

A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.2, No.17

July/August 2002

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry, *teaching, informing and equipping* the church.

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter.

We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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Editors Comment

Why is it that seemingly good men in the faith increasingly are weakening on the essentials of Scripture?...they become unequally yoked with unbelievers; weaken from exposing false prophets and false teachers and see this as 'negative'; shrink from the preaching and exposing of sin; eagerly take in new programmes that minimise the sinful depravity of man; and too quickly accept extra Biblical teaching? Why have so many departed from their historic founding Reformers? The Reformers would be shocked at the acceptance of 'believers' living unholy lives; at the unwillingness to expose the wolves amongst the sheep; at the distaste for preaching sin; and the love for new programmes and new revelation that tickles the ears of the brethren.

The reason for such a declension might well be found in the steady erosion of the once *high view* of the Word of God. With this, the *fear of God* and His Word have likewise diminished.

Many have 'forgotten' as did Aaron and the Israelites when Moses went missing on the mount for 40 days. God's people had lived from miracle to miracle and knew the tangible presence of God. Yet, when God and Moses seemed distant, *they looked back to the ways of the world they had come from*. They fashioned themselves something that they could see and feel. Yet all the while God's mediator was interceding on their behalf and preparing a way for them!

When it seems Gods Word is silent or far from our hearts and minds, do we so easily forget and look to that which is of the world?

God has written His *final* revelation in written Scripture. It is *complete* and all *sufficient*. It is *manna* and *life*. It is *sweet* to the taste, although sometimes *bitter* to swallow. But it is *safe* and *sure*. When the tunnel of life is dark and there appears no light at the end, do we look elsewhere for comfort? Or do we cling to the Word and learn again of the nature and Character of God. (God's nature and character are clearly shown in His dealings with Israel in the Old Testament).

The modern church has become like Aaron and the Israelites who would not be patient in waiting and trusting the Word to do its work. The modern church is no different to the Israelites in the wilderness - a people harking after something they can see and feel. Yet the Lord is so close - His spirit indwells our beings - we are the temple of the Holy Spirit! His Word is a *lamp* and a *light* to our path. *He has surely taken us out of the world, but do we let Him take the world out of us?* Has He not saved us *from* the world *and* its thinking!

Do we fear God and His Word? Do we have a *high view* of the Word of God and do we nurture that view? The Israelites continually tested God and fell to a low view of His Word, only to suffer in power and witness. The church today is no different and is falling quickly into an apostasy of alarming proportions. There is but a remnant left.

The church cries out for revival. However, a look at the real revivals in history will show that those revived *already* had a *high view of Scripture* and a *fear of God* and His Word! Rather, *the church needs a Reformation before a revival*, a returning to a high view of the Word and a return to viewing the world's thinking as being darkened and *evil!* *Sola Scriptura!* **Terry Arnold**

Sydney Trip - August

We have prepared a Sydney itinerary for August, (see P.12). For final details or queries ring Garry (02) 96702648 or Terry on 0411489472

Joyce Meyer

In recent years high profile TV evangelist/teacher, Joyce Meyer, has captured the minds and hearts of millions of Christians worldwide. Her tapes, books and appearances have received much attention from bookstores and churches across the breadth of Christendom.

Although Meyer has some helpful material, she is essentially a Word-Faith teacher as well as an enthusiast of psychology. Her Word-Faith teaching copies much of what Copeland, Hagin, Hinn and other false prophets have taught.*

A sample of her quotes follows**:

'During that time He entered hell, where you and I deserved to go (legally) because of our sin. He paid the price there...Jesus paid on the cross and in hell.' (1)

'God rose up from His throne and said to demon powers tormenting the sinless son of God, 'Let Him go'. Then the resurrection power of almighty God went through hell and filled Jesus...he was resurrected from the dead - the first born-again man.' (2)

'...you cannot go to heaven unless you believe with all your heart that Jesus took your place in hell...Jesus went to hell for you.' (3)...*'For three days he was alone paying for our sins as only a man'* (4)...*'Jesus said 'it is finished'. And he meant the old covenant. The job he had to do was just getting started. He really did the job the three days and nights that he was in hell. That's where the job was done...he was pronounced guilty on the cross but he paid the price in hell...All the hosts of hell was upon him. Upon Him. They got on him. They got him down in the floor and got on him. And they were laughing and mocking...Sunday morning, here comes the Son. Sunday morning, God gets himself together. Ho, hoooo. Justice has been met, somehow the things been taken care of. And ol' God gets his voice together and he hollers out three words and they go roaring through the universe and entering the gates of hell. He said, 'It is enough! It is enough!'* (5)

Anything that adds to, or detracts from, the atonement and the deity of Jesus Christ is cultic and dangerously heretical. Jesus did not atone for our sins and take our place *in hell*, but *only* on the *cross* of Calvary! He was never tormented by demon powers and was never resurrected from the dead in hell! Jesus did not have to be '*born again*'. Jesus was never '*only a man*'. (For Scriptural refutations see our paper: '*The Word Faith Movement - A Closer Look*').

Another heresy of Meyer is the teaching of what appears to be '*Sinless Perfection*'. Meyer says: *'...you are made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. Most people who go to denominational churches never ever hear that! They never hear it! never! All I was ever taught to say was, 'I, a poor miserable sinner.' I am not poor. I am not miserable. And I am not a sinner. That is a lie from the pit of Hell! That is what I were and if I still was, then Jesus died in vain. Amen?'* (5)

This clever logic may sound reasonable but it is not scriptural. We are in fact *saved sinners*. The apostle John says: ***'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us'***, (1Jn.1:8-10); The apostle Paul says: ***'This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief'***, (1Tim.1:15).

Meyers shows clearly where she obtains her '*revelations*': *The Bible can't even find any way to explain this. Not really. That's why you've got to get it by revelation. There are no*

words to explain what I'm telling you. I've got to just trust God that He's putting it into your spirit like he put it into mine...

...I don't know what hell looks like but God gave me a few ideas. Its hot, fire hot, but at the same time its cold and clammy. That's kind of different, isn't it. Fire hot, but cold and clammy.' (5)

Apart from the extra-Biblical revelations, Joyce Meyer is unscholarly and deceptive in her exposition of many passages of Scripture. For example, of Luke 23:43 she says: *'And in Luke 23:43, Jesus said unto him, 'I say unto you today you shall be in paradise with me.'* There is no punctuation in the original translation of the Bible. We have punctuated it and in this particular Scripture it was punctuated wrong. They put in there: *'I say unto you comma, today you shall be in paradise with me, making it appear that the minute Jesus died on the cross He went straight to paradise. No, no, no. He did not. The way it should read is: 'I say unto you today comma. I'm telling you today. Today I'm telling you that you are going to be in paradise with me.'* But he didn't say, *'You're going to be there today.'* He said, *'I'm telling you today.'* (5)

While Meyers has denied a comma in one place she has conveniently put a comma in another place! This is exactly what the cults and others do who teach '*soul sleep*', (that a Christian on death does not go immediately to be with the Lord). The phrase '*I say unto you*' (*'amen soi lego'*) is used elsewhere 74 times in the Gospels alone. In 73 places the Jehovah Witness Bible (*New World Translation*) puts a break - a comma - immediately after the phrase, '*I say unto you*'. However, Luke 23:43 is their *only exception*! Why? - because it goes against the *Watchtowers* (JW) teaching. Similarly with Meyer's Word-Faith theology of a Jesus in hell paying for our sins - the comma is misplaced to fit her teaching. However, standard Greek scholarship has always recognised that the immediate context demands the comma to be placed *after* '*you*', as is shown in *every* other case.

When Meyers has been challenged to consider and repent of her teachings, she resorts to the same reply that many of the TV evangelists use - that those challenging her are '*religious people*' or '*religious pharisees*'.

Meyer also teaches faith healing similar to many of the Word-faith healers. She says: *'Pain is a spirit. When it gets in your body, tell it to leave.'* (5) The problem with this teaching is not only that it is unscriptural but that *it doesn't work* for Joyce Meyer...she has had breast cancer and a mastectomy!

As is usual with Word-Faith teaching, Meyer also teaches a '*wealth Gospel*'. This has certainly been fulfilled in her own life - she is a very wealthy woman.

Don Matzat writes: *'Here is the deception in all this: A person gains a following, they get a lot of money because they sell a lot of tapes, and think its the blessing of God, when all they are doing is telling sinners what sinners want to hear. What do sinners want to hear? - I'm not a sinner! Of course, people flock to you for that and therefore its not the blessing of God. It's simply a deception...she has rejected the basic Reformational truth of Justification. She is a heretic!'* (6)

Terry Arnold

*See our paper: '*The Word Faith Movement - A Closer Look*').

**See: <http://www.discernment.org/> <http://www.rapidnet.com/>

(1) '*What Should You Believe*', Ch.4, P.35, Aug/91 (2) *Ibid*, P.36 (3) *Ibid*, P.38. In a new edition of this book some changes were made but the bulk of this teaching remains. Deletions include '*Jesus took your place in hell.*' (4) *Ibid*, P.38 (5) Sermon - '*From the cross to the throne*' (6) Don Matzat - interview: '*The Preacher Who Doesn't Tell It Like It Is.*'

Bring the Books!

It must surely be a mark of old age, but I often find myself reminiscing about the early days of my Christian life. I can remember hearing preachers who raised their voices when they preached. I have seen preachers point their finger at the congregation and call them sinners. (To their faces! Dinkum!) I remember sweaty old firebrands who named sin. I remember my old pastor preaching to us about a magazine article as he held it up before the congregation, and when he denounced the modern views of the author, he actually stamped it under foot!

Now I know that dates me somewhere back around the Jurassic era, but it is strange how little it troubles me to be a theological dinosaur. No doubt you may be wondering where this is leading. Well, I also remember when most counselling was done from the pulpit. When preachers thundered fearlessly against sin, and sinners trembled in the pews, (and responded in droves when the invitation was given). When very little of the pastor's time was spent in counselling his myth-guided, myth-taken, myth-erable parishioners. It seems to me that PFP (pussy footed preachers) are one of the direct causes for many of the woes of the modern day church.

Sigmund Freud is renowned for having pioneered the pseudo-scientific fields of study and therapy known as psychology and psychiatry. Not nearly as many know that his theories have brought overwhelming complexity and heartache to pastors. I have to shake my head in wonderment at pastors who blindly follow the blind 'experts'. There is an insightful quote by Freud from the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* (Summer 1991), '*Patients are nothing but riff-raff. The only useful purposes they serve are to help us earn a living and provide learning material. In any case, we cannot help them.*' I wonder how many uni students doing Shrinkology 101 ever read that quote?

There are some excellent books in print these days on the subject of counselling. I have picked up a number of clues from several authors, but one of my favourites is Ed Bulkley. He has written two books, '*Why Christians Can't Trust Psychology*', and '*Only God Can Heal the Wounded Heart*'. I recommend them both.

I like Ed Bulkley's challenge to the reader (pp. 7-9) in the first book. He sounds like a compassionate, well read pastor who has seen through the hype (and tripe) of psychotherapy, and in this book he encourages pastors to go back to the Bible for the wisdom that is needed for counselling hurting people.

One of the best features of the book is the way Ed Bulkley defines 'integrationism'. Chapter 1 clearly describes the modern counsellor who has been trained to 'integrate' the conclusions, principles, (and wild eyed theories) of atheistic, humanistic psychologists and psychiatrists into Christian counselling. The author quotes a Christian psychologist who

defends his use of secular, humanistic principles as being '*the spoiling of the Egyptians*'. He says it is no different from the Israelites plundering the treasures of the Egyptians when they fled Egypt. Bulkley aptly replies that a much more appropriate figure would be the Israelites embracing the idolatry of the Canaanites! (p.31)

One of the attractive features of the book is the structure of the chapters. Each chapter begins by covering the issues - Part one; the myths of Psychology - Part two; the question of compatibility between Psychology and Christianity - Part three; a Biblical alternative to Psychology - Part four; and several useful appendices - Part five. But the aspect of the author's writing that appealed to me the most was his use of a narrative section in the last half of each chapter. For instance, the preface tells of a pastor who preaches the sufficiency of the Scripture from the pulpit, but finds himself advising a distraught counsellor to seek help from a professional Christian (integrationist) counsellor. When the counsellor rebukes him for his hypocrisy, he is shocked into a deep searching of his heart. The book is an account of the issues a pastor must work through if he would intelligently forsake 'integrationism', and practice Biblical Counselling.

You will be surprised at the quotes from secular psychologists who disapprove of the theories and practices used in psychotherapy. You will be amazed at the tentacles of rationalism and modernism that have crept into 'evangelical' seminaries through 'integrationism'. You need to read of the experiment performed by a professor of psychology, in which he had '*eight perfectly sane people*' admitted to twelve different mental hospitals. They were all diagnosed as being '*schizophrenic*', and were kept, some as long as fifty two days! The other patients recognised them as being 'pseudopatients', but the staff never did! (pp. 75,76)

I, for one, would love to go back to the days when the pastor just preached the Word, and preached it hard. The days when most of the counselling was done from the pulpit! But those days are past. Our world has been so thoroughly conditioned to believe that psychology and psychiatry are inevitable parts of life that pastors simply must set aside much of our visitation time (not to say our family time) for trying to help people who have 'suffered many things of many shrinks, and were nothing bettered'. And if we would truly help them, we simply must know how to avoid the traps laid for pastors by Freud and a thousand of his disciples. And we simply must know how to search the treasure trove of our Father's Word, so that we can point broken hearts away from the broken cisterns of human wisdom to the Fountain of Living Waters.

This book will help you.

Buddy Smith

A Gospel of Words

'Oh perverse generation, if you look for symbols and signs, you shall be deluded with the devil as Gospel, and fall a prey to the destroyer.

...in words - thus only is a true Gospel to be delivered. Christ is the Word, and the Gospel a Gospel of words and thoughts. It does not appeal to the eye; it appeals to the ear, and to the intellect, and to the heart. It is a spiritual thing, and can only be learned by those spirits who are awakened to grasp at spiritual truth.

...This is the essence of the Gospel, that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and rose again the third day, according to the

Scriptures - died the substitute for us criminals, rose the representative of us pardoned sinners - died that our sins might die, and lives again that our souls may live.

Diligently invite others to come and trust Jesus. Tell them that there is life for the dead in a look at Jesus crucified; tell them that that look is a matter of the soul, it is simple confidence; tell them that none ever did confide in Christ and were cast away; tell them what you have felt as a result of your trusting Jesus, and who can tell, many disciples will be added to His church, a risen Saviour will be glorified, and you will be comforted by what you have seen!...

(**Charles Spurgeon** - Sermon - '*The Stone Rolled Away*')

****To All Elders/Pastors****

We in this ministry would like to offer a *free* copy of the book *'Eternal Questions'* to all elders/pastors. We believe this book could be well used in evangelism and preaching/teaching. It promotes a clear Chronological and Biblical understanding of the Gospel for the unsaved. Order now.

Lawyers/Catholic Church Suits

'According to an article in Saturday's *New York Times*, approximately six lawyers around the country have worked on sexual abuse cases involving Catholic dioceses and officials since the early 1980's...

...Now those same lawyers are swamped: 'There is too much attention, too many cases and competition on the horizon.' One attorney in Boston, who has some two dozen lawyers helping him to prepare sexual abuse lawsuits, admitted to fatigue after working 18 hours a day. Another attorney said he fields between 100 and 200 calls a day from survivors, 'about half of whom are breaking their silence for the first time.' He has represented more than 400 people who say they were abused by priests, and estimates he has won more than \$60 million in settlements from Catholic dioceses. Not a bad deal for him. According to the *New York Times*, plaintiffs' lawyers typically take a third and sometimes as much as 40 percent of settlements and judgments'.

(*Religion Today*, April 29th, 2002)

Alpha Fruit - UK

'Recent reports in the national press have once again raised the issue of the validity of claims made by the 'Alpha' course leadership...

...with regard to Miss [Samantha] Fox [Famous model], the evidence...has been clear: she has not abandoned the ungodly activity of so called 'glamour modelling'...as far back as 1995 there was no evidence of conversion. Asked about how she could reconcile topless modelling with being a Christian, she said: 'Easily. God gave me my body. I know it has made many people happy. There is no conflict there. I don't and have never promoted pornography. I'm not a born again Christian because I have always been one. I am doing what God wants me to do. My prayer each night is: 'Let me go my way and make people happy. Let me do the right thing.'

And now within three days of the claim made about Miss Fox, 'The Daily Telegraph' has finally reproduced what has already been widely reported elsewhere in the national press: that Miss Fox has entered into a Lesbian relationship with her manager, Myra Stratton ('Telegraph Magazine', Dec.29).

...What Alpha does is to offer...converts to a Christianity...which sees no change in a person's lifestyle; a Christianity without repentance'. (CRN News No.132001/2)

Editors comment: The Alpha course is seriously deficient in its presentation of the Gospel and dangerous in its teaching of the Holy Spirit. See *Diakrisis* April/99, P.2.

What Really Happened At Jenin?

(By Marcus Gee, *Globe & Mail*, Toronto, Canada, April 27th, 2002)

'Well before the dust had settled, the siege of Jenin had become a symbol of Israeli brutality throughout the Arab world and beyond. Palestinian leaders said 500 of their people had been killed when Israeli troops invaded the West Bank refugee camp. There was talk of massacres and mass graves...

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Israeli soldiers had committed 'despicable crimes' in Jenin...'The Independent' of London accused Israel of 'a monstrous war crime.' 'Amnesty International' called for an immediate investigation into 'the killings of hundreds of Palestinians.'

What really happened in Jenin? Less...than the original hysterics suggest. About 50 bodies have been found in the rubble. Israel says that perhaps 80 Palestinians were killed in all, and that most were armed fighters, not civilians. Early reports that said the Israelis had levelled Jenin appear to have been exaggerated. Aerial photographs show that the devastation described in news reports represent an area about 100 metres square, a small corner of the camp.

As for the infamous Israeli massacre, reporters who visited Jenin trying to document it came up empty-handed. The *New York Times* did dozens of interviews and found 'no solid evidence of large-scale, deliberate killing of civilians.' The *Washington Post* said 'no evidence has surfaced to support allegations by Palestinian groups and aid organizations of large-scale massacres or executions by Israeli troops.'

Did Palestinian civilians die in Jenin? Undoubtedly, and every lost life is a cause for sorrow. But who was really to blame for their deaths? Israel did not go into Jenin for nothing. Palestinian extremists from hate-mongering groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad had turned it into a launching pad for terror attacks on Israel. Before the Israeli invasion, the camp was a warren of bomb-making factories and terrorist hideouts.

More than 20 of the suicide bombers who have attacked Israel during the recent violence came from there. One extremist alone, Thabet Mardawi of Islamic Jihad, is thought to have dispatched nine bombers from Jenin, killing a total of 20 Israelis and injuring 150. He will not do it again. Israeli soldiers arrested him in the camp and put him behind bars. They also intercepted 10 suicide bombers who had made farewell videotapes and were ready to strike.

If Israel were as ruthless as its critics say, it would have done to Jenin what the Russians did to the Chechen capital of Grozny. It would have used its superior firepower and pounded the place to rubble with warplanes, tanks and artillery.

Instead, Israel sent its soldiers into the narrow and dangerous streets to search house by house - a tactic that reduced civilian casualties but put its own men in extreme danger. Twenty-three were killed, making the invasion one of the most costly military operations for Israel since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Only after those deaths did the army send in bulldozers to knock down the booby-trapped buildings where terrorists were hiding, and even then it made frequent announcements by loud-hailer that civilians would be allowed to leave, as some did.

That is considerably more than Hamas does when it dispatches killers to blow themselves up in Israeli buses, banquet halls and cafés. Yet militant leaders have the gall to blame Israel for attacking non-combatants.

Perhaps it will come out that Israel did commit misdeeds in Jenin. If so, the perpetrators should be punished. But nothing so far supports the myth of atrocity and massacre that sprang like a wraith from the rubble of the camp.

If anyone is to blame for the destruction visited on Jenin, it is not the Israelis, who are fighting a just, defensive war against terrorism and hate. It is the Palestinian militants who turned Jenin into a terror base and, when the Israelis came to get them, hid among civilians for protection.

Neil Anderson, Demonisation & Sola Scriptura

In my travels I meet people who tell of dreams, visions, voices speaking to them, demonic activity, casting demons out of Christians, etc. When occasionally I have questioned the accounts according to Scripture I have been met with reactions ranging from anger to the question - 'so, what was my experience?' No doubt most of the people recounting these experiences are convinced of their reality. The difficulty is that, regardless of whether an experience is truth or error, no one can ultimately refute someone's personal experience! However, the danger is in the attempt to develop a theology to explain them. Today, too many are happy to accept extra-Biblical possibilities.

Some use the following logic - '*We don't have Scripture to explain many things that happen in nature or the environment either, likewise Scripture does not explain these experiences.*' The deception in the above statement is that many things (in nature or the environment, etc) are *not spiritual and don't need to be explained by Scripture!* When strange things happen with my motor vehicle, do I need Scripture to explain them? But for experiences and testimonies that are *spiritual* and relate to the spirit or soul of man - we have a '**more sure word of prophecy...the prophecy of Scripture**' in which to judge by, (2Pet.1:19,20). Any doctrine or teaching on spiritual matters must be based on Scripture *alone*. 'Testimonies' of demonic activity and casting demons out of 'Christians' are *spiritual* - they must be tested by Scripture.

We are 'the temple of the Holy Spirit'. To allow for experiences of Christians supposedly being indwelt with demons is arguably blasphemy when one considers the truth of the Christian having the Holy of Holies inside and being indwelt with the Holy Spirit! No believer in Scripture ever had an indwelling demon, let alone was delivered of one! Yes, there are '*principalities and powers*' and demonic *oppression in the mind*, (2Cor.10:3-5). However, nowhere in Scripture is there license to speak to or name demons, or that Christians can be *possessed* and have demons cast out of them!

Are we really prepared to be 'Sola Scriptura' ('Scripture Alone') *as it was originally taught?*

One Christian leader who well exceeds the boundaries of *Sola Scriptura* is author and Christian Psychologist, Neil Anderson. He is the author of best selling books such as '*Bondage Breaker*' which is full of testimonies of 'Christians' being delivered of ancestral or indwelling demons...and by his methods and his 'steps' to 'freedom'.

Neil Anderson has made a science out of *systematising* experiences. He specialises in helping Christians with 'spiritual and emotional bondages' by going back into their past traumas and resurrecting reasons for them. But does not the Bible say, '**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**'? (2Cor.5:17)

Arguably we are in danger of accepting too much talk about experiences or voices from spirits and even the 'Holy Spirit'...instead of *the voice from Scripture*. So what should we think when a person relates to us an experience such as... '*one night a demon brushed my skin and I could feel the hair on the back of my leg...*' Perhaps our response should be: What does Scripture say about this? One Scripture that springs to mind to test the above mentioned 'hair raising' experience is: '**We know that whosoever is born of God...that wicked one toucheth him not**, (1Jn.5:18).

Our mindset must have a *filter* for such subjective tales. This filter is the Bible! Sadly, today Christians feel a need to

understand or explain 'religious' experiences. This opens the door for extra-Biblical teaching.

Neil Anderson teaches that we can receive full salvation from God yet still be in bondage to Satan and sin. We can still have demons indwelling us and controlling our behaviour. This teaching is a direct attack on the sufficiency of the salvation that God has provided through Jesus Christ! The issue here is the *sufficiency of Scripture* as provided through His written Word - the Bible. Romans 6 says we died with Him, were buried with Him and raised with Him in newness of life...That takes care of my 'ancestral' demons!

The door to this teaching has undeniably been *Psychology*. Neil Anderson echoes what Psychology says - that people are 'victims' of bad or demonic behaviour. Yet no Scripture supports us being a 'victim', inheriting a demon, or being in bondage to demons. No believer was ever demonised in Scripture! Neil Anderson's teachings, along with many 'deliverance ministries', minimise the *personal responsibility* to resist sin and not to yield to unrighteousness, (Rom.6:12,13); to '**fight**', (1Tim.6:12; 2Tim.4:7; 1Cor.9:26; Heb.10:32); '**mortify the deeds of the body**', (Rom.8:13; Col.3:5); *deny* our sinful ways, (Tit.2:11,12); '**cast off the works of darkness**', (Rom.13:12); to '**cleanse ourselves**' and be '**perfecting holiness**', (2Cor.7:1).

'Christian warfare' ministry is big business! Christians are devouring these books written by the likes of Neil Anderson which are strongly promoted by most Christian bookstores. Some of the stories in Anderson's books describe intimate and sordid details of people's *sinful* lives including gross acts of sin. They, in themselves, are enough to arguably pollute some peoples minds and tickle ears with sensational stories of apparitions of demons and amazing spiritual encounters. Anderson recounts hundreds of pages of 'true stories' of demonic and obsessive behaviour, manic disorders, obsessive thoughts, cultic bondages, etc. He gives story after story of 'Christians' who discovered 'freedom' from the bondages of the demonic realm. He says he counsels hundreds of people who hear demonic voices. It takes him 3-4 hours to 'free' the Christian from such. But are these pictures of people who have died with Christ and living as new Creatures in Christ with resurrected lives? Is not Jesus and His Word sufficient? Did God leave holes in His plan so that we need people like Neil Anderson and their worldly psychological methods?

Did I not get the freedom that Neil Anderson promises - *at salvation*? No doubt some of these evil stories occur, but who said they were demonic? Why do we shy away from assigning such behaviour as *fleshly* and sinful? And what of the two weapons we have - the Holy Spirit and the Word of God? Is not the Gospel '**the power of God unto Salvation to everyone...**'? (Rom.1:16); or should we include Anderson's seven steps to freedom? Yet Neil Anderson says: '*Now you can learn from their stories*'. But go into Mental Health Wards and you will find many of the patients are religious and one could fill books with their religious experiences. Is this where we learn from?

'Sola Scriptura' resists the temptation to look *outside* for answers to sinful and fleshly behaviour. Anderson says we can go through his seven steps and discover the freedom in Jesus Christ. If he was speaking here to the unbeliever his teaching might have some value. But Anderson is targeting 'Christians'. His teaching is essentially telling Christians that Jesus, the Gospel, the indwelling Spirit and the Bible, are not enough.

Because Anderson and others have books of stories and experiences, they must systemise them to fit into a theology

that answers their questions as to why they occur.

I do not make light of the troubles we have as believers - they are real enough and the flesh is at times at war with the spirit and our behaviour is not what it always should be. But Anderson speaks of sinful behaviours (fear, anger, etc) as habits that cannot be broken except by counselling or deliverance from demonic control. *To detract from the personal responsibility we have as believers for our fleshly and sinful behaviour is exactly the error that Eve made in the garden when she blamed Satan for her own sinful act!*

Anderson cleverly sets up 'straw men' by quickly moving from Christians being demonised to saying that the 'teaching today is that Christians are free from demonic activity or cannot be oppressed by the Devil'. But we are not here saying that Christians do not get attacked by Satan! But rather, sin should not be blamed on Satan.

Anderson says 85% of Christians have demonic problems. But he mixes and confuses terminologies to do with demonisation. 'Demonisation' is a demon entering into a body and possessing it. As previously stated, according to Scripture this is impossible for the Christian!

Although some admit that demons cannot enter into the *spirit* of a Christian, they allow for demons to enter into the *soul*. They take the picture of the temple in the Old Testament, containing the 'Holy of Holies', the 'Holy Place', and an 'Outer Court'. They spiritualise this to: the human spirit being the 'Holy of Holies', the soul being the 'Holy Place', and the body being the 'Outer Court'. Therefore, although demons could not enter into the 'Holy of Holies' where the presence of God was, they could enter into other parts of the temple - the 'soul'.

Firstly, this understanding of a demon in the 'Holy Place' or anywhere in the temple would be *blasphemous* to the Jews. Secondly, it is not taught in either the Old or New Testaments. Thirdly, the person of a believer as a *whole* is the temple or the dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Some use 1Thessalonians 5:23: **'And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ'**. However, this does not teach three separate entities but rather three parts of *one whole*, (similar to the Trinity). The words '**wholly**' and '**whole**' show this clearly.

We are not here saying that a demon cannot oppress the mind of a Christian (2Cor.10:3-5), but demonic indwelling (possession) of a believer is not found in Scripture and violates the teaching of Sanctification, the indwelling Holy Spirit and 1900 years of 'the faith once delivered'.

Anderson says most Christians who are 'suffering' from demonic control live '*relatively normal lives*' and that no causes are evident. He even attributes physical problems such as headaches and dizziness in Christians to demonic control. He tells stories of people who were '*dealt a bad hand in life from the beginning*'. But was not everyone born in sin? Most of us could have tales to tell of bad experiences in childhood. But what does this prove? Perhaps it seeks to explain away what few want to hear - that we are not 'victims' but that we inherited a depraved sin nature from Adam and Eve which must be acknowledged!

Anderson tells people not to perceive themselves as evil or bad, but as 'victims'. The blame is invariably put to demons. He tells stories of foul spirits speaking out of 'Christians' and that he (Anderson) 'takes authority over them'. The question must be asked - what were these people saved *from*? Were they not saved from the power of Satan? Ephesians 2 says we *were* once under Satan's rule, revelling in the flesh and without hope in the world...but *now* we are seated with Christ and

in His workmanship to good works.

The *only offensive armoury* we have against Satan in Scripture is not 'deliverance' or Neil Anderson's seven steps, but rather the Word of God, (Eph.6:17). Anderson says we must speak aloud God's Word in defence because Satan does not know what we are thinking. But what does God's Word say?: **'Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you'**, (James 4:7). Is this not enough?

Anderson says Matthew 12 instructs us to '**bind the strong man**' before we can release captives from 'demonic' behaviour. But let the reader examine demonic activity in Scripture and compare it with what Neil teaches. Read Matthew 12 in context to see that it is a demonstration of Christ's power and his *Messiahship* and the defeat of Satan at the cross.

Neil Anderson admits that many of his ideas have come from 'counselling' Christians - this he says is how he has found out about the devil and his works. He has discovered that 3am in the morning is the prime time for demonic activity. Where did Neil find this out? - from a satanic high priest! So, what are gullible Christians to think next time they look at the clock and it is 2.59am?... (Personally, I wake up most mornings at 3am! Do I suffer from demonic activity? To be honest, I rarely even think of demons. According to Anderson, I am in the rare 15% who do not suffer from demonic activity).

People pay large sums of money to listen to Neil Anderson's methods and he makes merchandise of God's people, (2Pet.2:3). One seminar gives information that will surely have the '85%' of Christians thinking they have a demonic problem. An 'advanced' seminar teaches you how to counsel such a 'victim'. The bait he uses in books and seminars are all-encompassing questions such as: '*Have you ever had lustful thoughts, greed, anger, fear...*' The problem is most people will identify with something or someone in his books but then accept the associated false teaching on demons and deliverance.

Anderson wrongly equates the Gadarene demoniac with Christians. He says demonic control is internal and it affects the central nervous system. This is clearly demon possession! Where does he get this from? - not from the Bible but from experience, counselling and testimonies. He says adopted children are more prone to demonic control. He says every person he has counselled having demonic control has expressed some kind of sexual aberration. He calls it 'demonic sexual attack' and that demons are transferred by sexual union. He tells pastors present at 'deliverances' ('exorcisms') to be sure of their standing with God so as not to allow transfer of demons! In one case he cites a lady who said '*the demons attacked my sense of right and wrong...and I became involved in immorality*'...so she became another 'victim'. But don't we already know immorality is sin? What does the Bible say? **Paul calls this fornication!** (1Cor.6:9)

What has the church been doing for 2000 years before the likes of Neil Anderson came along? What will a generation of young people raised on this teaching think? Will they have a high view of the Word and see no deficiencies in the salvation provided by Christ?

As we submit to God and resist temptation and fleshly desires, the Holy Spirit empowers us. Too many Christians have submitted themselves to the authority of this man's new teaching and psychological methods, instead of to Scripture alone! Forget Anderson's 'steps' to freedom. There is one step in Christ and from thereon it is a battle, but with victory already won. **Terry Arnold**

Recommended resources: - Neil Anderson Critique - (audio tape on 'Demonisation'; psychology, etc); '*Delivered from the Power of Darkness - A True Story*' (Excellent video on the Gospel & demonology)

Our Blessed Hope

Heb.12:22-24
Rev.2:7
& 3:4
Rev.22:7
Is.57:1,2; 65:16,17

'...the beauty and glory of it was inexpressible. There, said they, is Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the innumerable company of angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect. You are going now, said they, to the paradise of God, wherein you shall see the tree of life, and eat of the neverfading fruits thereof; and when you come there you shall have white robes given you, and your walk and talk shall be every day with the King, even all the days of eternity. There you shall not see again such things as you saw when you were in the lower region upon the earth, to wit, Sorrow, Sickness, Affliction, and Death, for the former things are passed away. You are going now to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to the prophets, men that God hath taken away from the evil to come, and that are now resting upon their beds, each one walking in his righteousness.

Gal.6:7
1Jn.3:2

The men then ask, What must we do in the Holy place? To whom it was answered, You must there receive the comfort of all your toil, and have joy for all your sorrows; you must reap what you have sown, even the fruit of all your prayers and tears, and sufferings for the King by the way. In that place you must wear crowns of Gold, and enjoy the perpetual sight and vision of the Holy One, for there you shall see Him as He is. There also you shall serve Him continually with praise, with shouting, and thanksgiving, whom you desired to serve in the world, though with much difficulty because of the infirmity of your flesh. There your eyes shall be delighted with seeing, and your ears with hearing the pleasant voice of the Mighty One. There you shall enjoy your friends again, that are gone thither before you; and there you shall with joy receive even everyone that follows into the Holy Place after you. There also you shall be clothed with glory and majesty, and put into an equipage for to ride out with the King of Glory.

1Thess.4:13-17;
Jude14; Dan.7:9,10
1Cor.6:2,3

When He shall come with sound of trumpet in the clouds, as upon the wings of the wind, you shall come with Him; and when He shall sit upon the throne of judgement, you shall sit by Him; yea, and when He shall pass sentence upon all the workers of iniquity, let them be angels or men; you shall also have a voice in that judgement, because they were His and your enemies. Also when He shall again return to the city, you shall go too with sound of trumpet, and be ever with Him.'

(From '*Pilgrims Progress*' by John Bunyan - (The second best selling book in history). We highly recommend this book.)

'Are They Really Christians?'

'Imagine yourself in Africa...The native culture is one where there is...ancestor worship, the worship of the dead, idolatry in abundance, a reliance on fetishes, a system of works to please the people's gods, including a daily sacrifice for sin. The religion is a part of the social structure so that no one can leave without being ostracised from the community. They condemn those who turn to Jesus and who say that they know that they are going to Heaven.

Then one day you see them take the hip of a long since dead religious leader and parade it around the town. The people lead the procession and publicly pray for this dead person to protect them and prosper them. They also pray to other dead people who they believe to be their mediators. They dress up in strange clothes and a drum is pounded...

...They carry the hip in a glass box on the shoulders of four men, followed closely by the priests and religious leaders, into their temple. Then they bow before their god, which they have made with their own hands, and is kept at the front of the temple. They place the hip close to the head of the same dead religious leader.

The head sits in a glass box adorned by a huge gold spire like shrine. The head is black in colour, shrivelled up and so disgusting looking that it would turn your stomach. All the children of the land are encouraged to come and worship at the foot of the dead head.

What would you imagine this type of religion to be? Occult perhaps? Surely not Christian!

Imagine, as a Christian, not wanting to offend these people,

you call them Christians, just as you are. They say that they only believe in one God and they call him Jesus but that is only what they say. Really they are not born again of the Spirit of God at all.

Would you not be deceiving them, not to say anything of yourself, by calling them Christians?...

...You may have to imagine these things happening in Africa but if you come to Drogheda in Ireland on the first Sunday of July each year, you will see the procession of the hip happen before your very eyes.

You see this is what Catholicism is really about. So many Christians are flirting with it and foolishly thinking that it is Christian...as a Church it is far from Christian.

I say these things about the Catholic faith, to 'Christians', because so many 'Christians' are believing the lie that Catholicism is Christian. It most certainly is NOT! In so believing they keep Catholics from hearing the Good News. These Christians love themselves but not the Catholics they claim to love.

The message of the Cross is where the power of God is to free Catholics, as well as lost Protestants (and everyone else), from their sin. In calling them Christian you are deceiving them and yourself. Don't keep The Message from them. Don't be deceived - if you really love them - reach out to Catholics (and everyone else) with The Message of the Cross - the only message with the power to save them from their sin - the Message about the only Saviour - JESUS...

(RNW Vollebregt, 1995)

Life without Christ is a hopeless end; Life with Christ is an endless hope.

Near-Death/Out Of Body Experiences

The twentieth Century boasts a host of people claiming after-death experiences. This has continued unabated with best selling books titillating the senses of millions of Christians. Here are a few examples:

Roberts Liardon in *'I Saw Heaven'* says: *'You never have to mow the grass in Heaven'* (P.12); Some of the saints *'wore jewellery'* (P.13); Some angels have wings and some do not (P.13); After a *'water fight'* in the river of life Jesus *'dunked'* Liardon and later takes him to a storage house where there are spare body parts - *'Legs hung on the wall...there were shelves filled with neat little packages of eyes.'* Jesus explained that these were parts for people on earth...to claim by faith (P.19). Liardon's books are sold in most Christian bookstores.

Dr. Percy Collett's 'testimony' and book was endorsed by the infamous Jimmy Swaggart. Collett testified that Heaven is a giant cube. He got in a *'Holy Ghost elevator'* (P.3) and travelled 700 miles from the ground floor to his mansion. *'Dogs do not bark'* in Heaven and *'you can go to the banqueting house and eat all you want and no plumbing is needed.'* (P.4)

Betty Malz died and went to Heaven. But 28 minutes later her father prayed for her and she came back, according to *'My Glimpse of Eternity'*. It sold over one million copies and pushed this 62 year old *Assembly of God* adherent into the limelight. Conferences, churches and Christian TV shows clamoured to hear her story. But Dr. Henry Bopp, who performed surgery on her, says: *'She did not die. She may have dreamt she did, but she did not die in the hospital.'* The anaesthetist says, *'I'll flat out guarantee this didn't happen.'* Indeed *Christianity Today* gives numerous quotes from reliable medical personnel refuting the Betty Malz claim, (22/7/91). However, many of the sentences in her book should make readers cautious. On P.88 she meets Jesus who invited her into Heaven. *'This time the jewelled wall was on my left and the angel walked on my right. Then I saw the sun coming up over the wall...'* But does not Revelation 22:5 say there is no need of a sun in Heaven?

A similar book was titled *'Embraced By the Light'* by Betty Eadie. Betty says in 1973 she spent five hours in Heaven. Sales for this book quickly soared to over one million copies and for 40 weeks this book was on the *New York Times* best seller list. *Bantam Books* paid \$15 million for paperback rights. The Australian Salvation Army *War Cry* recommended it, (9/7/94). But despite the Christian veneer around this book, the author was a *Mormon*! Says one reviewer: *'Jesus seems to be relegated to the role of a happy tour guide'* and *'not the Saviour of the world who died on the cross,'* (*Christianity Today*, 7/3/94). Subsequently the Mormons forsook her because she refused to declare her allegiance to them. To do such would have influenced sales and TV appearances. So she

was *'now touring and getting a following in the New Age community'*, (*On Being*, 9/95). The book also smacked of universalism: *'Jesus is the door through which we will all return. Whether we learn of him here or while in the spirit we must eventually accept him...'* (P.85)

However, the mother of all accounts was *'A Divine Revelation of Hell'* by Mary Baxter. It sold large quantities in Christian bookstores when it first came on the market and is still sold today. As a young Christian I have to admit being fascinated by the whole account of this lady's journey into hell and back. It detailed graphic and nightmarish accounts of horrors and sufferings in Hell. Most of the visions were simply not found in Scripture and many were self contradictory.

Medical experts recently discovered evidence that shows visions and out of body experiences are common in near death events, brain disorders and comas. The experiences of 'heaven' are common to Christians and non Christians alike. These experiences are usually peaceful and positive. However, some doctors have also documented terrifying experiences, but these are rarely reported.

Dr.H.Leon Greene, a Christian cardiologist and professor of medicine (Uni. of Wash.) says: *'the human brain can be induced, (by raising Carbon Dioxide levels in the blood, etc.), to produce the same experiences reported by near death experiences (NDE) proponents: bright lights, a sense of detachment, a feeling of spiritual ecstasy, etc.'*, (*World* 5/6).

'Greene is sceptical of NDE's as proof of the New Age message that death is peaceful; that there is no judgement; that God doesn't care about sin; that all religions get you to the same place. He observes that hardly anybody reports visiting Hell. He says God might give visions, but that NDE's are deceptive and no proof of an afterlife. Christians must rely on the Bible as their authority on the topic - not New Age pop psychologies', (*Remnant*, Vol.2, No.7, 7/98).

Most of the smorgasbord of near-death experiences can be easily proved false from Scripture. It does behove us all to *'Prove all things'*, (1Thess.5:21). The only safe guide to the after-life is in Scripture. Anything added to that is unnecessary to the Christian hope. The amazement of Grace and the wonder of eternal life is not so much what we are saved *'to'* but what we are saved *'from'*.

Books detailing near death and out of body experiences are in fact extra Biblical revelations. They add to what is completely sufficient in the written Word of God. At times they blatantly contradict Scripture. Such fleshly enticements and entertainments are dangerous to our heritage of *Sola Scriptura* and to our minds, which must be firmly stayed on the Word of the living God. **Terry Arnold**

(Some material taken from *New Life*, 12/8/99)

Quotable - To All Preachers

'Two things are necessary to be a successful preacher: first, to pray much in secret - to be...wrestling with God - to wrestle each time as if it were the last, and not to rise from your knees until you have proof that the Lord has heard you. Ask the Lord in faith, and with great fervency, what to say to the people. Go straight from your closet to the pulpit each time, (like Moses from the mount to the camp),...

...Another thing is to preach pointedly and rousingly - aiming at the conscience each time - telling the people their sins to their faces - caring nothing for the good or bad

opinion of men, but to keep 'a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men'; and beware of displaying yourself in any of your sermons...aim at two things in studying and preaching: one is, not to say anything to show off myself; another is, not to say anything to amuse the people.

I would wish to preach each time as if I had to die in the pulpit when I had done preaching - as if I had to go direct from the pulpit to judgement. If we are not in this frame, we shall do very little.'

(*The Welsh Revival*, by Thomas Philips, (1860), P.10)

Tolkien/C.S. Lewis & The Lord of The Rings

"The Lord of the Rings' movie has made more than \$260 million since its release on Dec. 19; and in spite of its PG-13 rating and its occultic imagery, it and its literary counterpart are being praised by some professing Christians. 'The Lord of the Rings' is the first in a proposed fantasy trilogy based on the books by J.R. Tolkien... 'Christianity Today' ran a positive review of the books and the movie entitled 'Lord of the Megaplex'. 'Focus on the Family' praised Tolkien's fantasies and promotes the book 'Finding God in the Lord of the Rings' by Kurt Bruner and Jim Ware... The glowing advertisement at the 'Focus on the Family' web site calls fantasy a 'vehicle for truth'... There is no warning in these reviews about Tolkien's occultic imagery.

...Is the Lord of the Rings harmless fantasy or perhaps even a wholesome Christian allegory?... I read The Hobbit and the three volumes of The Lord of the Rings in 1971... I was not saved at the time, and, in fact, I was very antagonistic to the Christian faith; and had the books contained even a hint of Bible truth, I can assure you that I would not have read them... I can recall very vividly that they are filled with occultic imagery... they became very popular with that generation of drug headed hippies.

...When Tolkien was eight years old, his mother converted to Roman Catholicism, and he remained a Catholic throughout his life. In his last interview, two years before his death, he unhesitatingly testified, 'I'm a devout Roman Catholic.'... As a professor of literature at Oxford University, Tolkien... loved ancient pagan mythology...

One of Tolkien's drinking buddies was the famous C.S. Lewis. They... met regularly at an Oxford pub to drink beer and regale about literary and other matters... Like Tolkien, though, Lewis did not accept the Bible as the infallible Word of God and he picked and chose what he would believe about the New Testament apostolic faith, rejecting such things as the substitutionary blood atonement of Christ. Like Tolkien, C.S. Lewis loved at least some things about Catholicism. He believed in purgatory, confessed his sins to a priest, and had the last rites performed by a Catholic priest (C.S. Lewis: A Biography, pp. 198, 301). J.R. Tolkien died in 1973 at age 81, two years after his wife, and they are buried in the Catholic section of the Wolvercote cemetery in the suburbs of Oxford.

...The setting for Tolkien's 'The Lord of the Rings' is in 'Middle Earth' and the hero is a little creature (a hobbit)

named Frodo Baggins who accidentally becomes possessor of a magical ring that is the lost and greatly desired treasure of the 'Dark Lord Sauron.' The story line revolves around Frodo's action-filled journey to take the ring to the Cracks of Doom where it can be destroyed... the trilogy are 'The Fellowship of the Ring,' 'The Two Towers,' and 'The Return of the Ring.'... Tolkien portrays wizards and witches and wizardry as both good and evil. For example, a wizard named Gandalf is portrayed as a good person who convinces Bilbo Baggins in The Hobbit to take a journey to recover stolen treasure. The books depict the calling up of the dead to assist the living, which is plainly condemned in the Scriptures. Though not as overtly and sympathetically occultic as the Harry Potter series, Tolkien's fantasies are unscriptural and present a very dangerous message.

In his last interview in 1971, Tolkien stated that he did not intend 'The Lord of the Rings' as a Christian allegory and that Christ is not depicted in his fantasy novels... (Interview by Dennis Gerrold... Jan. 1971/BBC Radio...)... [thus] the author of The Lord of the Rings denied the very thing that some Christians today are claiming - that these fantasies are an allegory of Christ's victory over the devil...

'Dungeons and Dragons' which appeared in the early 1970s, was based on Tolkien's fantasy novels. One fantasy-game web site makes this interesting observation: 'The whole fantasy adventure genre of books came into play when J.R. Tolkien wrote his 'The Lord of the Rings' books... Tolkien probably got his ideas from ancient religions... They wrote epics about people with superior strength, about gods that punished people and, travels to the underworld. Tolkien is accredited to being the man who started it all but if traced back even further you'll see that he wasn't the one that created it, just the one that pushed it forth.' This secular writer better understands what Tolkien's books are about than the aforementioned Christian publications...

Tolkien has influenced many rock and rollers. The song 'Misty Mountain Hop' by the demonic hard rock group 'Led Zeppelin' was inspired by Tolkien's writings. Marc Bolan, of the rock group 'Tyrannasaurus Rex', created a musical and visual style influenced by Tolkien. The heavy metal rock group 'Iluvatar' named themselves after a fictional god from Tolkien's work 'The Silmarillion'. Others could be mentioned. The world knows its own...

(David Cloud, April/23, 2002 fbns@wayoflife.org)

'Treasure For Trash'

'Too many Christians live their spiritual lives... disregarding the bountiful riches of an inheritance that cannot be defiled, (1Pet.1:4). They scour the wreckage of worldly wisdom, collecting litter. As if the riches of God's grace (Eph. 1:7) were not enough, as if 'everything pertaining to life and godliness' (2Pet.1:3) were not sufficient, they try to supplement the resources that are theirs in Christ. They spend their lives pointlessly accumulating sensational experiences, novel teachings, clever gurus, or whatever else they can find to add to their hoard of spiritual experiences. Practically all of it is utterly worthless. Yet some people pack themselves so full of these diversions that they can't find the door to the truth that would set them free. They forfeit treasure for trash'. (John MacArthur - 'The Sufficiency in Christ', Page 39)

Tolerance & Truth

'In the realm of religion, tolerance in our day is esteemed as one of the highest virtues. Christianity is said to be a religion of love... and rightly so. But love, in the thought of many, is identical with tolerance. It is supposed to be a kind of emotional sufferance which is inherently incapable of resisting evil. That view finds no analogy in any other sphere of life. Light is always intolerant of darkness and darkness intolerant to light; cold is intolerant of heat and heat of cold'.

'Truth is the most intolerant of all principles, Truth will never tolerate untruth in any realm. It is an evidence, a symptom, of the moral blindness of men, that so many preach in the realm of religion, a tolerance which, if practiced, let us say in pharmacy, would mean murder; in physics, would spell suicide.' (Author unknown)

Many books can inform, but only the Bible can transform.

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or advisory panel)

Hello Terry, I stumbled across your website after doing a search on Benny Hinn and Reinhard Bonnke, and viewing a television programme which exposed their miracles as false...I have great appreciation for the work which you are doing...there is great value in your newsletter 'Diakrisis'...I have found myself in similar situations as those that have been under the spell of false teachings, but I have also found myself on the other hand, being overly critical of certain institutions and teachers. My experience has taught me that many of these teachers are convinced that their doctrine is true...They are merely being truthful to that which they perceive to be the truth. This still does not sanctify their actions but changes my perception of them from malicious false prophets to poor souls who need to see the light.

I have a question for you...after reading the review article on the Book by Benny Hinn - 'The Anointing', ('Diakrisis', April/99)...My question arises from the following statement you made. 'The Holy Spirit also does not come 'upon' Christians after salvation in the New Testament! The reference in Acts is a once-off event where the Holy Spirit came to the church...from the transitional events in Acts 2,8,10 and 19...' ('Diakrisis', April/99, P5).

In Acts 19:1-6 I read of Paul asking disciples whether they have received the Holy Spirit. They answer no...then Paul lays his hands on them and they receive the Holy Spirit. I know from past experiences that this part of Scripture is often used as promotion of laying of hands to receive the Holy Spirit for those who already have the Spirit - an extra event after conversion...You call it transitional events in your article. Yet others say Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, (Heb.13.8). Can you elaborate on this, giving special reference to the events in Acts 19:1-6. (e-mail by L.L.)

Dear L., Thankyou for your worthy comments and encouragement.

- I agree with you concerning false teachers being deceived and yet believing what they themselves teach. I too was one of them for many years, but when I was shown truth and challenged, I searched for myself as a lover of truth. Sadly, many of those we expose have refused to do this. And there is another problem which I personally did

Dear Terry, I admire your zeal in exposing deception in the church. Unfortunately, I believe that in your zeal you have produced some false doctrine of your own with the gift of tongues, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the gift of healing. I am named a Pentecostal...To relate every cultic movement back to its roots is a very good way of explaining to people the truth they have departed from and the error caused by their diversion from it. But to say that the Pentecostal movement today is all due to the Azusa St. mess is to limit God...Luther still believed in transubstantiation - the wine was the blood of Christ and the bread was his literal flesh...infant baptism also. Heresy? Could I then be labelled as a follower of false teachers?...In a similar way, you brother, have taken the doctrine of tongues, healing and the Baptism in the Spirit and painted every Pentecostal with the same brush.

To me a Pentecostal is a person who believes in the gifts of the Holy Spirit...Healing in your opinion must have a 100% success rate. Or in other words a healer must heal everyone they pray for. Tongues, according to you Terry, are still available today but are known languages...If these views are correct, where are they being demonstrated on the globe?

not have when I turned to truth - I was not heavily influenced in ministry by money, which is a powerful persuader not to change.

- Yes, Jesus is 'the same yesterday today and tomorrow'. But what does this phrase really mean and how has it always been taught? For 1,900 years this Scripture has been understood as speaking of the nature and character of God - His personage. It never was referred to for miracles, healings and especially for Acts 19. There are things in the Old Testament that have obviously changed in the light of the New Testament...but Jesus Christ Himself is still the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He has always been.

The events in Acts 2,8,10 and 19 were ordered historically and chronologically to show the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Jews, Samaritans, the Gentiles and to the 'uttermost parts of the earth'. If you trace the places from Acts 2 to Acts 19 you see Acts 19 is quite a distance away from the events of Acts 2. By the time Acts 19 had been completed all groups of people had corporately received the indwelling Holy Spirit... The other point of interest is that only the apostles bestowed the Holy Spirit in each of these events. Thereafter they are not involved, and the 'promise' of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to us and those 'afar off' as Scripture says, (Acts 2:39).

Acts 2,8,10,19 were the blueprints for the 'promise' which was not the 'baptism with the Holy Spirit' as a subsequent experience, but the Holy Spirit Himself - to people in a new era of the Spirit. Since that time no one can be saved unless they receive the indwelling Holy Spirit, (Rom.8:9,10). No one in Acts 2,8,10 and 19 had ever previously received the indwelling Spirit! Yet since 1901 Pentecostalism has taught the giving of the Holy Spirit as a subsequent experience to Christians who are already the 'temple of the Holy Spirit'...yet they quote Acts 19 where they received the Holy Spirit for the first time.

I have dug deeper into this in an article titled 'The Baptism With the Spirit' in Aug/Sept 2000 Diakrisis and again in more depth in the book 'Tongues & The Baptism with the spirit'...[Other relevant Papers: 'Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing Facts'; 'The Other Side of Azusa St.']

Where is the history to back your claims up? Ask yourself where you got your doctrine from. Was it from a heart cry to God to illuminate His word to you in desperation to let your readers know the truth, or a prayerful study of the Scriptures? Or did you turn to man's interpretation of the gifts?

You also believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a secondary work but is instantaneous at salvation. Was this teaching learned by heaping up teachers, or revealed by God almighty? Pride comes before a fall brother. I wouldn't bother to write to you if I didn't care for your state...I am pleading with you to look carefully at where you are getting your revelations from...Your writings concerning David Wilkerson are some of the poorest examples of exposure I have seen in your magazine. Let's face it, you totally despise tongues and healings, and you are now confused about exposing every Pentecostal for their error...

If we Pentecostals must document every miracle, what about you? Where are your modern day tongues? Where is the 100% healings? Where is the reality in your doctrine? When I first read your newsletter I thought that you were...a man of deep theological thought. Now sadly I pray earnestly for God

(continued P.11 >)

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or advisory panel)

to miraculously open up the eyes of your understanding, lest He reprove you for your unbelief and your stubbornness...it starts with repentance...Please just in the privacy of your own heart ask God - Lord, is this what you have revealed to me or is this a teaching of men? Am I just bitter...is there envying and strife? Am I confused about this, yet teaching others? Terry, you have enormous potential, but unless the Lord build the house they labour in vain who build it. (N.S., Lismore)

Editors comments: Dear N.,...There are several misconceptions you have of me personally and what I believe. You also confuse many other things with the real issues. I have noted the following point by point...

- Although the Pentecostal movement could be traced to Azusa St., the real tap root is the Topeka event in 1901.*...The event that *introduced* the new doctrine of the Pentecostal Baptism with the spirit - as a *subsequent* work of Grace with the evidence of this being speaking in an (unknown) tongue - was the Topeka event. The book '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' historically and irrefutably documents this. The Azusa St. events would not have occurred unless Seymour had gained the experience from Charles Parham's teachings at Topeka some years before. At Topeka a *new doctrine* was formulated...

There is *NIL* evidence of the Pentecostal teaching of the *subsequent* Baptism with the spirit with the evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue in history, until the turn of the 20th Century. It is not in any writings of the early church Fathers...and was vehemently opposed by the church leaders when the Pentecostal movement began early in the 20th. Century.

- ...Who said the men you mentioned were false leaders? True, Luther had some errors, but do we follow such? If we followed such leaders we would be led into heresy. But do we not instead follow Scripture?

- To bring in other teachings such as 'infant Baptism' and 'transubstantiation' only confuses the issue. These teachings are error and the *root* is actually Roman Catholicism! However, the issue for you and me here is the *distinctive* Pentecostal teaching of the *Subsequent* baptism with the spirit with the *evidence* of an *unknown* tongue - *the roots are clearly traceable* as is infant Baptism and transubstantiation! It will do no good to erect 'straw men'...If any teaching, regardless of what it is, has false roots - then 'purge the leaven' as Scripture demands!

- I do not 'paint' every brother with the 'same brush'. You here have made this unnecessarily *personal*. Although sometimes we do have to mention names involved, we primarily expose the movement or the false teaching.

- A Pentecostal person is not just one who '*believes in the gifts*'. This is far too simplistic because many others who are strictly non Pentecostal also believe in 'the gifts'. Pentecostalism is based on *one distinctive teaching* - the 'Baptism with the spirit' as a *subsequent experience* to

salvation, with the *evidence* of speaking in an (unknown) tongue. It is traced to the turn of the 20th Century...*

- As in past letters and conversations with me, you have again confused *healing* with the *gift of healing*. The gift of healing was performed with '100% success rate' as you rightly say. There were no failures in Scripture. The healings were instant, complete, miraculous and involved organic diseases. (I here remind you that some time ago you promised to supply evidence of someone who was 'healed' of AIDS on the North Coast...)

- As to your question - where are 'tongues' and the 'gift of healing' being demonstrated on the globe? The answer is simple - *nowhere* is there any person that I have heard of who has the *gift of healing as in Scripture*. *Nowhere* have I seen any documentation of the true gift of tongues as in Acts 2, (there have been some rumours but we have failed to view any documentation). There is also *no* history to back up these claims after the earliest centuries. However, God can heal! (I say this to again distinguish clearly the difference between 'healing' and the 'gift of healing')...

- The doctrine of the 'Baptism with the spirit' that I now teach was not learned by '*heaping up teachers*' as you say. Our audio tape on this proves this...

- It is one thing to say our article on Wilkerson was '*some of the poorest example of exposure I have seen*' but it is another to show us where the errors are! The plain facts are that Wilkerson *has made false predictions* and taught some very unorthodox teaching such as misapplying Scripture to the church today that was written to Israel.

- Yes there is an '*ounce of believability in the argument for tongues and healing*'! However, again you confuse terminologies. We expose the *modern* 'gifts of healing', *not healing*. We expose the modern unknown tongue, not true tongues as in Acts 2 (languages)...

- '*Am I just bitter about being involved in false tongues and false healing churches*'? This form of emotive argument has nothing to do with the issues. I am not bitter, but rather very concerned that we come back to 'the faith once delivered unto the saints'.

- Is there '*envying and strife*'? Am I '*confused about this yet teaching others*'? Perhaps we should keep to objective facts and '*judge not by appearances; but judge righteous judgement*', (Jn.7:24). ..

...Please show me where the Pentecostal 'Baptism with the spirit' was taught at any point by the Church Fathers or before the 19th Century. If it was not, why? Show me one person today who has the 'gift of healing' as it was used in Scripture. Please show me the errors that we made in our facts on David Wilkerson's predictions.

I assume you are a lover of truth...I Look forward to hearing from you. Yours in truth...

* See our Papers '*Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing facts*'; '*The other Side of Azusa St.*' and the book '*Tongues & The Baptism With the Spirit*'.]

Controversy or Duty

'Controversy in religion is a hateful thing....But there is one thing that is even worse than controversy, and that is false doctrine tolerated, allowed and permitted without protest or molestation. It was controversy that won the battle of the Protestant Reformation...There are times when controversy is not only a duty but a benefit. Give me the mighty

thunderstorm rather than pestilential malaria. The one works in darkness and poisons us in silence and we are never safe. The other frightens and alarms for a little season. But it is soon over and it clears the air. It is a plain scriptural duty to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints', (Jude 3) J.C. Ryle

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Dear Terry, Big thanks to you for your willingness to minister to me and share with me your understanding of the Word, our Heavenly Father's Word of life!...After almost three years of being troubled about this subject (modern day gifts) and particularly speaking in an [unknown] tongue the Lord has provided for me to finally rest in this subject/issue. I now understand from Scriptures that 'speaking in tongues' as I was taught in the Pentecostal church is not of God.

Terry, I was really grateful that you were willing to speak with me...three years of input and information and Scripture perspectives fell into place as you helped me to consider the Greek roots of different words in the Bible and the solid fact that 'Scripture cannot be broken'.

I appreciate you sending a copy of your book and the newsletters. It is helpful. The Lord has helped me to stop praying in an [unknown] tongue and resist the habit. There is now that desire not to pray in such a tongue.

Since then I have also had the opportunity to share what the Lord has done to me with others, and explain to them why I believe the modern day 'gift of [unknown] tongues' is not of God from the Scriptures, as reflected in the reality of many modern churches. Terry, Thankyou....With prayer that our God will have His hand on your family, your witness and your ministry, (T.S., FNQ)

Dear Terry, I...encourage you in your efforts. I really appreciate your courage and forthrightness in speaking up for the truth despite the barbs and arrows of the enemy. Of course occasionally it may be deserved and I hope you continue to examine yourself in the light of Scripture, maintaining an attitude of humility and love. But it seems to me that many of the accusations are unwarranted. Praise God for you! Keep it up.

I would like to make the comment that your article on the cults in a recent issue is very redolent of some churches I have seen...that pastors might examine themselves honestly before God. I do not say this because I am a paragon of virtue - far from it...So I steer clear of stabbing my pastor in the back and that is far from my purpose...God bless you brother...(G.G.)

CD - Back Issues

TA Ministries stocks a CD (Compact Disk) with 7 years (61 issues) of *Diakrisis* newsletters. This includes a book list and a link to Acrobat Reader for an easy to read format identical to the hardcopy. Price \$15.90

Prayer Points

- Please pray for a fruitful Sydney (August) itinerary.
- Pray for a wider distribution of our book 'Eternal Questions' and that it's Gospel message will bear more fruit.
- Pray for continuing support for this ministry.

Dear Terry & all at 'Diakrisis'. Thanks for the recent newsletter. Can't say I did too well on your questionnaire [May/June]. I'll have to change my diet from meat to milk at this rate. I don't think it's my imagination, I'm sure the content of 'Diakrisis' is more meaty and downright great reading.

Heard on the ABC national radio that 1 in 4 Aussie Christians believe in the literal creation account, and that an expected antichrist is soon to appear. I don't profess to be a prophet, so don't hold me to my 'SOON' statement.

Still some dedicated diehards out there who are keeping you on your toes...Keep contending for the faith once delivered, and thanks for this vital life-line of communication, that keeps me spiritually fed, as the days draw to a close.

I thank Yahweh & Yeshuah for your commitment to alert the saints. Yours in His service. (J.R., Biggenden, Qld)

Terry's Itinerary

July 7th 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld (07)41294292

July 14th 9.30am Gympie Church of Christ, Qld (07)54821084

Sydney Itinerary

(This itinerary may not have been complete at time of printing.

For queries Ph. Garry (02)96702648 or Terry 0411489472)

Aug.9th 6.30pm (Frid) Capitol Hill Bible Church, Canberra

Aug.11th 10.30am & 6.30pm (Sun) Capitol Hill Bible Church, Canberra Ph.(02)62586762

Aug.12th 7.30pm (Mon) Cootamundra Assembly (02)69421857 or (02)69423541

Aug.14th 7.30pm (Wed) Little Flock, Wentworthville Ph.(02)98965129

Aug.15th 7pm (Thurs) Minchinbury Assembly Ph.98321725

Aug.16th 7pm (Frid) Combined meeting Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.(02)98351513 & Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Ph.(02)96799442

Aug.17th 11am (Sat) Lethbridge Park Group Ph.98351513

Aug.17th 7.30pm (Sat) Church for Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

Aug.18th 10am & 6pm (Sun) Emmanuel Baptist, Glenwood Ph.96743007

Aug.20th 7pm (Tues) Minchinbury Assembly Ph.98321725

Aug.21st 8pm (Wed) Kingsgrove Gospel Youth Ph.0403113764

Aug.24th 7.30pm (Sat) Church for Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

Aug.25th 9.30am (Sun) Little Flock, Bonnyrigg Ph.98965129

Aug.25th 12pm (Sun) Combined Meeting, Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Ph.96799442 & Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.98351513.

Aug.25th 7pm Soul Salvation Assembly, Rooty Hill Ph.96266502

Aug.28th 8pm (Wed) Kingsgrove Gospel Chapel Youth Ph.0403113764.

Aug 31st 7.30pm (Sat) Church for Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818.

Sept 1st 10am (Sun) Picton Bible Church Ph.(02)46810227

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