is saying that without studying the works of the Roman Catholic mystics, your spiritual life will not be sufficient. You can only understand God through them, not the Bible alone. This is blatant Roman Catholic teaching on tradition. Webber also recommends ecumenical unity:

A goal for evangelicals in the postmodern world is to accept diversity as a historical reality, but to seek unity in the midst of it. This perspective will allow us to see Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches as various forms of the one true church—all based on apostolic teaching and authority, finding common ground in the faith expressed by classical Christianity.⁶

In other words, evangelicals must seek unity under the apostolic teaching and authority of the pope of Rome. Other advocates of classical Christianity in the emerging spirituality movement advocate the same thing.

Dan Kimball is another promoter of ancient-future worship. In his book *The Emerging Church*, in the chapter entitled "Creating a Sacred Space for Vintage Worship," he says this:

Aesthetics is not an end in itself. But in our culture, which is becoming more multi-sensory and less respectful of God, we have a responsibility to pay attention to the design of the space where we assemble regularly. In the emerging culture, darkness represents spirituality. We see this in Buddhist tem-

ples, as well as Catholic and Orthodox churches. Darkness communicates that something serious is happening...⁷

Imagine that! Darkness represents spirituality? That's what I call spiritual darkness.

"Post-moderns prefer to encounter Christ by using all their senses," wrote Julie Sevig, in *The Lutheran*, "That's part of the appeal of classical liturgical or contemplative worship: the incense and candles, making the sign of the cross, the taste and smell of the bread and wine, touching icons and being anointed with oil."

While not all Emergent Church proponents are doing these Roman Catholic (and somewhat New Age) rituals to support their worship experience, the trend in that direction should not go unnoticed. Another observation that should be made is that the Roman Catholic system of candles, incense, darkness, repetition, genuflection, and other visual and sensory trappings make their worship very experiential and emotional, thus bonding the participant to Rome.

You may think that it is all about formal rituals, and not very attractive. But those very rituals are tremendously appealing to those who feel the pangs of guilt and want an experience with God for relief. They think that these sensory activities and trimmings are the way to connect. This all replaces the Bible and a living faith in Christ.

The Emergent Church, tired of empty worship styles, now combines these ancient practices with the rock music and other modern worship performances, to provide a sense of oneness with God.

Emerging into Rome?

The fascination with ritual in the Emerging Church movement is telling. Evangelicals are gradually being primed to accept the Roman Catholic faith. Yet Rick



4. Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Faith* (Baker Books, 1999): 135.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid: 85.

7. Dan Kimball, *The Emergent Church* (Zondervan, 2003).

Warren, Dan Kimball, and other Emerging Church leaders see no danger in this approach. Those who promote these men and their writings or their practices are also preparing their congregations to follow in their steps, perhaps several years down the road. Those steps lead right back to Rome.

Robert Webber revealed the underlying purpose or hidden agenda of the Emerging Church:

The early [Catholic Church] Fathers can bring us back to what is common and help us get behind our various traditions, not in a sense that we deny our own tradition, but that we give a priority to the common teaching of the church. Here is where our unity lies. To summarize, the words One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic point to the oneness of the church, as a matter of faith. Christians do not believe something about the oneness of the church; they believe in the oneness of the church.

Consequently, evangelicals need to go beyond talk about the unity of the church to experience it through an attitude of acceptance of the whole church and an entrance into dialogue with the Orthodox, Catholic, and other Protestant bodies.⁸

Marcus Grodi, a Roman Catholic TV personality, runs a show called *The Journey Home*. It is about non-Catholics who have converted to Rome. His ministry is all about helping them do it, and he is particularly interested in helping pastors who want to convert. He knows that if pastors convert, so will at least some of their members, if not many.

Grodi also edited a book called *Journeys Home*, which is also about non-Catholics who converted to Rome. He made this comment about the effect of reading the Fathers of the Catholic Church:

The Church Fathers are the guarantors of an authentic Catholic tradition... Many great Chris-

tian men and women have found their way either back to, or into, the Catholic Church through meditating and reflecting upon the writings of the Church Fathers.⁹

Then he mentions John Henry Newman who converted to Rome from the Church of England after he read the church fathers.

Robert Webber is enthusiastic about the Church Fathers of the Roman Catholic faith. He believes that you can only benefit by reading them. He also believes that reading them will help you become more accepting of the Roman Catholic Church.

So the real agenda behind this Emerging Church movement is to direct you to Roman Catholic authors, mystics and Fathers, Roman Catholic practices such as contemplative prayer, submission to spiritual guides, rituals, etc. and especially to the acceptance of other faiths, and in particular the Roman Catholic faith. It may be that some of the leaders don't realize what is involved in this movement. However, a little diligent search of credible sources can quickly reveal what the Emerging Church movement and spiritual formation is all about.

And this is where spiritual formation comes in. Because of their vulnerability to Rome's teaching through the Emerging Church movement, now many Christians are going to come under the influence of teachings that will lock them into a connection with Rome from which it will be difficult, if not impossible, to escape.

Loyola's Practices

Spiritual Formation is a system of practices that were originally invented by Ignatius Loyola the founder of the Jesuits. His was an intricate system designed to train the young Jesuit, known as a "novitiate," to submit his mind and his will to his superior.

Spiritual direction by a superior rendered the novitiate an obedient subject ready to do his superior's bidding. It also involved Spiritual disciplines such as Loyola's famed spiritual exercises. All of this was involved in the practice of spiritual formation. The evangelical version of spiritual direction involves a similar kind of relationship between the spiritual director and the subordinate, known as a cohort. The cohort, who is under the spiritual director, becomes obedient to all that the director tells him to think or do.

Those who want training in spiritual formation are told to find a person who is trained to be a spiritual director and let that person mentor him so that he can come under his superior's spiritual discipline; similar to what is done in the Jesuit order.

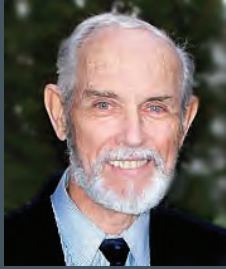
Richard Foster, that influential promoter of spiritual formation, wrote, "the less commonly practiced [religious] activities like solitude and silence and meditation and fasting and submission



8. Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Faith* (Baker Books, 1999).

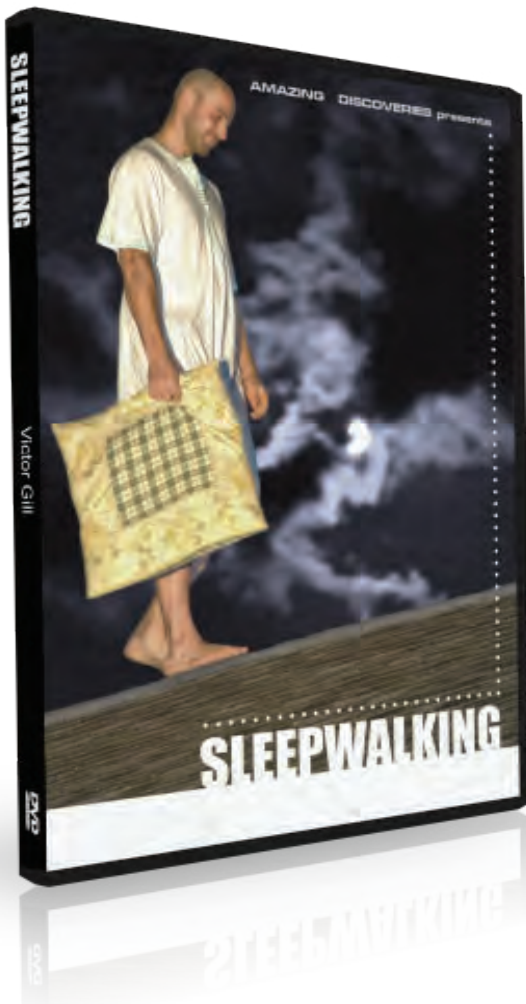
9. Marcus Grodi, *Journeys Home* (CHResources, 2006).

VICTOR GILL



SLEEPWALKING

In the parable Jesus told of the Ten Virgins, all were asleep. This Parable depicts God's people who live in the last days. The problem is we don't realize our condition and this precipitates problems in detecting Satan's tactics. The burden of this message is to forewarn God's people of the deceptions that Satan is using to mix New Age philosophy with Christian ideologies thus bringing about the Omega of Apostasy that we have been warned about.



Spiritual Formation... Is it a new means for Christian growth? Practices of clearing the mind, heavy breathing, and chanting are just a few examples of these activities advocated by this new movement. Should Christians be participating in such exercises?

Pastor and Evangelist Victor Gill brings a message of forewarning and reveals some of Satan's New Age Spiritualistic tactics infiltrating churches. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 talks about a "falling away" before the second coming of Jesus. Could these new methods of spirituality actually be leading people away from the truth as found in Jesus Christ and preparing us for the new cosmic Christ?

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to the will of others as appropriate are in fact more foundational for Spiritual Formation.”¹⁰

In spiritual formation, you are taught that the best way to approach God is through another person. This is a Roman Catholic principle. Those teaching spiritual formation often quote from Catholic mystics and authors like Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Merton and Thomas a Kempis, and many others.

Robert Webber strongly promotes these Catholic mystics. He says, “to immerse ourselves in these great works is to allow our vision to be expanded by a great treasure of spirituality.”¹¹

Sometimes the teacher of spiritual formation tells his students that spiritual direction comes in an “incarnational setting,” which means that Christ comes and dwells in you when you submit your plans and activities to the review and guidance of your personal spiritual director, another human being. Students are told to “model” their mentor or spiritual director, and copy or emulate him, and then teach it to others.

The basic idea is that we can only grow spiritually if we have another person to imitate. This replaces Christ. We will be confused in our “spiritual direction,” until we have someone like this over us.

Until recent times, spiritual formation was mainly used by Roman Catholics and particularly the Jesuits. But in the last decade or so the principles of spiritual formation have gone mainstream evangelical and now they are flooding like a tsunami into God’s Church.

Today however, when you hear people who promote Spiritual Formation talk about it, they use terms that sound very appeal-



ing. They talk about growing in Christ. They talk about devotion, Bible study, prayer, meditation.

These things are acknowledged by all as important for Christian growth. All of us need to study our Bibles, pray, and meditate on Christ. But these promoters of spiritual formation are taking this in a different direction.

Many Christians are coming under the influence of teachings that will lock them into a connection with Rome from which it will be difficult, if not impossible, to escape.

They also promote books by spiritual formation authors like Leonard Sweet, Brian McLaren, Don Pagitt, Forster Freeman, and others who are dedicated to

the ecumenical movement and the convergence of all religions as well as spiritual formation. These authors, in turn, recommend that we read and study the Roman Catholic mystics such as Thomas Merton, Thomas Keating, Thomas Aquinas, and others. These authors will help you find your way to Rome.

10. Richard Foster, “Heart to Heart: A Pastoral Letter from Richard J Foster” (May 2003) <http://www.renovare.info/articles/a14>.

11. Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Faith* (Baker Books, 1999): 135.

Contemplative Spirituality

One key element of spiritual formation is called “contemplative spirituality.” Other related terms include “contemplative prayer,” or “centering prayer.” These are all names for essentially the same thing. This is nothing more than a mixture of what New Age pagan practitioners of meditation and Roman Catholic monks have taught for centuries.

See what Thomas Keating, a Roman Catholic monk, has to say about contemplative prayer, otherwise known as centering prayer:

Spiritual disciplines, both East and West, are based on the hypothesis that there is something that we can do to enter upon the journey to divine union once we have been touched by the realization that such a state exists. Centering prayer is a discipline designed to reduce obstacles... choose a sacred word [to repeat]... Twenty to thirty minutes is the minimum amount of time necessary for most people to establish interior silence.¹²

In other words, you repeat religious or Biblical words (it doesn't really matter which ones) in order to “center” your thoughts until you feel like you have unity with God.

Jesus taught that prayer is to be simple and straightforward, treating God as our Father and our friend, and He specifically mentioned repetition as vain and useless. He said “but when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Matthew 6:7).

In spritual formation, you are taught that the best way to approach God is through another person.

The idea of “interior silence” that the mystic Keating talks about is a mystical New Age concept in which the mind is emptied of thought and distractions, which can only be done through a hypnotic repetitive practice.

In more recent times, this same thing has been resurrected and adopted by the mainstream Emerging Church movement through the work of another Catholic monk named Thomas Merton. Merton wrote a number of books that the Emergent Church recommends to its adherents.

The Vatican also endorses contemplative prayer. I'll quote you a passage from an on-line Roman Catholic book called *From St. John of the Cross to Us*:

The Second Vatican Council, for example, gave both religious and lay people a new sense of freedom and a desire for spiritual renewal...

Centering Prayer and meditation groups... have helped introduce large numbers of Christians to a deeper life of prayer.¹³



This practice of contemplative prayer, endorsed by the Vatican and used in many denominations, especially those involved in the Emerging Church movement, is mystical to its core, and is designed to unite eastern mysticism and Roman Catholicism while at the same time being attractive to those enthralled with the ecumenical movement.

For some in God's Church to present this to His people is a horrendous danger. But yet that is what is happening today.

Examples of Emergent Teaching

One well-known TV ministry is promoting spiritual formation through a class, or seminar it offers to churches and institutions, and even on TV.

Originally the title of the class was called “Spiritual Formation,” but it was changed when a lot of people reacted negatively and wondered if this class had to do with Ignatius Loyola and the Jesuit teaching. The new name is “Jesus 101.”

This rather generic name disguises the real intent of the program. It comes from a common term used in ecumenical circles. There are Catholic books by that name; there are Bible study

12. Thomas Keating, *Open Mind, Open Heart* (Continuum International Publishing Group, 2006).

13. James Arraj, *From St. John of the Cross to Us* (James Arraj, 1999), <http://www.innerexplorations.com/catchspmys/fromst1.htm>.



courses by that name; there are blogs by that name, etc. The subtitle for the course is also deceptive: "Growing in Jesus/Discipleship." But the real intent behind the "Jesus 101" course is Spiritual Formation.¹⁴

It happens that the online course description for these classes offered by the TV media company is virtually the same as a Spiritual Formation program offered by the Wesleyan Northeastern Seminary, which is an evangelical and ecumenical institution.

Whether the description was taken directly from Northeastern and adapted, or whether it was taken from somewhere else, is unknown. But it is virtually the same with a number of modifications to downplay the spiritual formation aspects to some extent. There is some switching around of the order of the assumptions and objectives, and modifications of some terminology, but it is remarkably similar.

The only part of the Northeastern Seminary description that was not included in the description of the "Jesus 101" class was the section on spiritual formation. And it is no wonder. If it was included there would be a hue and cry from faithful souls who

would oppose these things as there was before the online description was changed.

Now it is all under disguise as if it is a course on the life and teachings of Jesus. And many faithful souls who are unaware of this disguised spiritual formation course make donations to this TV ministry faithfully because they appreciated the now deceased founders and their faithful messages.

The "Jesus 101" course description still uses terms like "spiritual disciplines" and "guided reflection," which are familiar phrases to the Emerging Church movement and the Jesuits.

The online course description also uses the phrases "guided exercises" (a watered-down term for "spiritual exercises") and "disciplined prayer" (which is another term for "contemplative prayer"). Again these terms would be very familiar to those promoting spiritual formation. And it all is offered in the name of becoming like Jesus. Certainly, the TV ministry would use a lot of Biblical material in the course to relax participants into thinking that this is a faithfully Biblical program.

There is a seminary in Michigan that also teaches spiritual formation to ministerial doctoral students. It is one of their concentration courses for the degree of Doctor of Ministry offered by the university seminary.

Contemplative prayer is mystical from its core.

One of the teachers in this class has written a book on the subject called *Hunger: Satisfying the Longing of Your Soul*, which he apparently uses in this class. In the book he recommends additional reading, which includes a number of Roman Catholic authors, eastern mystics, and evangelical Emerging Church authors. These include famous Roman Catholic monks and priests like Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Benedict J. Groeschel, Jerome M. Neufelder, and Thomas Keating.

He also recommends Tilden Edwards, an Episcopal priest and mystic; Robert Webber, who as we know is one of the foremost advocates of Emergent teaching and spiritual formation; Thomas R. Kelly, a Quaker mystic, Tony Campolo, an evangelical who claims to have been born again by reading the Catholic mystics including Ignatius Loyola; and Richard Foster, one of the main evangelical promoters of "contemplative prayer" in the emerging church movement, who himself recommends that his followers read Roman Catholic Church fathers and mystics.

14. Voice of Prophecy website, <http://www.vop.com/article.php?id=871>.

It is hard to understand why a Christian educator, with all the light he may have, would recommend writers who will certainly lead the student into practices that come from the throne of darkness. Moreover, it is equally hard to understand why the

It is hard to understand why a Christian educator, with all the light he may have, would recommend writers who will certainly lead the student into practices that come from the throne of darkness.

dean of the seminary would defend this course from spiritual Babylon as part of an academic curriculum for ministers who are supposed to preach the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14—one of which is to come out of Babylon.

This is not to say that non-inspired writers should not be recommended. But they have to be chosen for their faithfulness to Scripture, and not be connected to Roman Catholic tradition..

Labyrinths

Some churches, especially liberal churches, are using prayer labyrinths, which are a tool of contemplative prayer, complete with prayer stations, candles, icons and other sensory paraphernalia.

There are even claims that we are in a period of "prayer labyrinth revival."

Labyrinths are of pagan origins that came into the Catholic Church, and now into the emerging church movement from there. There are many of them in Roman Catholic Cathedrals, monasteries, and abbeys all over Europe. Why would these be useful in God's Church except to take the focus off of the Bible as the guide of life?

Many of the churches and institutions of God's Church have brought in spiritual formation in one way or another. It is true that God's people need revival, but we don't need a revival of Catholicism in our ranks. It is true that God's people need in intimate walk with Christ for many are lost. Their souls cry out in hunger for that which the world cannot fill. But finding it through methods and principles that are inventions of Satan

will never bring them to the true experience with Christ. It will do the exact opposite.

The Threefold Union

Friends, spiritual formation and the Emerging Church are not God's plan for us. They are deeply connected to the Roman Catholic Church, ancient mysticism, and the New Age. The Bible tells us that there is a threefold union that is developing and we can see it before our eyes. It includes apostate Protestantism, spiritualism, and Roman Catholicism.

Here is a familiar statement from *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 451:

When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.

The threefold union is developing right before our eyes through the Emergent Church movement, the ecumenical movement, and the spiritual formation movement. And it is amazing how precise God's messenger is about this prophetic development.

The formerly Protestant churches are now embracing papal falsehoods that go way beyond Sunday keeping. They are developing strong links to spiritualism and Catholicism through



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the Emerging Church and spiritual formation. All of them are working together, collaborating to make the world ready for the final conflict over the law of God.

There is no way that any of God's people in the last generation should be involved in this movement. Certainly pastors, leaders, and institutions should stay very clear of it all and not try to make it sound like these movements are in line with our message. That is deceptive.

While there may be those who are not trying to be deceptive, there are others who attempt to disguise the real agenda behind these movements.

I am not trying to hurt anyone, or judge anyone's motives. But I know, on the authority of God's Word, that these things are wrong because they are from the polluted fountain.

Consider this statement from the *Gospel Herald*, March 1, 1901:

Do not depend upon human beings for spiritual help. Resist the temptation to make flesh your arm. Look to God as children look to an earthly Father. Believe that He loves you and that He will help you, even as He has promised. If you will believe, you will have confidence, trust, reliance, and rich blessings, because you will realize that Christ is the foundation of your faith.

Friends, you don't need a spiritual director other than Christ and the Bible. You don't need any spiritual formation other than living faith in the Word of God. The Holy Spirit should direct your meditation and prayer life as you open the pages of sacred Scripture, not through mummery of oft repeated words or phrases. That is vain and worthless. We don't need encouragement to read the polluted springs of Babylon but instead the inspired Word of God.

Here is another statement from *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 409-410:

Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. "If thou hadst known," said Christ, "even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

And one last statement from *Signs of the Times*, February 19, 1894:

It is a backsliding church that lessens the distance between itself and the Papacy.

My dear friends, let us not go back toward Rome. Let us not lessen the distance, but rather expand it and make it as wide as possible. Let us turn from all that is human and worthless and look upon the matchless charms of Jesus.

Pastor Hal Mayer is Speaker and Director of Keep the Faith ministry. Keep The Faith is a multifaceted, Seventh-day Adventist ministry dedicated to proclaiming the three angels messages with a special emphasis on preparation for the end-time and the second coming of Jesus Christ. ■

Visit www.ktfministry.org to find out more.

There is no way that any of God's people should be involved in this movement.



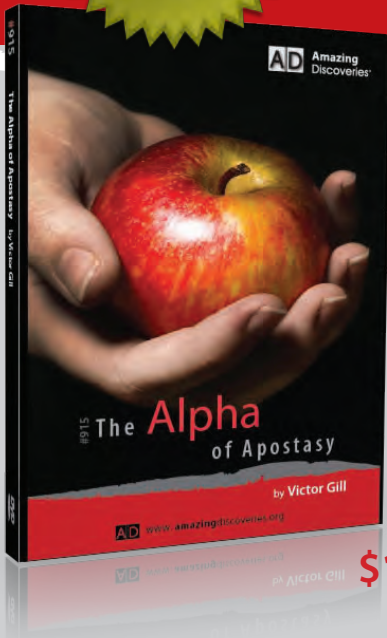
Helpful Sources Online:

Concerns Regarding Spiritual Formation:
<http://spiritualformationsda.wordpress.com/>

Adventist News Network on Churches and Spiritual Formation:
<http://news.adventist.org/2004/02/a-feature-church-cogregatios-icrease-focus-o-spiritual-formatio.html>

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New Lectures by Victor Gill



915 - The Alpha of Apostasy

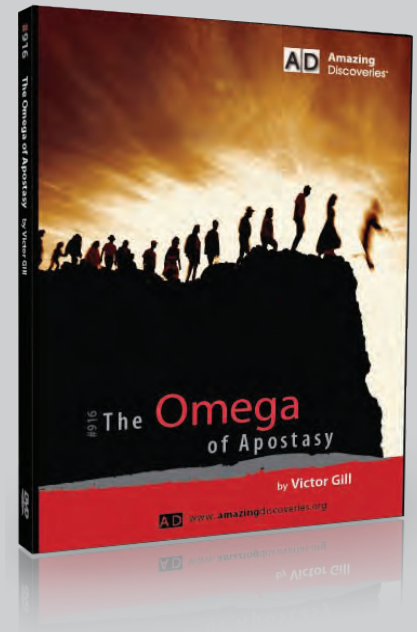
The alpha of apostasy introduced to our church by John Harvey Kellogg included controlling minds, resisting the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy, the exaltation of self, and his insistence of advocating false theories concerning the personality and presence of God. We are counselled by the Spirit of Prophecy that this would arise again just before the end of time, known as the omega of apostasy. (48 min)

\$15.00

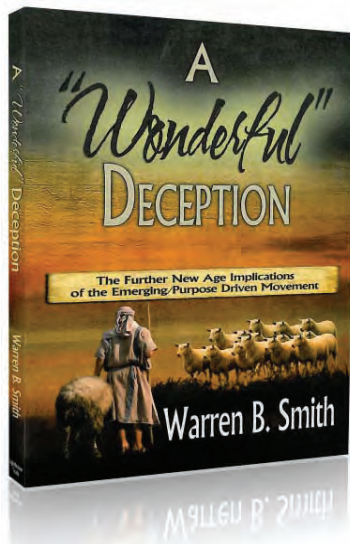
916 - The Omega of Apostasy

Spiritualism is now changing its form, veiling some of its more objectionable and immoral features and assuming a Christian guise. Formerly it denounced Christ and the Bible; now it professes to accept both. (50 min)

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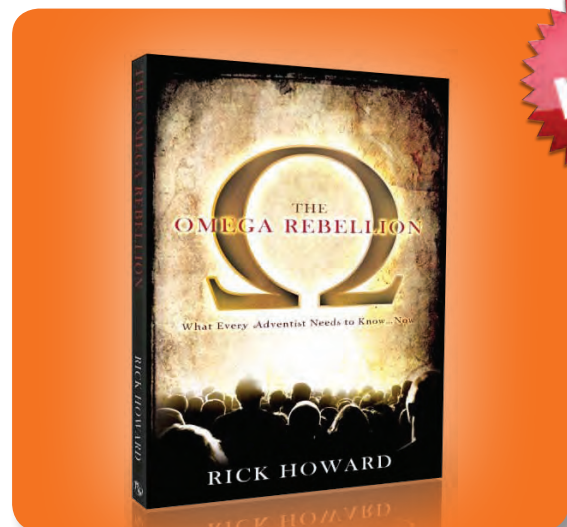
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Fluoride:

Making Us Stupid and Unhealthy

by Paul Fassa

A recent Chinese study concluded that low dose sodium fluoride in drinking water diminishes IQ, especially among children. This is the twenty-fourth such international study with the same conclusion. Sodium fluoride has also been linked to reduced fertility and lower sperm counts.

Other health issues arise from the basic function of sodium fluoride's ability to block thyroid production. It was once used to inhibit hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid). So if your thyroid is normal, it will be reduced to hypothyroidism (under-active thyroid), which leads to a plethora of health

problems.

Sodium fluoride is accumulated and stored by bone matter, displacing calcium and weakening bones. The pineal gland sucks up even more of the stuff that is being put in 70% of the USA water supply while independent scientific research and public protest is disregarded.

The Health Issues

There's more on the fluoridated pineal gland in the Natural News article "A Fluoride Free Pineal Gland ..." (source below). Here are a few of the health issues from drinking fluoridated water:

Thyroid Disruption - affecting the complete endocrine system and leading to obesity and diabetes

Neurological - diminished IQ and inability to focus (ADD), lethargy, weariness, possibly fibromyalgia.

Melatonin Disruption - sleep disorders, increased aging, lower immunity to cancer.

Alzheimer's Disease

Pineal Gland - calcification of this gland located in the middle of the brain.

Cancer

Types of Fluorides

Calcium fluoride is in several ground water sources, especially wells. The worst it can do is cause tooth enamel or

bone damage if consumed daily over the long term. Pharmaceutical grade sodium fluoride is meant to be applied topically to teeth as a dental procedure. But if swallowed or otherwise ingested, it is extremely toxic.

But the most pernicious of all sodium fluorides is either fluorosilicate acid or sodium silicofluoride. These are the waste products of industry, originally from the nuclear and aluminum industries, but now mostly from the phosphate fertilizer industry.

The gases emitted from phosphate fertilizer processing plants are so toxic that nearby crops were destroyed by the emissions and serious health problems rose among nearby residents. So the EPA forced the processing plants to use scrubbers in their stacks to clean the exhaust.

That solved the toxic emission problems locally while creating an expensive toxic waste disposal problem. How toxic is this scrubbed stuff? A recent spill from a fluorosilicate container in Illinois had to be contained by workers wearing the same type of protective gear



Are you worried about your drinking water?

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Water from our cities' sources almost always contains chloride, fluoride and even contaminants such as lead, hormones, and pesticides. Alkaline water is the best for your body. It is created with an alkalizing, ionization unit that uses an electrolysis process to split the water into two streams: alkaline and acid.

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worn near the damaged reactors in Fukushima.

Deceptive PR campaigns and the American Dental Association's urging of fluoridation as the panacea for tooth decay created a profitable side industry: Selling phosphate toxic sludge as sodium fluoride for community water supplies. Fluoridated water proponents argue that low doses are safe while ignoring how these daily doses deposit and accumulate in our bones and organs. ■

Paul Fassa is dedicated to warning others about the current corruption of food and medicine. Read more from Paul: healthmaven.blogspot.com or naturalnews.com



Continued from page 27

Consider Jesus' encouragement to us:

...learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:29-30).

If you will choose by faith to go to work with Him, within the guiding bit and reins of His Word, learning to calmly evaluate and respond to the jackrabbits of surprises, the tumbleweeds of daily difficulties, and any other obstacle to spiritual growth. ■



Common Horse Sense

by Dan Gabbert

Psalm 32:9 brings back memories for me:
Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle.

When I was younger, I worked with quite a few horses that would *balk* (freeze in place, hunker down, or retreat) and *spook* (shy away) from almost everything they were not familiar with—birds, gophers, holes, ditches, creeks, work. And the idea of being caught and saddled up for service was certainly not a priority on their to do lists.

Now, it's not all bad to be alert and sensitive to what might be dangerous. But when a horse was prone to balk or spook at the slightest disturbance, they were in most cases untrustworthy, and even downright dangerous to ride.

Thinking back, I remember something else peculiar to this type of horse. It might have just been my imagination, but when it came to feeding time, it seemed as if the *balkers* and *spookers* were the first in line, and could become real cantankerous if any other horse got in their way.

Interestingly, when mealtime rolled around, birds, gophers, holes, ditches, and creeks seemed to be no barrier to getting to the feed trough. I'm pretty sure it had something to do with where their attention was focused. What do you think?

Learning and Doing

For most of the balky, easily spooked horses that I experienced, the best cure-all for their skittish untrustworthiness was to give them a good daily workout, exposing them to as much unknown surprise as could be found in the pasture and arena.

It seemed that the more time they spent under the saddle, the less they had to balk and spook over.

Consequently, when a seemingly new obstacle was confronted, instead of spooking and running, there was a much calmer evaluation of the situation, and a quicker response to the trainer's guiding hands and feet. I think it had something to do with them learning where to keep their attention focused—on their trainer's hand and foot promptings, instead of on the disturbing situation. What do you think?

Now it may have just been my imagination again, but interestingly enough, after a day's work, there also seemed to be a greater willingness to share the chow line with fellow four-footed equine.

How is it in your life?

Where are your priorities? Have you found it easy to balk and spook at seemingly insurmountable obstacles in your experience with Christ? Have the daily irritations of living become intolerable?

Excuse the expression, but have you caught yourself *finagling to be first at the feed trough* of getting your needs met?

Where have you been focusing your attention lately? Has it been on the disturbing situations of life, or on the solutions our loving life-skills Trainer, Jesus Christ offers through His Word and example?

I invite you to consider what our Lord is communicating in these verses:
For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end (Jeremiah 29:11).

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things (Romans 8:31-32)?

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

Contemplate the insights found in Isaiah 53:3-6 on the personal experience of Christ during His earthly sojourn:

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

How did this affect His attitude? Isaiah 42:3-4 gives us a little glimpse:

*A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench;
He will bring forth judgment for truth.
He will not fail nor be discouraged,
Till He has established justice in the earth;
And the coastlands shall wait for His law (NKJV).*

Desire of Ages puts it together like this:

Jesus did not contend for His rights. Often His work was made unnecessarily severe because He was willing and uncomplaining. Yet He did not fail nor become discouraged. He lived above these difficulties, as if in the light of God's countenance. He did not retaliate when roughly used, but bore insult patiently (DA, 89).

Saddled for Service

Friends, when you make a decision to surrender yourself to Christ Jesus as your personal Savior, the Lord of your life, by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit upon your heart, you are born into the family of God (see John 1:12-13; Galatians 4:6-7).

Christ's Holy Spirit enters your heart to begin His work of training you in the eternal ways in which He originally designed you to function, fitting you up for your heavenly home (see Ezekiel 36:26-27; Romans 8:28-29; Philippians 2:12-13).

***Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule,
which have no understanding: whose
mouth must be held in with bit and bridle.***

The Bible calls this training sanctification—the process of rebuilding your character in holiness (see 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 5:23-24; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16). To give you the best possible training opportunity to become like Him, He makes you one of His fellow-workers (1 Corinthians 3:9), a minister of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

In cowboy terms, the Lord saddles you up for service. If you will choose by faith to go to work with Him, within the guiding bit and reins of His Word, learning to calmly evaluate and respond to the jackrabbits of surprises, the tumbleweeds of daily difficulties, and any other obstacle to spiritual growth He leads you to deal with, a deep trust in His guiding hands will develop (see Psalm 23:4).

You will lose your balkiness and spookiness in His work, and truly mature in acquiring His tender, loving Spirit (see Ephesians 4:29-32; 2 Timothy 1:7). Regardless of circumstances, you will even be thankful to be last in the food line (see Mark 9:35; Luke 6:40; 19:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)!

How shall we respond to such a high calling?

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

The children of God may rejoice in all things and at all times. When troubles and difficulties come, believing in the wise providence of God, you may rejoice. You need not wait for a happy flight of feeling, but by faith you may lay hold of the promises and lift up a hymn of thanksgiving to God (HP, 123).

Why can we rejoice?

Consider these hope-filled insights found in the famous Old Testament commentary, *Patriarchs and Prophets*:

The mighty God of Israel is our God. In Him we may trust, and if we obey His requirements He will work for us in as signal a manner as He did for His ancient people. Everyone who seeks to follow the path of duty will at times be assailed by doubt and unbelief. The way will sometimes be so barred by obstacles, apparently insurmountable, as to dishearten those who will yield to discouragement; but God is saying to such, Go forward. Do your duty at any cost. The difficulties that seem so formidable, that fill your soul with dread, will vanish as you move forward in the path of obedience, humbly trusting in God (PP, 437).

I am so thankful, dear friends, that we do not have to be like a balky horse or spooky mule, and remain hard-mouthed, lacking in understanding about the ways of our loving Lord and Savior. We do not have to remain so hardheaded that the only way we get it right is to continually experience the negative consequences of our unhealthy choices.

We don't have to remain balky and spooked at the idea of new ventures for the cause of God! But rather, by our willingness to surrender to the training of the Holy Spirit through the word of God, we may partake of more and more of our Lord's divine nature, and escape the life-threatening corruptions of a lost and dying world—freed to joyfully serve the Most High God in satisfied peace (see 2 Peter 1:2-4).

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No Man for Himself

excerpted from a sermon by Walter J. Veith



The following is an excerpt from Walter Veith's Total Transformation series. It deals with the question of whether we need the Church. Many are discouraged by the state of the Church, and have pulled away, some believing that they need to separate altogether.

Many ask how they can continue to associate with an imperfect Church that may at times even be apostate. This excerpt contains a collection of quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy on this subject. Let us consider the words and understand them.

In the final conflict, God does not bypass His Church, but He will purify it in the fire of affliction and spew from its ranks those that have not made His righteousness their covering.

The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The

church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10. {AA 9.1}

The Redeemer of the world does not sanction experience and exercise in religious matters independent of his organized and acknowledged church. Many have an idea that they are responsible to Christ alone for their light and experience, independent of his recognized followers on earth. But in the history of the conversion of Saul, important principles are given us, which we should ever bear in mind. He was brought directly into the presence of Christ. He was one whom Christ intended for a most important work, one who was to be "a chosen vessel" unto him; yet he did not personally impart to him the lessons of truth. He arrested his course and convicted him; but when asked by him, "What wilt thou have me to do?" the Saviour placed him in connection with his church, and let them direct him what to do (LP 31.1).

You may ask, how can I be associated with such an imperfect church?

Persecution cleanses the Church.

Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church.--4T 89 (1876). {LDE 173.5}

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church.--5T 81 (1882). {LDE 173.6}

In spite of its condition, the church is not Babylon although there are Babylonians in its ranks.

In the absence of the persecution there have drifted into our ranks men who appear sound and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us.--Ev 360 (1890). {LDE 174.1}

When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.--2SM 368 (1891). {LDE 174.2}

As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges but have not improved them will, under one pretext or another, go out from us.--6T 400 (1900). {LDE 175.2}

The Lord has not given you a message to call the Seventh-day Adventists Babylon, and to call the people of God to come out of her. All the reasons you may present cannot have weight with me on this subject, because the Lord has given me decided light that is opposed to such a message. . . . {LDE 51.2}

I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms. There is not the least consistency in this; there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be.--2SM 63, 68, 69 (1893). {LDE 51.3}

I tell you, my brethren, the Lord has an organized body through whom He will work. . . . When anyone is drawing apart from the organized body of God's commandment-keeping people, when he begins to weigh the church in his human scales and begins to pronounce judgment against them, then you may know that God is not leading him. He is on the wrong track.--3SM 17, 18 (1893). {LDE 51.4}

The straight testimony produces a shaking.

*I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that **it would be caused by the straight testimony** called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have*

*its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. **Some will not bear this straight testimony.** They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people.--1T 181 (1857). {LDE 175.3}*

There are those among us who will make confessions, as did Achan, too late to save themselves. . . . They are not in harmony with right. They despise the straight testimony that reaches the heart, and would rejoice to see everyone silenced who gives reproof.--3T 272 (1873). {LDE 175.4}

In spite of its condition, the church is not Babylon although there are Babylonians in its ranks.

The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death. By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway.--8T 297 (1904). {LDE 176.1}

Do we need an organized Church?

Oh, how Satan would rejoice if he could succeed in his efforts to get in among this people and disorganize the work at a time when thorough organization is essential and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings and to refute claims not endorsed by the Word of God! We want to hold the lines evenly, that there shall be no breaking down of the system of organization and order that has been built up by wise, careful labor. License must not be given to disorderly elements that desire to control the work at this time. {LDE 47.1}

As we near the final crisis, instead of feeling that there is less need of order and harmony of action, we should be more systematic than heretofore. 3SM 26 (1892). {LDE 47.3}

In his article "Beheading Christ," Keith Drury makes an interesting point regarding Christ and His choice of bride, how many



are willing to choose Christ but not His bride:

I have decided to submit to Christ's tastes in bride-picking. If He wants the church as His bride I will accept her too. Jesus Christ, the head of the body is easy to love. The body of Christ is harder to love. But I have chosen to love her for one single reason—Christ loves her and considers her beautiful. Perhaps he sees possibilities in her I don't see? Perhaps that's how He sees me too?¹

This means there must be a church within the Church.

God's Church has special authority.

God has invested His church with special authority and power which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising, for in so doing he despises the voice of God. 3T 417 (1875). {LDE 47.4}

God has bestowed the highest power under heaven upon His church. It is the voice of God in His united people in church capacity which is to be respected. 3T 451 (1875). {LDE 47.5}

I am instructed to say to Seventh day Adventists the world over, God has called us as a people to be a peculiar treasure unto Himself. He has appointed that His church on earth shall stand perfectly united in the Spirit and counsel of the Lord of hosts to the end of time. 2SM 397 (1908). {LDE 55.3}

While it is true that the Lord guides individuals, it is also true that He is leading out a people, not a few separate individuals here and there, one believing this thing, another that. Angels of God are doing the work committed to their trust. The third angel is leading out and purifying a people, and they should move with him unitedly. . . . {AG 110.4}

Some have advanced the thought that as we near the close of time, every child of God will act independently of any religious organization. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man's being independent. . . . In order that the Lord's work may advance healthfully and solidly, His people must draw together. {AG 110.5}

If men will not move in concert in the great and grand work for this time, there will be confusion. It is not a good sign when men refuse to unite with their brethren, and prefer to act alone. . . . **On the other hand, the leaders among God's people are to guard against the danger of condemning the methods of individual workers who are led by the Lord to do a special work that but few are fitted to do.** Let brethren in responsibility be slow to criticize the movements that are not in perfect harmony with their methods of labor. **Let them never suppose that every plan should reflect their own personality.** Let them not fear to trust another's methods; for by withholding their confidence from a fellow brother laborer who, with humility and consecrated zeal, is doing a special work in God's appointed way, they are retarding the advancement of the Lord's cause. . . . God can and will use those who have not a thorough education in the schools

of men. A doubt of his power to do this is manifest unbelief. {PH 113 25.2}

Let's look at both sides of the story. How can two walk together unless they are agreed? How is such unity possible in the light of such obvious conflict within the church?

Christ calls for unity.

Our church members see that there are differences of opinion among the leading men, and they themselves enter into controversy regarding the subjects under dispute. Christ calls for unity. **But He does not call for us to unify on wrong practices.** The God of heaven draws a sharp contrast between pure, elevating, ennobling truth and false, misleading doctrines. He calls sin and impenitence by the right name. He does not gloss over wrongdoing with a coat of untempered mortar. I urge our brethren to unify upon a true, scriptural basis.--Manuscript 10, 1905.

God is not asking us to be brain-dead, or to unify on wrong practices.

This means that there must be a church within the Church.

God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ's church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church. {UL 315.5}

He has a body but he will purge the body.

In the light of the inner conflict can the church stand?

The church [militant] may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains [triumphant], while the sinners in Zion will be

I have decided to submit to Christ's tastes in bride-picking ...

sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be **divested of our self-righteousness** and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ. {2SM 380.2}

Consider the circumstances of the Jewish nation when the prophecies of Daniel were given. The Israelites were in captivity, the Temple had been destroyed, their Temple service suspended. Their religion had centered in the ceremonies of the sacrificial system. They had made the outward form all-important, while they had lost **the spirit of true worship**. Their services were corrupted with traditions and practices of heathenism, and in the performance of the sacrificial rites they did not look beyond the shadow of the substance. They did not discern Christ, the True Offering for the sins of man. The Lord wrought to bring the

people into captivity, and to suspend the services in the Temple, in order that the outward ceremonies might not become the total of their religion. The principles and practices must be purged of heathenism, the ritual service ceased, in order that the heart might be revived. **The outward glory was removed, that the spiritual might be revealed.** {UL 161.3}

Does the church within the Church mean that we can separate?

But what does this all mean? Sometimes we are caught between the desire to be a part of a community of believers who worships in Spirit and Truth, and yet we don't find this in our local churches. Many have chosen to distance themselves from such a situation, and to start their own home churches.

Some have asked, "does Walter Veith really mean that we are to attend the nearest Seventh-day Adventist Church regardless of any error preached, or any kind of worship service, and to just be quiet and read our Bibles?"

Each one must answer for himself how he or she chooses to deal with a situation of apostasy, but here are some thoughts to ponder.

If everyone who wanted to follow God's Truth distanced themselves from churches they felt were "apostate", who would be there to befriend, love, and reach out to fellow church members? How are we to be "divested of our self-righteousness"? Should our "rightness" and "right doctrine" overpower our patience with those that don't hold to our beliefs or understanding? Sometimes, there are those that separate because being "right" (and holy) is more important than loving the people with whom they fellowship.

But does that mean that silence against error is being advocated here? Of course not! It is the straight testimony that is to cause the shaking, and we should be prepared to stand for truth even if we are unpopular. We should not be silent when we hear error, but we do need to be kind and respectful even when we speak against error.

Some dear individuals have phoned us and told us how their church has asked them to leave because they held to the three angels' message and Seventh-day Adventist teachings as shared by Walter Veith. One young couple, who had recently heard the *Total Onslaught* series came to a church in Germany, and asked to be baptized. When the pastor heard that they had come to a knowledge of the truth through Walter Veith's series, he flatly told them that they were not welcome in his church. Such a statement would have discouraged anyone, but this young couple found another church a distance away that welcomed them, accepted them into fellowship, and baptized them upon the confession of their faith.

Lesson learned? Find a church that strives to follow Seventh-day Adventist doctrine and attend there, even if it is farther away.

Does that mean that one should never have a home church? That depends on your individual situation and circumstance. Unfortunately, sometimes home churches become gathering places for people who look down on their more "liberal" brothers, those that are in error, or apostate. Spiritual pride is very difficult to identify. We may feel that we are actually feeling sor-

row and concern for brothers and sisters who do not "believe correctly"; when in actuality, we are harboring spiritual pride.

There's nothing wrong with having a home church if you have no other choice. But even if we participate in a home church, we should still be a part of the church body - and consider ourselves to be so, and attend a regular church whenever possible. Meeting occasionally with a group of like believers to study God's word is certainly not wrong, but the important question that must be settled in each and every heart individually is what is the motivation?

If you really and truly do not have a church locally to worship in, then you may not have a choice but to have a home church setting. But we are always to strive to be with the Church. If, for some reason, we have been made unwelcome at a local Church, that does not give us license to now start our own church intending to never return.

The most difficult thing to do is to love those we consider to be "unloveable".

When Walter Veith says to "not leave" the Church - he is not referring to specific local churches, but to the Church as a whole. Go and find the Seventh-day Adventist church that is most closest to what you can live with, and then learn to love the people in it. Many times we attend Church in order to correct others. Doctrinal errors and open sin do need to be met head on, but we also need to give liberty to our brothers and sisters and allow them to be where they are in their own growth process. Remember that you yourself may not have been at the same point in your growth process as you are now. Seek to minister to the members of your church, and to be an influence for good. And leave the rest in God's hands. God will purge His church. Let us be sure that we are not one of those that are purged out because of our spiritual snobbery. This is difficult to do, but if we are all to live in harmony in heaven, a very critical thing to learn.

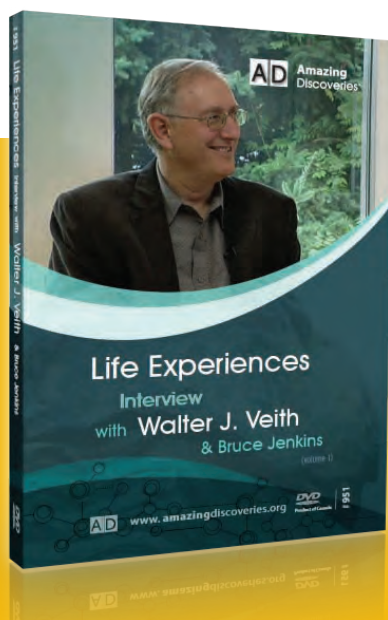
He has a body but he will purge the body

When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defence of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few-- this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.--5T 136 (1882).

Remember Elijah when he thought he was the only one, and God told him He had yet 7000 in Israel that had not bowed the knee to Baal. They were still in Israel - they had not left, but they were hidden within the tares. Jesus has told us that we must not pull out the tares lest we pull out the wheat too. ■

1. Keith Drury, "Beheading Christ," euangelion.topcities.com (October 18, 2005).

Interviews with **Walter J. Veith** and Bruce Jenkins (on DVD)



951 - LIFE EXPERIENCES

Interview with Walter J. Veith: Vol 1

Bruce Jenkins interviews Professor Walter J. Veith on his life experiences as a evolution scientist turned creationist and a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist and on his personal views regarding issues dividing the Church. (120 min)

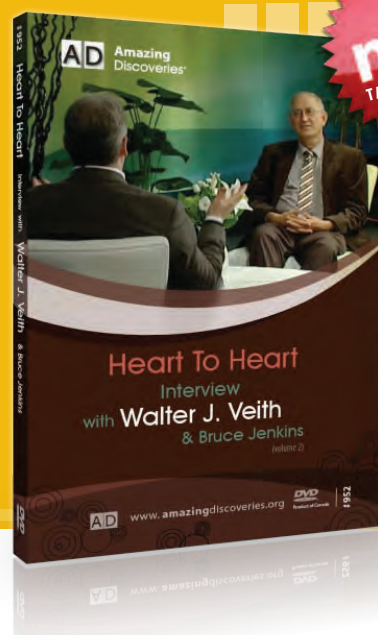
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952 - HEART TO HEART

Interview with Walter J. Veith: Vol 2

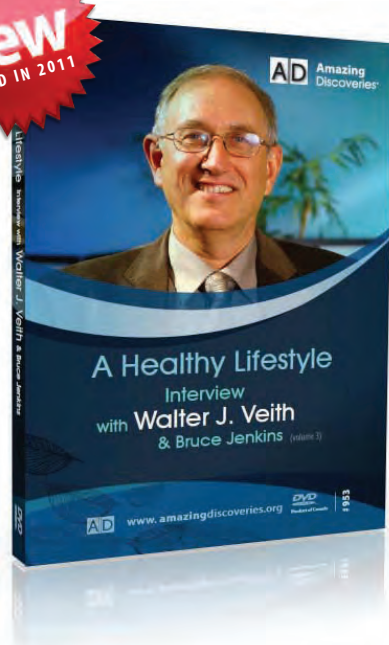
In Bruce Jenkins' second interview with Professor Walter Veith, Bruce follows up on some troubling questions about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In this candid and personal discussion, Bruce asks Walter how to respond to error or betrayal in the Church. Hear Walter's response in this heart-to-heart discussion. (110 min)

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953 - A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

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