

SORCERY

Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Excerpt from Apples of Gold

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

The belief in laws that control spiritual forces, which in turn control the physical world through the power inherent in spoken words, is the essence of sorcery.

The sorcerer believes that words are containers having in and of them-selves spiritual power that is released no matter who speaks them.

Everything works by esoteric formulas. Today's teachings that even God Himself must work His miracles within a framework of laws ... and that we can tap into these laws and dispense power by what we think or speak is the same "secret truth" that the occult has always taught. This idea of spiritual law to which even God is subject is the foundation of all witchcraft and occultism.

However, God's blessing and power in the spiritual realm is by grace -not law.

Another key aspect of sorcery is "visualization". The mind power - PMA motivation techniques of the business world which are actually rooted in sorcery have entered the church disguised as Christianity. We are being told that positive thinking, positive speaking, and positive visualizing will bring about a physical reality. Just speak or focus on the image in your mind that you want and it must happen! "Truly deeply believe and you will have it."

Anyone who imagines that because he speaks certain words or his pictured certain desired images in his mind, God must respond in a certain way has slipped into sorcery. Man is either playing God or attempting to manipulate God.

THE POWER OF THIS SPOKEN WORD AND POSITIVE CONFESSION

To be told that "you set the spiritual laws in motion by the words of your mouth ... everything you say will come to pass" ... create by a positive mind set, is a perversion of Scripture that seeks to make gods of people.

Possibility thinking, positive thinking, and visualization are confusing sincere Christians into believing that "Bible" faith is a force that makes things happen because they believe. Thus faith is not being placed in God but is a power directed at God which forces Him to do for us what we have believed. We are being taught that faith has some power in and of itself. This makes God subject to alleged laws that we can activate "by faith". This seductive idea again is the basic idea behind sorcery. In contrast, Jesus said "have faith in God" ... faith must have an object ... God.

But the teaching we are hearing is that the power is in **our belief**, and God must do what we believe He will do, because whatever we believe must come to pass! So either PMA is being substituted for Bible faith or we are being lead to accept that they are one and the same thing -that somehow believing in the power of our spoken word is the same as believing God.

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The power of the imagination is being confused with inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit, prayer, in these teachings, is turned into a technique for releasing divine power by following certain principles or formula, rather than submitting to God's will and trusting His wisdom, grace and love. As in white witchcraft, prayer is often replaced by "decree" because it believes in the creative power of the spoken word or the making of a positive affirmation or positive confession.

Confession use to be related to repentance and turning from sin – to accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Bible faith grows out of a relationship with God where our wills confidently through His love and grace submit to Him. This growth is a natural consequence of getting to know God better and more personally through talking with Him, studying His Word and by being obedient to His leading. In this natural relation, we voluntarily submit to His molding hands as the clay to the potter. This faith walk has nothing to do with releasing "power" by speaking certain words. It is the natural result of a personal relationship with Him — not upon some power inherent within words.

Positive confession teachings may sound biblical but they promote concepts that are foreign to the Scriptures. However, they are found in the practice and teachings of sorcery.

The God of the Bible is not subject to anything ... much less some sup-posed "spiritual laws", or is He in a cause-and-effect relationship with His creation. He has made EVERYTHING out of nothing and is separate and distinct from His creation. God is outside of and transcendent over His creation and His laws. His laws are, in fact, a revelation of His own character and personality.

IS MAN A god ?

Many of the "faith teachers" believe that because God gave man dominion over the earth, man was created a "god" by God. They teach that the essence of the fall was the loss of this dominion over the earth to Satan, who thereby became the "god" of this world, and that it is now up to man to take that dominion back from Satan and once again reign as "gods" over the earth. They attempt to support this from Psalm 82:6 and Jesus' quote from this Psalm in John 10:34.

Jesus answered them, is it not written In your law, i said, ye are gods?

By missing the context of these two verses, a teaching has been introduced into the church that we are "gods" (like the oriental cults teach) and just need to "realize" it. This is foundational to the teachings of the positive confession movement. The reason they say we can "speak the creative word" and "call those things which are not as though they were" just as God does is because ... we are "gods"!

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But we are not creative gods. We are sons of God. We can speak a creative word only when the Creator speaks through us or to us to do so. He may do this by direct command, by a vision, a dream, or by the Logos of the Word becoming a *Rhema* to us whereby the written word comes alive within our spirit.

"THE LIE"

Another of them says "I'm an exact duplicate of God ... when God looks in the mirror, He sees me! When I look in the mirror, I see God! ... since I'm an exact duplicate of God, I'm going to act like God!"

There is a vast quantum leap from being "in the image" of God to being an "exact duplicate".

This is **heresy** and is what the Bible calls "the lie". This demeans the very concept of God. And rather than lifting man up to the level of "gods", it demonstrates a low unworthy view of the Creator and His Omnipotence.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Isaiah 44:8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Isaiah 40:18 To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

This lie is found in most cults and much psychotherapy. The "mind sciences" call it the search for the "true self" ... an attempt to "realize" one's inherent godhood or infinite potential. Understand that the anti-Christ will not claim to be God in the classical biblical sense, but a man who as achieved godhood! In fact, he will deny the existence of God as a personal being who has created out of nothing all that exists.

It is the eagerness among many Christians to accept "new revelation" even though it conflicts with the context of Scripture that makes the church vulnerable to mistakes, error, and finally heresy.

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MAN IS NOT "a god"

The Bible does not say God made man a "god", or is man promised that he could become a "god". That was Satan's seductive lie to Eve ... and it would have been a meaningless temptation if Adam and Eve had been created "gods". There is an enormous gulf between being a king over a domain and being a "god" ... between being in the image of God and being a "god".

The way God said man had become like God was that he was no longer dependent or innocent ... that he knew good and evil. Now he would want to decide on his own what was right or wrong without having to consult God. The lie that springs from pride would have man believe that he can know right from wrong by consulting himself. God indelibly imprinted moral laws on his conscience. Innocence was gone. The fellowship they had known with God of complete trust and love had been betrayed and shattered.

Psalm 82 does not teach that we are creative "gods" or does John 10! We are not creative gods, but only sons of God. The "them" of 10:35 refers to judges whom God calls "gods" because all authority comes from God. As they have God's laws to guide their judgments, they are expected to judge in perfect righteousness in God's stead. In other words, they in a temporal sense "sit in His seat" on earth and have received their position by His appointment. As they are being unjust, God reminds them that they also have a judge even though they were acting as though they were a law unto themselves. God reminded them that they would die like all other men. Jesus refers to this in John 10 as a warning to these Jews because in verse 33 they, like those in Psalm 82, had judged Him ... His motives ... but not with righteous judgment.

When we are given a position of authority, we act for God. They had every reason to seriously consider His claim to Deity ... as only a short time earlier He had opened the eyes of one born blind (verse 21 and John 9). God reminds them that they are like the judges in Psalm 82. That those who judge, though they stand as God's authority, are still mere mortals that will die and stand before the true Judge whom they have misrepresented. In referring to Psalm 82, Jesus also demonstrated that they didn't understand their own Scriptures, so they were in no condition to act as "gods" or judges and condemn Him for saying that He was God.

Jesus is not denying here that He is unique ... that He is Deity. Note the contrast of the "them" of verse 35 (the judges to whom God gave the law so that they could judge in His stead) with the "Him" of verse 36.

John 10:36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

Clearly, verse 36 is a positive claim to deity!

CONTEXT - THE KEY TO CORRECT INTERPRETATION

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Psalm 8:4-6 is also used to support the heresy, where verse 5 is made to say that man was made a little lower than "God" instead of a little lower than "angels".

Psalm 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

This perversion is supported by noting that the Hebrew word rendered "angels" is "elohim" and thereby they correct the KJV replacing angels with "God". They use the revised version and the New American Standard version as their confirming proof.

Whereas the word "elohim" can be and is translated "God" (especially with the article present) many times, it also can be and is translated many times as gods, demons and magistrates. The layman may verify this by referring to STRONG'S CONCORDANCE in the Hebrew section. Number 430 is "elohim" ... note that under the word "gods" which is rendered, in context, variously as angels or demons etc., the number 430 is displayed about 98% of the time.

The point to be made is that the context in Hebrew and Greek, as in other languages, takes precedent over etymology and is the final factor in translating the text correctly.

However, the Holy Spirit has not left us adrift to depend on the opinions of men. Psalm 8:5 is quoted in the New Testament in Hebrews 2:7. Here, Scripture defines Scripture and serves as its own commentary. The Greek word here in the Book of Hebrews is "*aggelous*" (angels) and not "*Theos*" (God).

The LXX, in translating from Hebrew to Greek, also renders the word *elohim* as angels.

"BLACK" AND "WHITE" WITCHCRAFT

Finally, witchcraft is of two varieties. **Black witches** usually openly declare that they are serving Lucifer. They refer to the "6th and 7th" books of Moses and also attempt to tie Solomon into their camp for status by claiming to use a book he supposedly wrote.

White witches (Acts 16:17; 19:13 & Balaam) practice magic and declare that they invoke the name of God, not Satan. They use biblical terms, but they are not "in the name" – even though they say these words.

The distinctions between biblical faith and white magic are principally twofold:

1. In biblical faith, trust is placed **solely** in the Lord Jesus. In white magic, a form of sorcery, trust is **deflected** to someone else (a human or ancestor, etc.) or to something else, i.e., one's organization, one's baptism, confirmation, spirits, horoscope, etc. or one's own faith ... which is trusting in self. And,

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2. In the prayer of biblical faith, *we submit to the will of God*, as did Jesus.

Matthew 26:38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Hebrew 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

In white witchcraft, the help of God is **demanded** under the assumption that exercising such authority and power is in accordance with spiritual laws and formulas and hence with God's will – it *presumes* upon God.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

The Scriptures teach that we are the temple of God ... that the Spirit of God dwells in us, but not that we are creative "gods" in any way. The only sense in which it can be said that we are "gods" is in that our Father is God through the new birth but the teaching as mentioned by the positive confession teachers is foreign to the context of the Scripture and is the same sin that caused Lucifer to fall – wanting to be like the Most High – **and making a positive confession: "I will be like the Most High"**. The creature will NEVER approach that realm or was that ever even intended. To rule under God's authority, yes. To know God intimately, to have close fellowship, yes, but to become a "god" – never!

Job 4:18 Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:

It is a major error to teach "**have faith in faith**" because it is the same gospel of the sorcerer in that it imagines that faith has some power in itself. Again, faith is not being placed in God in the "faith" gospel, but it is a power directed at God to force Him to do for us what we have believed He will do. The emphasis has shifted from God to man ... this is humanism at the start, sprinkled with sorcery. Some men who teach these and similar concepts are wolves among the flock. Some are gainsayers and are in it for filthy money. Some are real Christians who are deceiving, having been deceived themselves. The deception often enters through pride and the desire to achieve. Pray for them, but flee from these teachings - do not become ensnared for they are subtle.

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

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Jeremiah 1:9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

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

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. ...

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

1 Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.