

Volume 4, Number 4 July/August 1993

WILL THE REAL CHURCH PLEASE STAND UP?

- by Jewel van der Merwe-

There is a price to pay to follow the Lamb whithersoever He leads. There is a broad way and His narrow way and few there be that find it.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Matthew 7:13-15

If being a Christian is so "popular" and thousands are going to pack stadiums, why the stern warning? Could it be possible that an Apostate Church is arising out of the wave of prosperity, positive confession, self-esteem and a "feel-good" religion? It is not idle talk to declare that this apostate church has shed her robes of righteousness and instead is decked in the finery of the world. Entertainment has taken the place of the altar and celebration replaces repentance.

"Our world is entering a new period of spiritual, demonic delusion cavorting about in the fake clothes of spiritual renewal..."

A serious infiltration of error into the Christian church may threaten unsuspecting believers, including our own children, with theological confusion and spiritual defeat.

Difficult days may lie ahead for Christians who refuse to compromise. Perhaps, rather than the great advances of the Christian faith by the year 2000 touted by many mission strategists and statesmen, Christians one day, maybe sooner than later, would be considered a bothersome and dangerous minority group threatening the peace of universal tolerance for all kinds of faiths and lifestyles...those who profess absolute truth, the specific Creator and Redeemer God of the Bible, and biblical ethical behavior will be silenced by any means, in accord with the expedient norms of new-look Aquarian ethics...

Those Christians who stand firm will be driven back to a fresh understanding of "the faith once delivered to the saints," especially since that faith was articulated in a pagan world very much like the one that ours is rapidly becoming...1

According to a recent *Newsweek*, mainline denominations are trying to adjust to meet the needs of this generation. "Be quick" is the first commandment! Instead of sermons, they are using skits. "People today aren't interested in traditional doctrines like justification, sanctification and redemption."

The comment was that whatever they are doing works because there were 6,000 members in that particular church and another 6,000 who participate in the more than 100 recovery and other special-interest programs.

There is talk about this being a new, post-Protestant age. Robert Schuller formed Churches Uniting in Global Mission which consists of 200 pastors of "the most dynamic and successful" congregations.

"The aim of this determinedly anti denominational network is to lure baby boomers back to church by welcoming all comers regardless of their beliefs and appealing to their lack of theological convictions." (*Newsweek*, August 9, 1993, p. 48)

The author of this article is perceptive. He is defining the condition of the Church. He notes that, in the past, old-liners saw themselves as heirs to coherent traditions they thought worth passing on:

"Even when competing for converts, they put doctrinal and devotional integrity before success. 'To give the whole store away to match what this year's market says the unchurched want is to have the people who know least about faith determine most about its expression,' warns American church historian Martin E. Marty. The mainline denominations may be dying because they lost their theological integrity. The only thing worse, perhaps, would be the rise of a new Protestant establishment that succeeds because it never had any." (Ibid.)

This phenomenon is not limited to old-mainline denominations. Unfortunately, in many of our evangelical circles, and even those always considered "conservative", the tide is changing to make a Gospel fit the desires of the people. This is a "New Age gospel". A term even used in the article in *Newsweek*.

However, the true Church of Jesus Christ has been built on a solid foundation, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” Ephesians 1:22, 23

The Church is intact. It is continually being sanctified and purified by the washing of the Water of the Word. The Body of Christ is complete in Him. We are saved by grace - born-again into His Body.

Throughout history the simplicity of the Gospel has been sought to be replaced by another gospel. There have been "doctrines of demons" that have always sought to gain a foothold. At the present time evil is ravaging the world and sin seems to be triumphing. Wars are on the increase as violence explodes and nations rise against nations. Plagues, pestilences and famines are driving many to an early grave. Natural disasters have taken an unprecedented toll as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods spread their dastardly ruin.

"Long ago, God promised to be a shield and a Shepherd to all who would trust Him. But He withdrew His hand of protection when people spurned His love and sought pagan gods. Moses summarized His warnings: *When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. Be careful that you do not forget... Otherwise... your heart will become proud... You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' ...If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods... you will surely be destroyed.*" (Deut. 8:10-20)

This warning couldn't be for us today, could it? Would 'Christian' America - the world's pinnacle of progress and prosperity - be sliding into paganism? Is our nation reviving 'other gods'?" 2

Yet the rallying cry we hear today is "unity". But what is the basis of our unity and what is the cost? We are told that doctrine doesn't matter and we all just must love one another. However, we can not truly love one another without doctrine. It is the doctrine of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that enables us to truly love one another. When the very foundations of our faith are being undermined, even the "love" we hear about is tainted. This "love" is not the love that comes from above that loves the truth and keeps the commandments. It is rather a "love" that blinks the eye at sin and has a deaf ear for truth.

In spite of everything, the Church is alive and well. The gates of hell will not prevail against the Church. The true Church is established upon the Word of God. Whether believers meet in a large cathedral or a humble home fellowship, they are united and made one by the blood of the Lamb.

However, among us today we have wolves in sheep's clothing. They believe they have been raised up to sanctify the church. They are replacing the efficacy of the cross with works. They look like us, smell like us and sound like us, but they ain't us! The greatest problem is that many of them think they are us! They have been muddled up in their minds and told what to think for so long that they can no longer interpret anything for themselves. If you question these sheepies they look at you and blankly bleat, "you have the wrong spirit". If you ask, "what is the wrong spirit?" the answer is, "well, you are divisive"

It is about time that as sheep we get back on track and follow our Shepherd! The Word of God warns us very explicitly what we should look for to avoid deception.

There are different forces manifest in the church today leading many into gross deception. Among these are:

1. Mysticism. There is something in man that loves to go into the "other realm" and then try to convince others of the reality of this realm by experience.

2. Gnosticism. Mysticism laid the groundwork for Gnosticism. Sad to say, the Gnostics were the great writers who could eloquently persuade others to their way of thinking. They based their religion on visions and revelations of "deeper truths", superior knowledge, piety and, unfortunately, experiences.

3. The New Age Movement. A modern version of an old lie has developed from Gnostic thought.

It is very important to be able to define your position. If you cannot define your position, you become like a piece of driftwood dependent on the current and moved by every wind of doctrine. A simple understanding of some very basic points will clarify so much of what we see today:

Subjectivity vs. Objectivity

Subjectivity puts the emphasis on man, his feelings, his thoughts, his "leadings", etc. Objectivity puts the emphasis on God - thus on His Word.

Experience vs. Faith

When we are directed by our experiences, we are into Gnosticism. We "know" because we "feel". The Church is on a spiritual treadmill as "experience" takes precedent over Faith! Faith in Whom we have not seen, yet we believe.

Wholeness vs. Separateness

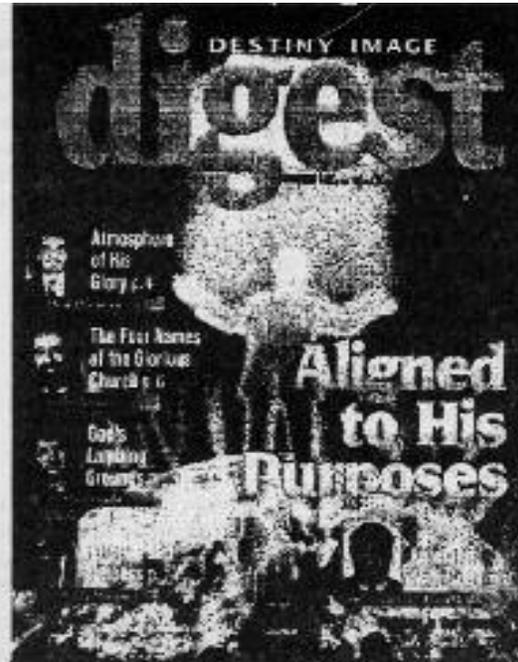
The Scriptures teach us that man is separate from His Creator. The "New Age", which is "monism" or "paganism" springing back to life, teaches wholeness, or that man must become one with the creation.

Just comprehending these three simple facts, so much becomes clearer to our understanding.

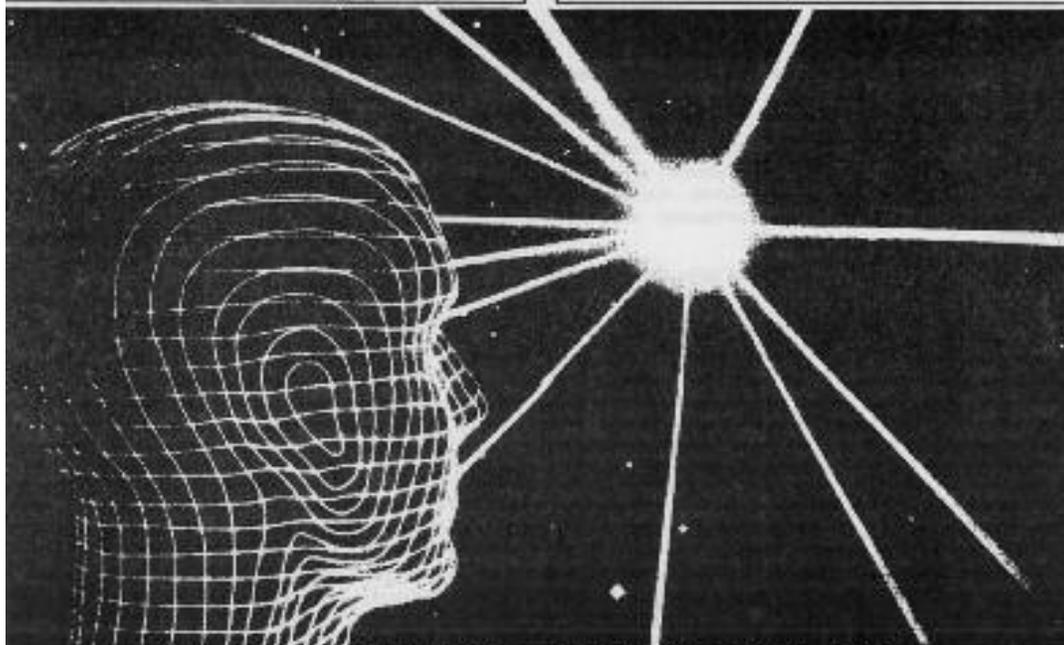
At Jesus' First Coming He was rejected because the religious leaders of His day did not take the Scriptures concerning His birth literally. If they had, they would have been as the Wise Men of the East. Amazingly, today the same thing is happening. It is incredible that among our ranks there is such a pressure to turn from the literal interpretation of Scripture. Gnostic prophets are arising who say:



Nightingale - Conant Corporation



July/August, 1993 issue



HiCaril, May 30, 1993 (Radiant Life Sunday School Curriculum) - Photo by Uniphoto

"... The Lord did not say when He went away He was going to leave us a book to lead us into all truth, but that He was going to give us His Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth. We should be very thankful for the priceless book that He left to us; but He never meant for it to take His place in our life. When it does, it is being misused...we can elevate the written word above Him and make an idol out of the Scriptures, allowing them to supplant our relationship to Him, and remove the Holy Spirit from the church..." 3

How can we quietly sit by while the Word of God is demeaned! How can we not warn people to take heed! This sort of teaching is taking people into New Age spirituality. Many souls will end up deceived and in despair as a result.

In Hinduism if you are centered, you have reached illumination or godhood."...how your 'new' body can react on your mind...help you raise your consciousness...help you realize your human and divine potential."

Now, the Gnostic prophets are using the same kind of language:

"In order for us to be His vehicle on the earth we must become an army of superconductors...In order to connect with Him as your powersource, you must disconnect from all other powersources...Jesus' works were the result of His 'superconnection' with the Father..." 4

In DESTINY IMAGE DIGEST the same thought comes through:

"...He desires to find, in some earthen vessel, a willingness to align self to the powerful Presence of His Spirit. This willing alignment provides the Almighty with an access point, a point of convergence between Heaven and earth, through which His dreams and longings can be manifested in the earth... He teaches us to pray for an alignment of earthly things with heavenly things in order that the works of God might be wrought as easily in the one realm of reality as it is in the other realm of ultimate reality... This knowledge, which coordinates the circuitry between Heaven and earth, can occur only when there is someone in the earthly arena positioned to receive the flow of Heaven's power and glory." 5

Man is separate from the Creator! He is not a "superconductor" who has to "align" or become "one" with a power source! God responds to the faith of His people. Faith in His Word! The only way we can align with God is to align ourselves to the written Word!

When the literal interpretation is removed it is replaced by subjectivity. Instead of the Word being the final authority, the authority is found within self (construed to be the Holy Spirit).

"There is a God-ordained ambiguity preventing the establishment of an absolute law or method of biblical interpretation. This ambiguity is designed to keep us dependent on the Holy Spirit to lead us to truth. That men would presume they could develop a system or principles with divine accuracy, by which they can interpret the Scriptures, is in itself an act of profound human arrogance. Such principles try to lay the burden of interpretation on a science in place of the Holy Spirit, which is itself a departure from the nature of true Christianity - a relationship with God. If such a thing were possible, why are they not clearly laid out in the Scriptures, and why do the writers of Scripture themselves so often depart from these principles? There are some principles that can help us in our quest for biblical truth; but there are no absolute laws or methods of biblical interpretation. When we presume to substitute our own science for the Holy Spirit, we have by that fallen into serious error.

The Scriptures contain many paradoxes because sometimes the truth is found in the tension between the extremes. Only the Holy Spirit can enable us to discern such truth and keep us in the proper balance between the extremes that will cause us to depart from the course. Does this not open the doors for a great deal of subjectivity in interpreting the Scriptures? Yes! And that is the point. True Christianity promotes an extraordinary liberty for the personal quest of God's truth, a liberty that is required if we are going to believe from our hearts and not just our minds." 6

This opens the door for anything and everything! Whatever you feel can make a doctrine and pull together a following. When we suspend our reasoning, all we have left is our feelings.

"Feelings come and feelings go.
Feelings are deceiving
My warrant is the Word of God,
Not else is worth believing." (unknown)

It is sad to see this "feeling" picked up and promulgated by more and more in the "charismatic network". The following is a quote from DESTINY IMAGE that was very unnerving:

"The Man Christ Jesus...became an example to all who hear and must answer the voice of God today. His walk of agreement with the Father released Him from all the lifeless trappings of that day. He is an example of the strength, joy and fullest actualization of agreement." 7

The word "actualization" means the knowledge that you are one with nature, one with the Universe and thus you are a god!

The absolutes are removed and replaced by the "inner voice". Any subjective view becomes acceptable. The importance of the literal interpretation is shown in the following conversation with a lady from my workplace:

Laura: There were only two kinds of people. Those who have a soul and those who live for today. Soon those too will be conscious that they are "metaphysical" beings. Whether it comes through astrological lessons or other ways.. .Do you understand what I mean?

Jewel: Oh yes, you are talking about a universal consciousness. A paradigm shift that is taking place. Let me ask you a question. Who is God?

Laura: He is creative energy. He is a Force. He is love, peace and is in everything.

Jewel: Are you saying He is part of His creation?

Laura: Oh yes, we are all part of Him.

Jewel: Do you believe you are a god? That you are part of divinity?

Laura: Oh yes, we are all part of god and our godhood is within us. What do you believe?

Jewel: What you are proclaiming is Buddhism. As a Christian, I believe that we are separate from God. God created us in His Image - but we are not God. In the Garden of Eden - when Satan tempted Eve - he said, "eat this fruit and ye shall be as God".

Laura: But, I do not believe the Bible literally.

Jewel: There is no other way to know God. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus Christ was in the beginning with God. We can only know God through Jesus and only know Jesus by the Word. Doing what it says literally.

Laura: But, there are many Christians today who do not take the Bible literally.

Jewel: Yes, that is a serious problem and exactly why the door is opening to so many strange doctrines - i.e. the east and west coming together and the development of a "global mind".

This simple conversation gives a graphic illustration how the "new thinking" is filtering into the Church and I mean those who are among us!

A "New Age" writer in the 1930's wrote the following:

"... The church movement, like all else, is but a temporary expedient and serves but a transient resting place for the evolving life. Eventually, there will appear the Church Universal, and its definite outlines will appear close of this century.

The church as a teaching factor should take the great basic doctrines and (shattering the old forms in which they are expressed and held) show their true inner spiritual significance. The prime work of the church is to teach, and teach ceaselessly, preserving the outer appearance in order to reach the many who are accustomed to church usages. Teachers must be trained: Bible knowledge must be spread; the sacraments must be mystically interpreted, and the power of the church to heal must be demonstrated." 8

The church is being used today as merely a part of an overall plan to bring in world peace and world domination. There are those who talk like us, but they have "forked" tongues and have another agenda.

Wholeness

Increasingly popular in churches is the concept of "wholeness" as taught not by Scripture, but by the "New Age". A case in point is an article from England by Dr. Mark Stibbe entitled, "The Marriage of Word and Spirit". He is using the left brain/right brain theory for the premise of his article. This is a total New Age concept with no basis in fact! However, Dr. Stibbe calls it, "modern brain research". He believes that charismatics are right-brain and evangelicals are left-brain. He says that charismatics "elevates the irrational above the rational...is an anti-intellectualism...sermons in charismatic churches tend to have the

following major characteristics: lack of exposition, plenty of emotion, success stories, words of knowledge and no notes! In short, intuition with analysis...what is valued are intuitions of a supernatural nature - words of knowledge about various illnesses, words of prophecy about God's impending action, words of faith in the power of the Spirit...Tongues are a big factor, so are stories of the supernatural (which tend towards the triumphalistic end of the scale)..."

On the other hand, he believes that evangelicals tend to intellectualize the Spirit. Their preachers give lectures, thus "...Evangelical preaching, generally speaking, comes from the left hemisphere of the brain; it is dominated by abstract thought, linear exegesis and has mainly cerebral impact."

His conclusion is that charismatics and evangelicals are therefore incomplete on their own because they both lack wholeness. So, "Charismatics need to learn to use the left hemisphere of their brains, and doing so to subject their experience of the supernatural to the overarching truth of the Word.

Evangelicals need to learn to use the right hemisphere of their brains, and in doing so allow more of the experience of the Spirit into their lives.

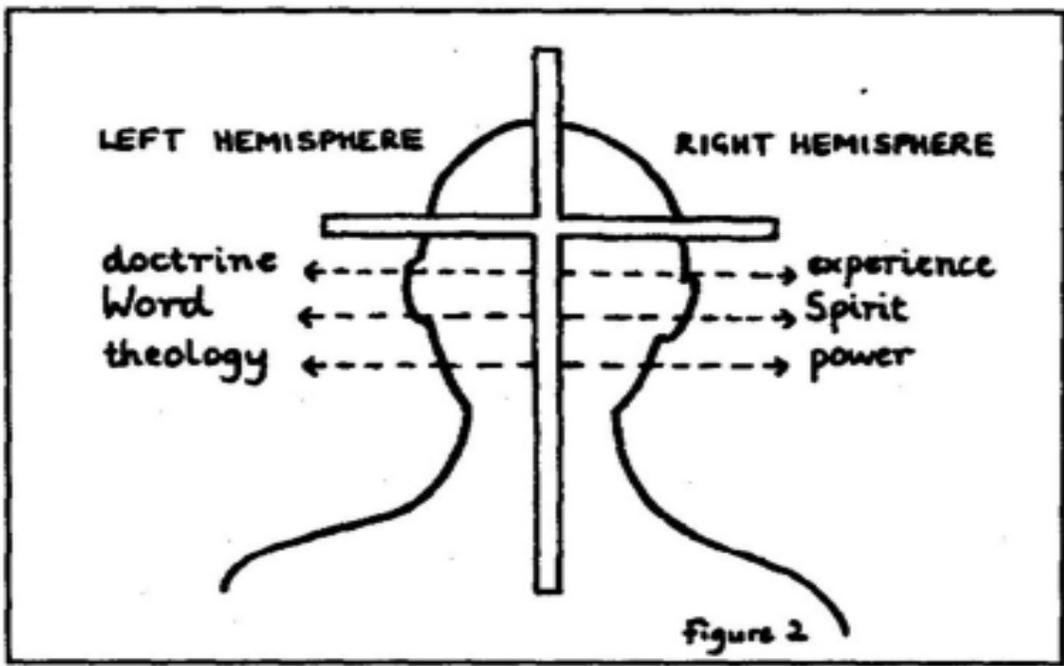
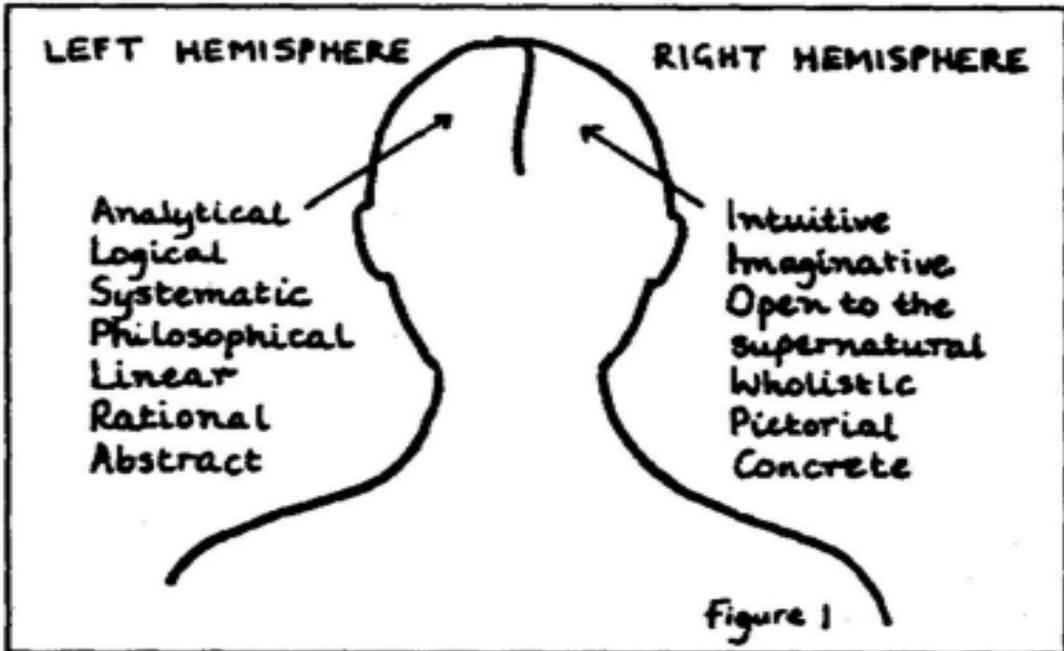
For that to begin to happen both charismatics and evangelicals need 'the healing of the mind'...our minds must be liberated, healed and renewed first...If charismatics need healing and renewing in the left hemisphere of the mind (analysis, theological reflection, et at), evangelicals need healing and renewing in the right hemisphere where the Holy Spirit forms knowledge, discernment, tongues and prophecy...So charismatics and evangelicals need to allow the Holy Spirit to bring wholeness to their fragmented, split ways of thinking... Charismatics are going to need to have the left side of the brain released (into biblical theology), evangelicals the right side of the brain {into spiritual gifts }."

However, author Peter Jones exposes the Gnostic roots of the right brain/left brain concept:

"We are coming out of the Piscean, masculine, *yang* age of left-brained intellectual reflection, declares [Shirley] MacLaine. We are now passing into the Aquarian age of *yin*, feminine energy of right-brained intuition and mystic spirituality. 'When the feminine goddess in each of us is recognized, the spiritualization of the physical plane will be accomplished...Then we will have spiritualized the material...and will be expressing ourselves...for what we truly are - androgynous, a perfect balance.'..."

...How close we are to ancient Gnosticism is indicated by the description, given by noted Italian Gnostic scholar Giovanni Filoramo, of the 'androgynous god of the Gnostics,' who expresses the 'concept of *conjunction oppositorum*, or joining of opposites, to embody the conquest of all duality'" 9

Hark the New Age Angels sing! What utter nonsense! So if we follow this thinking where does it take us? To whole brain thinking. We can become "centered". And what do these wolves in sheep's clothing use? The Cross to make their concept palatable to the unsuspecting.



The "Wholly" Spirit

The concept in its entirety is wrong! The work of the Holy Spirit becomes a mental exercise rather than the work of grace in the life of the believer. That work of grace is

according to the Holy Scriptures. If things come to pass as hoped by those such as John Wimber ("When are we going to see a generation which doesn't try to understand this book [the Bible], but just believe it?"), then we will have a new generation that is excused from thinking and thus have no basis for their faith.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of PROMISE. From whence comes the PROMISE - the Word of God. We receive the Spirit because we BELIEVE! Believe what? The PROMISE! *"For the PROMISE is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off; even as many as the Lord our God shall call."* (Acts 2:39)

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is received by faith in the Word of God and is not to be sought through an experience, as do the occultists, who by ritual experience make mystical "communion" with their gods. Our relationship with God and the Holy Spirit is based on faith in the Word of God and not on an experience which comes and goes. Any claims that a relationship with God is based on an experience rather than on the Word of God leads into deception.

"...Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"
Galatians 3 :2, 3

DEFEND THE FAITH

We must hold to that which is dear and not be lulled to sleep. We have to cling to the truth and defend it, if needs be, with our very lives.

As a member of the Assemblies of God, I believe our foundations are thoroughly established in the Word of God. The full gospel that has been taught has been solid. However, at this critical point in history, everything we hold dear is being challenged. New "revelations" are abounding. The denomination is being challenged that if they don't become part of "the flow" they will be left behind. Somehow as a denomination we are being made to feel weak, dottering and helpless.

Why are denominations under such attack? They are told that they are the Harlot, Babylonian system and that they need deliverance from "Spirits" of Religion.

New "prophets" declare: "Come out of 'harlot', 'babylonian denominations' because they are 'satanic', 'man-made' systems." Admonished to be "delivered" from "spirits of religion", (this is the belief that Christians need to "renounce" their former denominational involvements) and then have a "spirit of Churchianity" cast out of them as if they were "possessed" by sound doctrine!

Many Pentecostals shifting responsibility for their own spiritual languor will blame it on a "denomination". There is an old argument that denominations "quench the spirit". Articles upon articles have been written maintaining that "all sects and denominations from Paul's day till now exist because of Man's carnality." A very popular argument today, but certainly not new, is that the "new wine" can't be put in "old wineskins" (meaning denominations).

Five-Fold Ministries

Also, today we hear Denominations being accused of "Rejecting the five-fold ministry". In 1949, "George Hawtin and his colleagues maintained that much of the problem was rooted in unwillingness to recognize the validity of the ministry of apostles and prophets...local churches (whose members presumably included apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors) should set apart their workers, commission their own missionaries and discipline their own members." 11

This Latter Rain revival began in Canada and was called "The Last Great Outpouring that was to consummate God's Plans on this Earth." Out of this came the doctrine of Restoration - lost truths were supposedly being restored and God was revealing new revelations. A strong base for Signs & Wonders and moving in the Supernatural realm was established.

"The elevation of prophets and apostles obviously made way for strong individuals to exercise and abuse authority. It allowed some to give the "Spoken Word" equality with Scripture. 'There could be no greater error', denominational leaders warned...General Secretary J. Roswell Flower cautioned, 'Predictive prophecy resulted in untold disaster wherever it had been given free course.' Flower was well-versed in the history of Pentecostalism and recalled numerous prophecies that had come to nothing. The New Order of the Latter Rain in fact was nothing new. The ground had been covered before, with lessons learned through costly mistakes. Now a new generation seemed to want to repeat it all." 12

This "New Order" survived and has influenced the course of the Assemblies of God and other classical Pentecostals. They have been interacting all along through the salvation/healing revivals and the Charismatic movement for the past 40 years. Now exactly one generation later we have the same situation but exacerbated because of the mass media, telecommunications, huge conferences and a strong inter-locking network.

The Attack Intensified

The Assemblies of God often seems to be the target of attack. The Assemblies of God was also the denomination many of the present prophets and apostles were identified with at some point in their lives.

We cannot and must not compromise our doctrines and our spiritual integrity.

We are in a spiritual dilemma. However, we can not compromise sound doctrine for growth, wealth and status in the pentecostal community. Our very future is at stake.

The presumptuous "New Wave" message - to the Assemblies of God and other Established Movements is "Let go of what you have".

In the light of the so-called "New Thing" that is happening, it is felt the Assemblies of God as a denomination will be left behind unless it gets in the "flow" of the spirit. In order to do this, it must break from "the old" and become part of the "new thing God is doing". Prophecies are going forth to this end. Consider the words of a "prophet" that many well-known personalities are quoting:

"If the leaders resist this move, the Lord will continue it through the congregations. These groups will begin to relate to other members of the body of Christ and their bonds will grow stronger, regardless of the resistance or warnings of their pastors. Some pastors and leaders who continue to resist this tide of unity will be removed from their place...Some that were used greatly of God in the past have become too rigid in doctrinal emphasis...to participate in this revival...those who are linked together by doctrine or who gather around personalities will quickly be torn away... Many denominations, extra-local fellow-ships and circles of emphasis will begin disbanding and severing ties - even those that were ordained by God for a season - in order to take their place in this great net that the Lord is now forming...Some leaders will actually disband their organization as they realize they are no longer relevant to what God is doing...The dismantling of organizations and disbanding of some works will be a positive and exhilarating experience for the Lord's faithful servants...a great company of prophets, teachers, pastors and apostles will be raised up with the spirit of Phineas... This harvest will be so great that no one will look back at the early church as a standard; all will be saying that the Lord has certainly saved His best wine for last. The early church was a firstfruits offering, truly this will be a harvest! It was said of the Apostle Paul that he was turning the world upside down; it will be said of the apostles soon to be anointed that they have turned an upside down world right side up. Nation will tremble at the mention of their name." 13

What is the method to change the Church - Infiltration. Penetrate and interfere in the affairs of established churches. There is a subtle agenda to pull members under the authority of the "apostolic ministry" - calling it "spiritual authority" and away from the local established authority.

Many ministries are organized and tightly controlled outside the established churches. The established authority of the local church is derided as not being "spiritual". Many times even local church constitutions are thrown out in favor of the outside authority. Soon this outside control is established in the life and fiber of the assembly. The local assembly then loses its identity and becomes part of the integrated network that has its authority in new revelations.

The attack on the Church is from all directions. Whether it is attacked from within by the "great falling away" or from without, we must be wise to understand the forces that are rising to rob the Church of her integrity and power. God has raised up the Church to be the dispenser of the Word of God. Unless she returns to her commission and calling, dark days lie ahead.

"ARE WE PREPARED?"

We stand again on Mars Hill, surrounded by a host of unfamiliar and doubtless unfriendly gods. At some time in the future, perhaps more quickly than we think, true Christianity could well be reduced to a small minority. Christian ministry in the New Age of Aquarius will not be for the faint-hearted. The defeat of ancient pagan Gnosticism and its so-called Christian counterpart was only gained by deep spirituality, hard theological work, and often physical martyrdom. But those called by Christ must stand, for they can do no other, even if it does involve similar kinds of personal sacrifice. The orthodox Christian church needs courageous leaders, not clerics of leisure and compromise. Without an extraordinary degree of prophetic

commitment and self-sacrifice from a new generation of leaders, the church of Jesus Christ is no doubt headed for a period of significant persecution. If we do not speak out now, speaking out later promises to be very costly! Discerning, dedicated leaders are essential for the church in the Age of Aquarius. But not only leaders. At every level, Christians need to understand what is going on and carry that understanding to every corner of life. The world needs strong believers as never before, who will refuse to buy into the spirit of compromise that often unwittingly helps promote the New Age agenda. Unfortunately the average couch-potato Christian, so often consumed by the great American materialistic dream and nurtured by that moronic national baby sitter, TV--itself controlled by materialists and humanists serving New Age goals-- would seem to be no match for the sleek, vegetarian, highly spiritual, well-read, occult- driven conspirators of the Aquarian Age." 14

"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

ENDNOTES:

1. Peter Jones, *The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1992, pp. 7-9.
2. Berit Kjos, From Pamphlet: *Summoning Pagan Gods*.
3. Rick Joyner, *The Morning Star Journal*, Vol. 3, No.3.
4. Mahesh Chavda's *Prophetic Perspective*, "Rewired Part III".
5. Mark Chironna, *Destiny Image Digest*, July/August 1993, Vol. 1, No.3.
6. Rick Joyner, *The Morning Star Journal*, Vol. 3, No.3.
7. Stephen C. Everett, Jr., *Destiny Image Digest*, July/August 1993, "Agreeing with God".
8. Alice Bailey, *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*, Lucis Publishing
9. Peter Jones, *The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1992, p.60.
10. Ibid., p.61.
11. George Hawtin, *Church Government*, Fox Printing Company - Los Angeles, 1949.
12. Edith Blumhofer, *The Assemblies of God, A Chapter in the Story of American Pentecostalism* - Vol. 2.
13. Rick Joyner, *Restoration*, May/June 1988, "The Harvest".
14. Peter Jones, *The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1992, pp. 95, 96.

EXTRACT FROM *FAITH IN THE WORD* - June, 1991 by Dr. J. Van Zyl Stanger Christian Centre, PO Box 112, Stanger, 4450, South Africa, Tel. (011-03-24)22419

BEWARE OF THE MOCKERS

We've had numerous requests asking for an explanation of the silly and laughing manifestations at Rodney Howard-Browne's meetings. As a medical doctor I treated many

psychiatric patients and specialized not academically, but practically, in this field. At one stage I was treating up to 600 mental cases on an out-patient basis as district surgeon. One of the treatments that I used was hypnosis, which I have subsequently renounced and asked for forgiveness from the Lord for taking possession of other people's minds.

In the setting up of an hypnosis class I would for instance suggest that people clasp their hands firmly and then after a few minutes, tell them that they cannot unlock their clasped hands. This is obviously auto-suggestion. All those that are unable to unlock their hands are ideal candidates for hypnosis.

I see that Rodney Howard-Browne uses the similar technique by suggesting to his audience that they will feel the hot oil of the Holy Spirit come over them (auto- suggestion). He then tells the people that those who felt the hot oil must come forward. These are ideal candidates for hypnosis.

His reputation has already suggested that they will laugh in the so-called Holy Spirit. He then tells them to be filled with the Holy Spirit, as he now has them completely under his control. Most of them start laughing and some go down convulsively. This is quite obvious on the video tape that I have of his meeting at Christian City. The irony is that it is not the Holy Spirit of God, but a HEBOPHRENIC SCHIZOPHRENIA DEMON that he has permitted to enter those people. If any of these readers wish to visit an asylum, they will find a number of these demon possessed cases of people acting silly and laughing uncontrollably. It is also known that this laughing is infectious to those round and about them, who will also start laughing.

Once a person has hypnotized someone that person remains under the hypnotist's influence and the slightest stimulus would cause that person to revert into a state of hypnosis. On the video I see that Rodney Howard-Browne is approached by a young lass, he then says to her "but you were here last night", he flicks his fingers and instantly she manifests.

I hope that this explanation will help those that go to a Christian Church to receive salvation, and come away demonized. Much of this soulish power is very evident in the charismatic churches today and I personally believe that they are unaware of the origin of this power which they ascribe to the Holy Spirit.

... THE MADNESS CONTINUES

Carpenter's Home Church in Lakeland, Florida certainly feel they are onto a good thing. Week after week we see the continuance of what they call "revival" flashed on our television screens. A church full of people howling with laughter is to give us a good "feel" and make us aware that "revival" has finally landed.

Those in charge try to find a scriptural basis for this bedlam - then they say that this phenomenon was part of many great revivals in the past. Even if it was "part" of revivals in the past, that does not give justification to what is happening. Perhaps in the past it also caused serious problems.

Today preachers too often use jokes as a means to get people to "loosen up". Their sermons will start with a number of "one-liners". It often accomplishes the purpose. The

audience laughs uproariously and are totally disarmed, desensitized and open for anything. Who can not like someone who has just made you laugh? Everyone loves a clown.

In doing research on laughter and humor not long ago, I was quite amazed at the usage a New Age writer (Norman Cousins) gave to the use of laughter in the healing process. He makes the claim that laughter became his medicine and he laughed himself back to good health. Even more amazing was an article in the recent *Morning Star Journal* by Mahesh Chavda entitled, "Laughter: God's Prescription for Healing". He started out by saying, "Holy laughter is a healing agent." He starts out the article by using Norman Cousins as his source. God has given us His joy. That joy is beyond any earthly comprehension. In the face of life's trials and tribulations we have the Peace of God that passeth all understanding and the joy of the Holy Spirit which is a continual well within our beings.

News Flash! - Article From *The Flint Journal*- August 6, 1993

‘Stunning’ find made at Israeli site

Archaeologist uncovers evidence for existence of House of David dynasty

THE NEW YORK TIMES

An Israeli archeologist has discovered a fragment of a stone monument with the inscriptions bearing the first known reference outside the Bible to King David and the ruling dynasty he founded, the House of David.

Scholars of biblical history said this was strong corroborating evidence for the existence and influence of the House of David in early Jewish history and in the traditions of Judaism and Christianity.

In their excitement, they used words like “phenomenal,” “stunning” and “sensational” to emphasize the importance of the discovery in biblical archeology.

The broken monument, or stele, was found in the ruins of a wall at Tel Dan, the site of an ancient city in northern Israel near the Syrian border and at one of the sources of the Jordan River. The discovery was made this summer by Dr. Avraham Biran, an archeologist at Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem and director of excavations at Tel Dan since 1966.

Biran said the stele was inscribed with 13 truncated lines of Aramaic text referring to the “House of David.” From the style of the script and its references to a “king of Israel” and a king of the House of David, the archeologist surmised that this probably was a victory stele erected in the first quarter of the ninth century B.C. by the king of Damascus after he “smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-beth-maachah,” in the words from I Kings 15:20.

In that case, according to Biran’s interpretation, the “king of Israel” of the inscription may be identified with Baasha and the king of the “House of David” with Asa, a descendent of David who ruled as king of Judah.

A split among the Israelites after the death of Solomon in the 10th century B.C. had led to the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, centered at Jerusalem. As related in I Kings, when war broke out between the two kingdoms, Asa secured an alliance with Ben-Hadad, king of Aram at Damascus in Syria, who defeated the forces of Baasha.

In an interview by telephone from Jerusalem, Biran said, "There has never before been found a reference to the House of David other than in the Bible."

Other scholars agreed, and noted that, for that matter, no reference to David himself had ever appeared before in non-biblical texts.

Dr. Eric M. Meyers, a biblical archeologist at Duke University, said: "It's a stunning discovery. Publication of the text should really enlighten us on the ninth century B.C., which has been a kind of dark age in biblical history.

Photographs and transcriptions of the writing on the stele will not be released until a full report is ready for publication in *The Israel Exploration Journal*, in about two months.