

For many years Choosing Truth Ministries has been blessed to be included on Prayer Canada's prayer list. The wisdom, Godly counsel, prayer covering and fellowship provided by Arne, Ray and others associated with Prayer Canada [www.prayercanada.org](http://www.prayercanada.org) has been a spiritual protection for those of us at Choosing Truth. Our ministry has often been difficult dealing with the deadly deception of Freemasonry. Although our primary focus involves Freemasonry there has been some diversity into other areas we had not anticipated. On those occasions we have been surprised by what God has brought to our attention. One of those areas deals with contemplative spirituality currently sweeping throughout Christianity relatively unopposed with a momentum almost beyond comprehension. At first glance components of this spirituality may appear godly promising techniques of getting closer to God. However, when God's Word becomes secondary to various practices of reaching out to Him we know deception is being applied. Upon closer inspection, using biblical standards, a deadly deception is revealed comparable if not more deadly than Freemasonry. It is by virtue of its insidious nature and the exploding number of Christians falling under its seductive lure that we equate its destructive force with that of Freemasonry. We watch almost daily as prominent and spiritually grounded church leaders fall victim to the spiritual enticements it offers. In consideration of this context it is a greater threat and more deadly than Freemasonry. Christians are facing a choice between submission to blatant New Age occult mysticism sweeping throughout Christianity or submission to God's authority in their lives.

For those who maybe unfamiliar with what this spirituality actually implies I'll provide some clarification as the term, contemplative spirituality, is in itself a deception. When I first heard this term I thought it meant to contemplate God's Word. Something He has told us to do. Not giving it much further thought I was invited to a conference dealing with the contemplative movement in Vancouver BC. Speakers included Ray Yungen, author of A Time of Departing and Ron Gray leader of the Christian Heritage Party. That conference introduced me to the reality of a seductive spirituality with its destructive nature designed to compromise our gospel faith. After reading Ray Yungen's book I was grieved by the ramifications and how entrenched this spirituality had become even within the evangelical community. Its momentum is such that ongoing numbers of church leaders are becoming influenced by it with few standing firm on God's Word against its occultic force. Part of the problem appears to be our Christian bookstores that provide materials promoting it. It seems that whatever sells will be made available without concern for the spiritual consequences that occur towards others. When a Christian bookstore sells New Age mysticism labeled as Christian we are appalled by their ability to promote the occult while claiming to represent the work of the gospel.

Contemplative spirituality involves various techniques that are supposed to place you in God's presence, to hear Him and to talk with Him. Two of the most prominent techniques involve either a repetitive mantra or a focus on the breath. The object is to still the mind from all thought so that you can hear God without any mental interference. This produces what is called an altered state of consciousness. An eastern mystical practice identified in God's Word as the practice of sorcery and witchcraft. Former occultists tell us that this is the state in which familiar spirits operate appearing as ministering agents. It is of course both exciting and seductive to think that you've been in contact with the heavenly realm receiving affirmations of acceptance, peace and love. Christians give witness to having been in the presence of angels of light, having had conversations with prophets even with Jesus. With this witness from multitudes of believers these occult practices have spread in a spiritual wildfire across all denominational boundaries. Those of us redeemed from the occult recognize the New Age mystical occult techniques being practiced. We recognize the source of these ministering agents of light and we recognize the spiritual destruction from the doctrines of demons. These are things we recognize because we once practiced various forms of witchcraft through our contact with familiar spirits, spirit guides and seeking more light with each degree as I did while a Mason. I was never told that the light I sought, the same light New Agers and occultists seek, was the light of Lucifer. [The Christian, Lucifer And Freemasonry](#) "And it is no marvel, for satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers transform themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works." 2Corinthians 11:14-15.

God's Word is specific and it never fails. It is our ultimate authority providing truth in all things. Believers seduced by contemplative spirituality have placed themselves under the authority of altered states subject to the demonic realm rather than God's heavenly realm, as led to believe by the familiar spirits they encounter. Of course satan in his unparalleled craftiness knows that many believers will be hesitant in their recognition of the occult nature of a mantra or a focus on the breath. Therefore the contemplative movement takes a variety of forms so subtle that even the elect might be deceived. We encounter practices like centering prayer, silent prayer, the mystical silence, [Taize](#) and other variations that are designed to bring compromise into the lives of believers rather than maturity in God's presence and His Word.

Compromise in the lives of believers to eliminate their effectiveness for the gospel is one aspect of the contemplative movement. God's Word tells us that satan is a liar and a thief who comes to "...steal, kill and destroy" John 10:10. Therefore we know there are other designs to this movement. 1 Timothy 4:1 gives us part of the answer, "*Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, listening to spirits of error and doctrines of demons;*". It's quite sobering to think that some believers will abandon their salvation in Jesus by listening to the doctrines of demons in their altered states of consciousness. Ray Yungen adds further to this on page 55 of his book. "What I am saying may appear controversial, but please keep in mind what New Age writer Marilyn Ferguson discovered: 31 percent of New Agers she quizzed said it was "Christian mysticism that got them involved". This is the Christian mysticism being promoted through Christian bookstores and taught from the pulpits of our church leaders throughout Christianity. On page 26 Ray shares the following, "But, incredibly it is becoming increasingly apparent that the most successful mystics are appearing from within Christendom itself. Instead of retarding the momentum of New Age spirituality, it is our own churches that may very well be the decisive catalysts, which propel the New Age into prominence".

Incredibly we see solid Christian organizations like Focus on the Family promoting contemplative authors with their doctrines of demons. Even Campus Crusade For Christ has been compromised. Most of us know that the use of labyrinths for spiritual purposes is an ancient occultic practice. This can be quickly verified through internet resources. Yet despite this, Campus Crusade For Christ has a handbook promoting labyrinth spirituality designed to attract the youth. On our web site resources under [Contemplative Spirituality](#) we provide a document titled Labyrinth Renewal from our friend Carla's blog. This link exposes the occult nature of these practices with further detail of Campus Crusade's involvement. As a financial supporter, my hope and prayer is that knowledge, wisdom and His convicting presence will prevail over these doctrines of demons, doctrines that compromise the effectiveness of the gospel and Campus Crusade's Kingdom purpose.

For those of you who may be led to investigate this area of deception further we recommend Ray Yungen's book, A Time Of Departing published by Lighthouse Trails Publishing along with their other resources [www.lighthouse Trails.com](http://www.lighthouse Trails.com) and their research site [www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com](http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com). In addition to their web site resources they publish an online newsletter reporting the escalating erosion of Christianity these past few years. I would recommend signing up for their e-newsletter and viewing past issues to get a better grasp of the momentum that has occurred in such a short time period. Twenty some odd years ago when the threat of the New Age loomed before us we rejected the occult mysticism it represented. Twenty some odd years later we no longer recognize the New Age, having slowly over this period of time adopted its occult mysticism into the church and into our lives as legitimate spirituality.

While all of this is spiritually discouraging we need to recognize the contemplative movement for what it is - to steal, kill and destroy as Jesus told us it would be in these latter times. God does however promise in His Word that some would be pulled out of the fire, Jude 23. When God makes a promise, it has power and authority. So, those of you led to become involved, to learn and to expose this occult deception, you can receive God's promise of power and authority to pull some out of the fire. That's real spiritual encouragement despite the spiritual deception around us as we learn to operate in His power and authority rather than altered states involving familiar spirits and doctrines of demons.

We are now able to introduce a new addition on our site resources titled '[Purpose Driven](#)' subtitled 'Purpose Driven and the Emerging Church'. With issues that dovetail and overlap with the contemplative movement it has been added to assist in freedom from deception. Several of the articles on our site come from Lighthouse Trails reporting on Pastor Chuck Smith Sr., the founder of the Calvary Chapel Church affiliation who has completely rejected Purpose Driven and the contemplative movement. His words in these articles speak to all of us, to encourage us in defense of the gospel and to stand firm on God's Word despite the storm of occult mysticism sweeping throughout Christianity.

The following is a preamble recently completed for the resource articles on our Purpose Driven link. [First Lodge Night](#) in this preamble refers to a 5-page article on our site menu. As in all things you may not agree with everything we share or say in our resources, nor would we ask you to. However, God's Word is the final authority and we ask you to test all things according to His criteria and only His.



### **Purpose Driven And The Emerging Church**

Freedom from deception. This is something we all want to have though some more so than others. As a former Freemason, a Christian who entered into the occult, obtaining my freedom was difficult after denying Jesus my [First Lodge Night](#). Freedom from deception has become a precious matter for me bought with the precious blood of Jesus. At one time I didn't understand the significance of spiritual bondage or the destruction we can give authority to in our lives, our families and our church communities. To avoid deception we are taught in God's Word to test all things for freedom from those things that compromise our relationship with Him. The gentle conviction of the Holy Spirit gives each of us the ability to test all things when we choose to walk in obedience to what He wants to achieve through our lives. There is a choice between our flesh and doing things His way.

False prophets, false doctrines and doctrines of demons have always been a threat to the purity of the gospel. Many of us end up trusting ministry leaders because we haven't been taught by them to test all things for freedom from deception. Ministry leaders who themselves are blinded by deception having become puffed up in their flesh. Instead of being taught to be wise and prudent through the Holy Spirit we are increasingly being conditioned to rely on ministries where the Word of God is replaced by entertainment appealing to our emotional appetites. The Word of God and the Joy of the Lord replaced by the counterfeit and foolish things of this world. When the convicting presence of the Holy Spirit has been denied in ministry it then involves deception rather than truth. In testing all things we want to know if the convicting presence of the Holy Spirit is an important criteria in the Purpose Driven movement. We want to know if those involved are submissive to His leading and the purity of the gospel. In seeking truth and freedom from deception we want to know these things as we test all things through the Holy Spirit.

The following resources are for consideration in testing the Purpose Driven movement and the Emerging Church according to God's criteria. Failure to submit to God involves a gospel compromise leading to deception and bondage for many. For others this path of deception may lead to destruction, for those who choose the cup of demons rather than the cup of the Lord, 1 Corinthians 10:21. Those of us who have been set free from various forms of occult bondage are required to provide a warning. Ezekiel 3:18-19. There are many church leaders, responsible for their flocks, who are choosing not to listen to God's warning in their lives having become distracted by the mystical realm occupied by familiar spirits.

[www.ctmin.org/pdriven.htm](http://www.ctmin.org/pdriven.htm)