Special Edition—Spiritualism
 Editorial

Too many Seventh-day Adventists are unprepared for the overwhelming surprises the devil will soon bring to all the world. Are we now prepared to withstand the master spiritualist by the word of God if a loved one should appear, giving hope and comfort in the crisis hour? How many leaders, pastors, and laity could withstand the overwhelming evidences which the devil is capable of producing?

We are told the disciples will be personated by lying spirits claiming that Christ changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. See The Great Controversy, 624, 557

What if Ellen White were to be personated? To those of us who have accepted her as God’s messenger for this last remnant of time, what effect would that have on the remnant church?

But spiritualism is more widespread than the seance chamber. On every hand we see the insidious working of Satan to prepare our minds to receive his deceitful, miracle-working power. The occult has invaded our so-called “Christian” culture in every form imaginable from the apparent peace and tranquility of yoga and transcendental meditation to the blatant Satanism of rock music.

We must learn now, before it is too late, to know God’s pure truth from the attractive and subtle errors of spiritualism which are already leavening every level of society.

“Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen, restlessly waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are watching and waiting and working for our Lord’s appearing; while the other party are rapidly falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. They look for a god in humanity, and Satan personifies the one they seek. Multitudes will be so deluded through their rejection of truth that they will accept the counterfeit. Humanity is hailed as God.

“One has come from the heavenly courts to represent God in human form. The Son of God was made man, and dwelt among us. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. . . That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.” [John 1:4, 5, 9-11]

“There are but two parties. Satan works with his crooked, deceiving power, and through strong delusions he catches all who do not abide in the truth, who have turned away their ears from the truth and have turned unto fables. Satan himself abode not in the truth; he is the mystery of iniquity. Through his subtility he gives to his soul-destroying errors the appearance of truth. Herein is their power to deceive. It is because they are a counterfeit of the truth that spiritualism, theosophy, and the like deceptions gain such power over the minds of men. Herein is the masterly working of Satan. He pretends to be the savior of man, the benefactor of the human race, and thus he more readily lures his victims to destruction.” Testimonies to Ministers, 364, 365

Again the prophet speaks: “At the great heart of the work, Satan will use his hellish arts to the utmost. He will seek in every way possible to interpose himself between the people and God, and shut away the light.” Review and Herald, December 24, 1889

“The conflict is to wax fiercer and fiercer. Satan will take the field and personate Christ. He will misrepresent, misapply, and pervert everything he possibly can, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Even in our day there have been and will continue to be entire families who have once rejoiced in the truth, but who will lose faith because of calumnies and falsehoods brought to them in regard to those whom they have loved and with whom they have had sweet counsel.” Testimonies to Ministers, 411

And finally these two paragraphs from Ellen White:

“Rebellion and apostasy are in the very air we breathe. We shall be affected by them unless we by faith hang our helpless souls upon Christ. If men are so easily misled now, how will they stand when Satan shall personate Christ, and work miracles? Who will be unmoved by his misrepresentations then—professing to be Christ when it is only Satan assuming the person of Christ, and apparently working the works of Christ? What will hold God’s people from giving their allegiance to false christs? ‘Go not after them.’ Luke 17:23

“The doctrines must be plainly understood. The men accepted to preach the truth must be anchored; then their vessel will hold against storm and tempest, because the anchor holds them firmly. The deceptions will increase, and we are to call rebellion by its right name. We are to stand with the whole armor on. In this conflict we do not meet men only, but principalities and powers. We wrestle not against flesh and blood. Let Ephesians 6:10-18 be read carefully and impressively in our churches.” Selected Messages, Book 2, 394, 395

The overmastering delusion will take the world captive, and at that time the majority of Seventh-day Adventists will join the enemy in the final shaking and sifting of the church. What tragedy! See Testimonies, vol. 5, 50, 10; vol. 1, 608, 609; vol. 8, 41

“When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 136

May God prepare His people to withstand these deceptions. We believe that this special edition on spiritualism is much needed now.

RON SPEAR—EDITOR
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Invitation to Writers

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Lying Spirits

Ron Spear

Many people today believe in ghosts, haunted houses, voodoo and other phenomena from the spirit world. Ouija boards are best sellers in department stores. Gossip tabloids feature stories of haunted houses and of loved ones communicating with their departed dead. They report men and women being taken captive by visitors from outer space. Television has captured the minds of young and old alike with programs glamorizing the supernatural. There are movies that deal more specifically with the occult, as Hollywood productions bring millions of people to movie theaters. For many years the media, influenced by Satan, has bombarded the minds of children with supernatural phenomena. Spiritualism is as old as the devil himself. As far as the world is concerned, it goes back to the Garden of Eden when Satan spoke to Eve through the spiritualistic medium.

Modern spiritualism had its beginnings in the manifestations that began with the Fox family in Hydesville, New York, in 1848. Shortly thereafter the Fox family moved to Rochester, New York, and because the knockings became manifest there, they came to be known as the "Rochester Knockings." Such manifestations have increased and spread until now there are rapping, writing, speaking, and healing mediums in every part of the world. In the United States and England millions of people believe in supernatural phenomena. Every candidate who has had a fair chance to witness the progress of spiritualism in the media is compelled to acknowledge that it must be the work of invisible spirits that have both power and more than human intelligence.

Even the scientific world has taken up the investigation of spiritualism. It can no longer be treated with silent contempt. Until recently, science ignored the alleged phenomenon of spiritualism. But now a noteworthy change has come as psychic and ESP researchers delve into the secrets of the invisible world. The Bible positively forbids communication with familiar spirits. "When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." (Deuteronomy 18:9-12) Webster gives the definition of "necromancy" as "pretended communications with the dead. And spiritualists everywhere claim that spiritual communications are from the spirits of the "dead."

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord thy God." Leviticus 19:31

Spiritualists do not deny that they are "calling on the dead." The Bible refers to them as charmers, enchanters, sorcerers and practitioners of witchcraft and necromancy. It speaks specifically against divinations and consultation with the familiar spirits declaring them to be an abomination. Such practices are strictly forbidden in both the Old and the New Testaments. (See 2 Kings 21:2-6, 9, 11; Revelation 21:8) Those who embrace spiritualism, in essence, have to give up the Bible—both cannot be true.

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when people supposed they were sacrificing to the dead, it was positively declared that they were sacrificing unto devils. (1 Corinthians 10:20; Psalm 106:27, 28) The dead have no knowledge of things done in the world, says Job. "His sons come to honor and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them." (Job 14:21) "His breath goeth forth; he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." (Psalm 146:4) "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

Any just and perfect being is Christ, they say

In 1 Timothy 4:1, we read, "Giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Revelation 16:14 adds: "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." "By their fruits ye shall know them" the Bible says. What is the fruitage of the spirit's teachings? They teach and strive to lead men and women to loosen the bonds of conscience particularly in respect to the sacredness of marriage. Many people today consult their "guardian spirits" with much more trust and confidence than they would a kind and experienced parent, and willingly yield to their suggestions and directions in matters both great and small. But to do so is not safe. The Scripture describes the deceptive character of these evil spirits and calls them seducing spirits, speaking lies and hypocrisy, deceivers, lying wonders. See 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10

Though some spiritualists may honestly believe otherwise, the devil is their god and their father. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44) Humans are so constituted that they worship any being or power that they regard as superior to themselves. When spiritualists refuse allegiance to God and the Bible, it is not surprising that they choose Satan as their god and father. History shows that such has always been the case.

Concerning demon worship in the early Christian world, it is the universal sentiment both of the church and of heretics that demons were the authors, patrons, and objects of idolatry. Those rebellious spirits who had been degraded from the rank of angels and cast down into the infernal pit were still permitted to roam upon the earth and torment the bodies and seduce the minds of sinful beings. Demons discovered and abused the natural propensities of the human heart towards devotion, and artfully withdrew the adorations of humanity from the Creator. They usurped the place of honor that belongs to the supreme Deity. By the success through the ages of their malicious contrivance, the forces of Satan not only have gratified their own sense of vanity and revenge, but have obtained the only comfort they were able to find—the hope of involving the human race in their guilt and misery.

As demons acknowledge Satan to be their god and father, we should naturally expect that when they pray through people they would pray to Satan. The spiritualist's prayer is called an invocation and this, of course, means nothing other than involving Satan who is called the prince of the power of the air. (Ephesians 2:2) No doubt Satan inspires the prayers to himself, for he wants to set himself up as god in the world.

The apostle Peter tells us that "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness." 2 Peter 2:4

What meaning do spiritualists give the word Christ? To them it is not, as generally supposed, the Son, the Creator of all things. Any just and perfect being is Christ, they say. But we read in Romans 1:21-23, 25: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things."

Spiritualists take the side of the devil every time

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." (Romans 1:21-23, 25) About 6,000 years ago Satan, the father of lies, said, "Ye shall be as gods." And now we see spiritualists preaching the same old lie. They take the side of the devil every time. They despise the Bible. Almost the first thing that spirits do with their converts is to destroy their confidence in the Bible. Why is this? Evidently because the Bible so fully cautions and warns against Satan's last-day deceptions. Because the Bible is against the spirits, the spirits are against the Bible. One spirit is reported to have said the Book of Genesis is the skin of the old serpent. There are 300 lies in this book alone, it claimed.

Some claim that spiritualism is a better guide for human conduct than the Bible. But it is a strange guide, one that inevitably points towards destruction.

Spiritualists Are At War With Marriage

Spiritualists openly war against the marriage institution and advocate the doctrine of free love. I quote from a known spiritualist on "Marriage and Religion": "The present laws of marriage that now give birth to regrets and sorrows unnumbered, to prostitution with its long train of curses and agonies will be abandoned for a holier order, diviner revelation that is to be given to the people. A religion more spiritual will be discovered and acknowledged, resting upon no certain outside standard of rectitude, upon no dogma of another, no purity of earthly life, no glory for earthly perfection. This religion is simply desire. With everyone desire is spontaneous and sincere, pure and holy."
No matter what the desire is, whether it be called good or bad, it is natural God-given religion of the soul." Taken from Dr. Child's book, Christ and the People, 27, 29.

Spiritualism has much to say about the beauty of its "sublime philosophy" and loudly rants against the Bible as containing absurd and ridiculous things. We should suppose from the way its advocates talk that the visions and doctrines of spiritualism were a perfect model of dignity and sublimity. But let us judge them by their fruits.

A London paper reports that according to prophecy there is soon to be a perfect avalanche of spirit manifestations—one of the most astounding influxes the world has ever known. Modern spiritualism may assume a different guise, but it is still identical to ancient heathenism. There are strange inconsistencies—spiritualists reject the Bible as unworthy of confidence because they say it is contradictory and then blindly cling to a system composed of absurdities and contradictions, which are beyond all description. They declare the God of the Bible to be unjust because in His general judgments He destroyed infants, but they exalt the god of nature manifested in the fury of tornadoes, earthquakes, pestilences and famines that has swept away millions of innocent mothers and infants.

Through spiritualistic phenomena the devil is working to prepare the world for his masterpiece

Spiritualists openly advocate and practice abominations and fellowship with those who teach immorality openly and boldly. They ridicule the idea of a Creator who can raise the dead and yet teach that the human soul is composed of particles like condensed steam and that it resurrects itself. They warn against the Bible as though it would be fatal to our eternal interests to follow it and yet admit that even those who do so will share the progressive spheres after death. If spiritualism is true, we are just as well off as they, but, if the Bible is true, they are lost. By their own judgment, we have a double assurance. If there be doubt in what we believe, which we do not admit, we are on the safe side of that doubt. Yet every Bible believer clings to a sure foundation.

Spiritualism is nothing other than the greatest tool in the hands of Satan. He has deceived much of the Christian world with the doctrine that humans never die but go to hell or heaven at death. Half the world is pagan and there too he has deceived the most pagans with the same great lie, that humans never die but go on living in another state or sphere. To the heathen, the spirits are just people who have found a new state of existence and now restlessly roam the earth.

Satan's Crowning Deception

Through the mass media Satan has prepared the world for his master deception, his crowning act in the last drama of the ages. Just before the curtain comes down on the final act, Satan will try to personate the coming of Christ. Although God will not permit him to perfectly counterfeit the second coming in the clouds of heaven, Satan is a master planner and nearly three hundred years ago began laying the foundation of his final master deception with the doctrine of futurism introduced at the Council of Trent. Francisco Ribera, a Jesuit, was the architect.

Later, toward the beginning of the nineteenth century, Irving and Darby adopted this deceptive teaching and called it the new dispensationalism or British Israelism. Scofield multiplied it on the North American continent by incorporating it in his Bible. This false teaching now is known as the secret rapture. It teaches one thing basically—that Jesus comes to Jerusalem and reigns on David's throne in Jerusalem for 1,000 years and that the tribulation comes after the rapture.

It is through spiritualistic phenomena that the devil is working now to prepare the world for his masterpiece. He has always wanted to be God. (See Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14) By this use of spiritualistic phenomena he may sweep into Jerusalem with his hosts of angels in UFOs, declaring that he is the Christ returned. Paul declares he will transform himself into an angel of light. See 2 Corinthians 11:14; The Great Controversy, 557, 624; Testimonies to Ministers, 62, 411.

At this point the world will be in its worst crisis. To fulfill the predictions found in the book of Rev-
A Right Perspective

There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination.

It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?

The rainbow of promise encircling the throne on high is an everlasting testimony that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

It testifies to the universe that God will never forsake His people in their struggle with evil. It is an assurance to us of strength and protection as long as the throne itself shall endure.

*The Desire of Ages*, 493
THE TIME is 1904. A conflict is raging between Ellen White and Dr. J. H. Kellogg. A 568-page book issued the year before titled The Living Temple by Dr. Kellogg is the subject of concern. Listen to Mrs. White's words:

"The battle is on. Satan and his angels are working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness. They are untiring in their efforts to draw souls away from the truth, away from righteousness, to spread ruin throughout the universe. They work with marvelous industry to furnish a multitude of deceptions to take souls captive. Their efforts are unceasing. The enemy is ever seeking to lead souls into infidelity and skepticism. He would do away with God, and with Christ, who was made flesh and dwelt among us to teach us that in obedience to God's will we may be victorious over sin.

"Every form of evil is waiting for an opportunity to assail us. Flattery, bribes, inducements, promises of wonderful exaltation, will be most assiduously employed...."

"Satan and his angels are making every effort to obtain control of minds, that men may be swayed by falschood and pleasing fables...."

"The sentiments of the enemy are being scattered everywhere. Seeds of discord, of unbelief, of infidelity, are being sown broadcast.

"The dangers coming upon us are continually increasing. It is high time that we put on the whole armor of God, and work earnestly to keep Satan from gaining any further advantage. Angels of God, that excel in strength, are waiting for us to call them to our aid, that our faith may not be eclipsed by the fierceness of the conflict. Renewed energy is now needed. Vigilant action is called for. Indifference and sloth will result in the loss of personal religion and of heaven.

"At this time the Laodicean message is to be given, to arouse a slumbering church. Let the thought of the shortness of time stimulate you to earnest, untiring effort. Remember that Satan has come down with great power, to work with all deceivable-

ness of unrighteousness in them that perish...."

"Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.

"I am instructed to speak plainly. 'Meet it,' is the word spoken to me. 'Meet it firmly, and without delay.' But it is not to be met by our taking our working forces from the field to investigate doctrines and points of difference. We have no such investigation to make. In the book The Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given." Selected Messages, Book 1, 194-200; see also Testimonies, vol. 8, 255-318; The Ministry of Healing, 427-438

Eighty-two years have passed. Pantheism, the error in The Living Temple was identified as the Alpha of deadly heresies, spiritualistic in nature and influence. Has the Omega
appeared? Will we recognize it when it comes? Various speculations have been made and conjectures given as to what the Omega is or will be. It is possible that the Omega will have to do with the medical profession(s) as the Alpha did. Will the joining of the hands of medicine, science, and religion result in the Omega? Could it be that the "three unclean spirits, like devils" of Revelation 13 are not only political and theological, but are also medical and psychological? Remember the warning, "the omega will be of a most startling nature."

What is coming, if it isn't already here, is the refinement of spiritualism. I see it developing steadily and insidiously. And it appears that Christians, even Seventh-day Adventists, are drifting into the net. Unfortunately, Adventists are not so concerned about spiritualism as they once were. We used to hear a great deal about it, but I am aware of only a few voices now raised to expose spiritualism in its various forms.

I was speaking to a group of charismatic women and mentioned spiritualism. Not one of the group knew what I was talking about. And when dealing with Adventists, it seems many are aware only that it has to do with evil spirits impersonating the dead. I am finding that knowledge of the doctrines of spiritualism is almost totally lacking in many of my audiences.

In order to recognize the tenets of spiritualism, there are a few basic concepts we must be aware of: 1) Spiritualism is Satan's own religion, with doctrines, worship, rituals, and hymns. 2) Satan is adept at using the media to promulgate his doctrines to the extent that people are accepting "doctrines of devils." 3) Spiritualism is a counterfeit of the truth as it is in Scripture. (Testimonies to Ministers, 365) A counterfeit is so like the genuine that only those who know the genuine can distinguish it from the true. I have been amazed at the specific teachings of spiritualism as they parallel the teachings of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. 4) Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs, but it will be reached in the last remnant of time.

We need to be aware of the doctrines of spiritualism in order to recognize it before its subtleties ensnare our thinking. The Spirit of Prophecy provides detailed information of the teachings of spiritualism; it behoves us to beware. Note the following doctrines, and the comments on them by Ellen White:

1) Man naturally possesses immortality. _The Great Controversy_, 551; _Evangelism_, 603, 608
2) Christ is not a divine Being. _Patriarchs and Prophets_, 686; _The Great Controversy_, 524
3) Satan has no existence as a personal being. _The Great Controversy_, 516
4) Prayer is not essential. _Testimonies_, vol. 1, 295, 296; _The Great Controversy_, 525
5) The Bible is erroneous or unreliable. _Acts of the Apostles_ 474; _The Desire of Ages_, 258; _The Great Controversy_, 595
6) God is an essence pervading nature—the doctrine of pantheism. _Evangelism_, 601; _The Ministry of Healing_, 428
7) Man is accountable only to himself—which is will worship. _The Great Controversy_, 555
8) Desire is the highest law. _Evangelism_, 608
9) Man is a creature of progression. _The Great Controversy_, 554

Can we calculate the number of people in the world who believe and teach spiritualistic doctrines? First, the belief in the immortality of the soul is embraced by most Protestants, Catholics, and non-Christian religions (eastern, heathen, and pagan). Add to this group evolutionists who teach progression, identified as a doctrine of spiritualism (_The Great Controversy_, 554, 555), and those who teach transmigration of the soul and reincarnation. It does not require a statistician to compute that the number includes almost the entire population of the globe.

It should be noted here how the foundations of spiritualism are laid in Western society.

"This entering in of Satan through the sciences is well devised. Through the channel of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism, he comes more directly to the people of this generation and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation. The minds of thousands have thus been poisoned and led into infidelity.

"While it is believed that one human mind so wonderfully affects another, Satan, who is ready to press every advantage, insinuates himself and works on the right hand and on the left. And while those who are devoted to these sciences laud them to the heavens because of the great and good works which they affirm are wrought by them, they little know what a power for evil they are cherishing; but it is a power which will yet work with all signs and lying wonders—with all deceivableness of unrighteousness. Mark the influence of these sciences, dear reader, for the conflict between Christ and Satan is not yet ended.

"Through these sciences, virtue is destroyed and the foundations of spiritualism are laid." _Mind, Character, and Personality_, 19, 20

We are 100 years closer to that time than when these words were written. Few Adventists seem aware that in today's world specific movements are very subtly and insidiously promoting spiritualism. Generally speaking, Adventists tend not to be students of modern psychology, although this is rapidly changing. When I point out the dangers of the mind sciences laying the foundation for spiritualism, the response is almost always "But even Sister White says 'they are good in their place.' "

"Their place" seems to be everywhere, and almost anything printed as psychology is accepted as safe and sound.

Most denominational schools have departments of psychology, some under the title of behavioral science. Teachers who were originally hired to fill these departments had to receive their degrees from secular or non-Seventh-day Adventist universities, because we have only recently been able to offer degrees in these fields. I believe it only natural for one to teach what he/she has been taught, so I am extremely apprehensive that spurious information may be disseminated right within Seventh-day Adventist colleges. I have been told by

Few Adventists seem aware that in today's world specific movements are very subtly and insidiously promoting spiritualism.
heads of psychology departments that neither the Bible nor the Spirit of Prophecy can be depended upon for information in psychology. This is in
spite of the specific statement that "the true principles of psychology are
found in the Holy Scriptures." (My Life Today, 176) None of these state-
ments are meant to be critical, but instead to voice a real concern that we
not be deceived.

"He [Satan] is sweeping the world
into his ranks, and the few who are
faithful to God's requirements are the
only ones who can ever withstand
him, and even these he is trying to
overcome. Go to God for yourselves, pray for divine enlightenment, that
you may know that you do know
what is truth, that when the won-
derful miracle-working power of Satan
shall be displayed, and the enemy
shall come as an angel of light, you
may distinguish between the genuine
work of God and the imitative work
of the power of darkness." Review and
Herald, December 24, 1889

The mind sciences of the present
time have their roots in mesmerism, a term
derived from its propounder, a Ger-
man physician named Mesmer (1734-
1815). He put his patients in a trance-
like state known now as hypnosis, and
gained attention both in Europe and
America. Jean-Martin Charcot was his
student and Sigmund Freud (1856-
1939) studied with Charcot. Freud and
Jung (1875-1961) were co-workers
for a time and both practiced hypno-
sis which Freud had learned from
Charcot. Freud, Jung, and Charcot
were contemporaneous with Ellen G.
White. This fact seems significant in
that, while she never referred to any
of these individuals by name in her
published works, she did speak em-
phatically against mesmerism.

It should be emphasized that tem-
porary psychological relief may be
felt through these techniques, but cer-
tainly at great risk that the mind may
never again be so strong and reliable.

"The theory of mind controlling
mind was originated by Satan to in-
troduce himself as the chief worker
in human philosophy, where divine
philosophy should be. Of all the
errors that are finding acceptance
among professedly Christian people,
none is more dangerous deception,
none more certain to separate man
from God, than is this. Innocent
though it may appear, if exercised
upon patients, it will tend to their
destruction, not to their restoration.
It opens a door through which Satan
will enter to take possession both of
the mind that is given up to be con-
trolled by another and of the mind
that controls." Mind, Character, and
Personality, 712, 713

If Satan does indeed control both
the mind that controls and the mind
that is controlled, then one could
assume that textbooks coming from the
pens of these founders of modern psy-
chology may be unsafe to read. It is
not difficult to imagine Satan dictat-
ing psychological truth mixed with er-
ror which in turn is studied by un-
suspecting students in every uni-
versity. You may be sure that what-
ever Satan passes on to us is spiri-
tualistic in nature. Thus it is not
difficult to see that the mind sciences
could lay the foundation for spirit-
ualism.

But more than a foundation is in
evidence today. We now have an en-
tire building of spiritualistic doctrine
rising ever higher on the psychologi-
cal skyline.

Those who are attempting to teach
the true principles of psychology are
already feeling the opposition and
wrath of the dragon, even within
Adventism.

We have been warned in solemn
words, Will the Omega's "startling
nature" startle us? Will we be among
the hypnotized majority led captive
by the devil? Or will we heed God's
words, and learn to identify Satan's
traps, and sound a warning to those
around us? The choice is ours.

"Spiritualism is about to take the
world captive. There are many who
think that spiritualism is upheld
through trickery and imposture, but
this is far from the truth. Super-
human power is working in a variety
of ways, and few have any idea as to
what will be the manifestations of
spiritualism in the future." Evange-
lical, 602, 603
Shall We Consult Spiritualist Physicians?

Ellen G. White

A HAZIAH FELL down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease. But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die." [2 Kings 1:2-4]

This narrative most strikingly displays the divine displeasure against those who turn from God to satanic agencies. A short time previous to the events above recorded the kingdom of Israel had changed rulers. Ahab had fallen under the judgment of God and had been succeeded by his son Ahaziah, a worthless character, who did only evil in the sight of the Lord, walking in the ways of his father and mother, and causing Israel to sin. He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger, as his father Ahab had done. But judgments followed close upon the sins of the rebellious king. A war with Moab, and then the accident by which his own life was threatened, attested the wrath of God against Ahaziah.

How much had the king of Israel heard and seen in his father's time of the wondrous works of the Most High! What terrible evidence of His severity and jealousy had God given apostate Israel! Of all this, Ahaziah was cognizant; yet he acted as though these awful realities, and even the fearful end of his own father, were only an idle tale. Instead of humbling his heart before the Lord he ventured upon the most daring act of impiety which marked his life. He commanded his servants: "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease." [2 Kings 2:2]

Satan's agents still claim to cure disease

The idol of Ekron was supposed to give information, through the medium of its priests, concerning future events. It had obtained such general credence that it was resorted to by large numbers from a considerable distance. The predictions there uttered and the information given proceeded directly from the prince of darkness. It is Satan who created and who maintains the worship of idols, to divert the minds of men from God. It is by his agency that the kingdom of darkness and falsehood is supported.

The history of King Ahaziah's sin and punishment has a lesson of warning which none can disregard with impunity. Though we do not pay homage to heathen gods, yet thousands are worshiping at Satan's shrine as verily as did the king of Israel. The very spirit of heathen idolatry is rife today, though under the influence of science and education it has assumed a more refined and attractive form. Every day adds sorrowful evidence that faith in the sure word of prophecy is fast decreasing, and that in its stead superstition and satanic witchery are captivating the minds of men. All who do not earnestly search the Scriptures and submit every desire and purpose of life to that unerring test, all who do not seek God in prayer for a knowledge of His will, will surely wander from the right path and fall under the deception of Satan.

The heathen oracles have their counterpart in the spiritualistic mediums, the clairvoyants, and fortunetellers of today. The mystic voices that spoke at Ekron and Endor are still by their lying words misleading the children of men. The prince of darkness has but appeared under a new guise. The mysteries of heathen worship are replaced by the secret associations and seances, the obscurities and wonders, of the sorcerers of our time. Their disclosures are eagerly received by thousands who refuse to accept light from God's word or from His Spirit. While they speak with scorn of the magicians of old, the great deceiver lauds in triumph as they yield to his arts under a different form.

His agents still claim to cure disease. They attribute their power to electricity, magnetism, or the so-called "sympathetic remedies." In truth, they are but channels for Satan's electric currents. By this means he casts his spell over the bodies and souls of men. I have from time to time received letters both from ministers and lay members of the church, inquiring if I think it wrong to consult spiritualist and clairvoyant physicians. I have not answered these letters for want of time. But just now the subject is again urged upon my attention. So numerous are these agents of Satan becoming, and so general is the practice of seeking counsel from them, that it seems needful to utter words of warning.
God has placed it in our power to obtain a knowledge of the laws of health. He has made it our duty to preserve our physical powers in the best possible condition, that we may render to Him acceptable service. Those who refuse to improve the light and knowledge that has been mercifully placed within their reach are rejecting one of the means which God has granted them to promote spiritual as well as physical life. They are placing themselves where they will be exposed to the delusions of Satan.

Not a few in this Christian age and Christian nation resort to evil spirits rather than trust to the power of the living God. The mother, watching by the sickbed of her child, exclaims: "I can do no more. Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?" She is told of the wonderful cures performed by someclairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hands of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power which it seems impossible to break.

Many are unwilling to put forth the needed effort to obtain a knowledge of the laws of life and the simple means to be employed for the restoration of health. They do not place themselves in right relation to life. When sickness is the result of their transgression of law, they do not seek to correct their errors and then ask the blessing of God, but they resort to the physicians. If they recover health they give to drugs and doctors all the honor. They are ever ready to idolize human power and wisdom, seeming to know no other God than the creature—dust and ashes.

I have heard a mother pleading with some infidel physician to save the life of her child; but when I entreated her to seek help from the Great Physician who is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto Him in faith, she turned away with impatience. Here we see the same spirit that was manifested by Ahaziah.

It is not safe to trust to physicians who have not the fear of God before them. Without the influence of divine grace the hearts of men are "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." [Jeremiah 17:9] Self-aggrandizement is their aim. Under the cover of the medical profession what iniquities have been concealed, what delusions supported! The physician may claim to possess great wisdom and marvelous skill, when his character is abandoned and his practice contrary to the laws of life. The Lord our God assures us that He is waiting to be gracious; He invites us to call upon Him in the day of trouble. How can we turn from Him to trust in an arm of flesh?

Go with me to yonder sickroom. There lies a husband and father, a man who is a blessing to society and to the cause of God. He has been suddenly stricken down by disease. The fire of fever seems consuming him. He longs for pure water to moisten the parched lips, to quench the raging thirst, and cool the fevered brow. But, no; the doctor has forbidden water. The stimulus of strong drink is given and adds fuel to the fire. The blessed, heaven-sent water, skillfully applied, would quench the devouring flame; but it is set aside for poisonous drugs.

For a time nature wrestles for her rights; but at last, overcome, she gives up the contest, and death sets the sufferer free. God desired that man to live, to be a blessing to the world; Satan determined to destroy him, and through the agency of the physician he succeeded. How long shall we permit our most precious lights to be thus extinguished?

Ahaziah sent his servants to inquire of Baal-zebub, at Ekron, but instead of a message from the idol, he heard the awful denunciation from the God of Israel: "Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die." It was Christ that bade Elijah speak these words to the apostate king. Jehovah Immanuel had cause to be greatly displeased at Ahaziah's impiety. What had Christ not done to win the hearts of sinners and to inspire them with unwavering confidence in Himself? For ages He had visited His people with manifestations of the most condescending kindness and unexampled love. From the times of the patriarchs He had shown how His "delights were with the sons of men." [Proverbs 8:31] He had been a very present help to all who sought Him in sincerity. "In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them." [Isaiah 63:9] Yet Israel had revolted from God and turned for help to the Lord's worst enemy.

The Hebrews were the only nation favored with a knowledge of the true God. When the king of Israel sent to inquire of a pagan oracle, he proclaimed to the heathen that he had more confidence in their idols than in the God of His people, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In the same manner do those who profess to have a knowledge of God's word dishonor Him when they turn from the Source of strength and wisdom to ask help or counsel from the powers of darkness. If God's wrath was kindled by such a course on the part of a wicked, idolatrous king, how can He regard a similar course pursued by those who profess to be His servants?

Why is it that men are so unwilling to trust Him who created man, and who can by a touch, a word, a look, heal all manner of disease? Who is more worthy of our confidence than the One who made so great a sacrifice for redemption? Our Lord has given us definite instruction through the apostle James as to our duty in case of sickness. When human help fails, God will be the helper of His people. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." [James 5:14, 15] If the professed followers of Christ would, with purity of heart, exercise as much faith
in the promises of God as they repose in satanic agencies, they would realize in soul and body the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

God has granted to this people great light, yet we are not placed beyond the reach of temptation. Who among us are seeking help from the gods of Ekron? Look on this picture—not drawn from imagination. In how many, even among Seventh-day Adventists, may its leading characteristics be seen? An invalid—apparently very conscientious, yet bigoted and self-sufficient—freely avows his contempt for the laws of health and life, which divine mercy has led us as a people to accept. His food must be prepared in a manner to satisfy his morbid cravings. Rather than sit at a table where wholesome food is provided, he will patronize restaurants, because he can there indulge appetite without restraint. A fluent advocate of temperance, he disregards its foundation principles. He wants relief, but refuses to obtain it at the price of self-denial. That man is worshiping at the shrine of perverted appetite. He is an idolater. The powers which, sanctified and nobled, might be employed to honor God, are weakened and rendered of little service. An irritable temper, a confused brain, and unstrung nerves are among the results of his disregard of nature's laws. He is inefficient, unreliable.

Whoever has the courage and honesty to warn him of danger thereby incurs his displeasure. The slightest remonstrance or opposition is sufficient to rouse his combative spirit. But now an opportunity is presented to seek help from one whose power comes through the medium of witchcraft. To this source he applies with eagerness, freely expending time and money in hope of securing the offered boon. He is deceived, infatuated. The sorcerer's power is made the theme of praise, and others are influenced to seek his aid. Thus the God of Israel is dishonored, while Satan's power is revered and exalted.

In the name of Christ I would address His professed followers: Abide in the faith which you have received from the beginning. Shun profane and vain babblings. Instead of putting your trust in witchcraft, have faith in the living God. Cursed is the path that leads to Endor or to Ekron. The feet will stumble and fall that venture upon the forbidden ground. There is a God in Israel, with whom is deliverance for all that are oppressed. Righteousness is the habitation of His throne.

There is danger in departing in the least from the Lord's instruction. When we deviate from the plain path of duty, a train of circumstances will arise that seems irresistible to draw us further and further from the right. Needless intimacies with those who have no respect for God will seduce us ere we are aware. Fear to offend worldly friends will deter us from expressing our gratitude to God or acknowledging our dependence upon Him. We must keep close to the word of God. We need its warnings and encouragement, its threatenings and promises. We need the perfect example given only in the life and character of our Saviour.

Angels of God will preserve His people while they walk in the path of duty, but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan's ground. An agent of the great deceiver will say and do anything to gain his object. It matters little whether he calls himself a spiritualist, an "electric physician," or a "magnetic healer." By specious pretenses he wins the confidence of the unawary. He pretends to read the life history and to understand all the difficulties and afflictions of those who resort to him. Disguising himself as an angel of light, while the blackness of the pit is in his heart, he manifests great interest in women who seek his counsel. He tells them that all their troubles are due to an unhappy marriage. This may be too true, but such a counselor does not better their condition. He tells them that they need love and sympathy. Pretending great interest in their welfare, he casts a spell over his unsuspecting victims, charming them as the serpent charms the trembling bird. Soon they are completely in his power; sin, disgrace, and ruin are the terrible sequel.

These workers of iniquity are not few. Their path is marked by desolate homes, blasted reputations, and broken hearts. But of all this the world knows little; still they go on making fresh victims, and Satan exults in the ruin he has wrought.

The visible and the invisible world are in close contact. Could the veil be lifted, we would see evil angels pressing their darkness around us and working with all their power to deceive and destroy. Wicked men are surrounded, influenced, and aided by evil spirits. The man of faith and prayer has yielded his soul to divine guidance, and angels of God bring to him light and strength from heaven.

No man can serve two masters. Light and darkness are no more opposites than are the service of God and the service of Satan. The prophet Elijah presented the matter in the true light when he fearlessly appealed to apostate Israel: "If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him." [1 King 18:21]

Those who give themselves up to the sorcery of Satan may boast of great benefit received thereby, but does this prove their course to be wise or safe? What if life should be prolonged? What if temporal gain should be secured? Will it pay in the end to disregard the will of God? All such apparent gain will prove at last an irrecoverable loss. We cannot with impunity break down a single barrier which God has erected to guard His people from Satan's power.

Our only safety is in preserving the ancient landmarks. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." [Isaiah 8:20]

Testimonies, vol. 5, 191-197
"Spiritualism, which numbers its converts by hundreds of thousands, yea, by millions, which has made its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings—this mammoth deception is but a revival, in a new disguise, of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old."¹

Today? Really?

Yes, witchcraft, devil worship, snake charming, necromancy, mysticism, fortune telling, and even witch doctors, are with us still in today's society, but they now possess a new credibility, an air of sophistication—and a new guise.

The greatest bulwark of the occult in Western culture today is not the fanatic fringe, but the mushrooming number of “respectable people” being influenced by corporate success seminars and the greed-tainted “religion” of a newly emerged class of “prosperity prophets.”

Modern man, full of wisdom, is seeking ways to improve himself, and the devil has a host of “human potential,” “positive thinking,” and “success seminar” books and tapes to fill the void. There are literally hundreds of these programs for the business man, housewife, professor, and the kindergarten/preschool tot.

This so-called self-improvement was brought to the world by the devil through Napoleon Hill, Think and Grow Rich, is the title of his well-known book in which he discloses the “supreme secret.” The secret itself is of interest, but first, let's take a moment to hear how he came by this knowledge. A simple “visualization” exercise led to the formation of Hill's “imaginary” group of “Counselors.” He says:

"These nine men were Emerson, Paine, Edison, Darwin, Lincoln, Burbank, Napoleon, Ford, and Carnegie. Every night . . . I held an imaginary council meeting with this group whom I called my Invisible Counselors. . . ."

"After some months of this nightly procedure, I was astounded by the discovery that these imaginary figures became apparently real . . . ."

"These meetings became so realistic that I became fearful of their consequences, and discontinued them for several months. The experiences were so uncanny, I was afraid if I continued them I would lose sight of the fact that the meetings were purely experiences of my imagination."²

Imagination, he said. But he said

The New Spiritualism

SATAN HAS long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. In numerical terms he will to a great extent prove successful, for nearly the entire world population (now exceeding five billion) will fall into his fatal deception. Except for those few who trust and follow the word of God explicitly, all—men, women, and children alike—will accept the teachings of “seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.”¹

I Timothy 4:1

Looking back at past ages it is not difficult to distinguish witchcraft and demon worship from the truth of God. But the subtlety of Satan's final deceptions is almost beyond imagination. Yet God has not left us defenseless. Spiritualism's basic doctrines are clearly spelled out for us. These have never changed, except for the manner in which they are presented. You can locate them in The Great Controversy, 552-562.

Here's a quick review: Man is progressing toward godhead; he is naturally immortal; Christ was not God; yet man is an unfallen demigod; “Judgment is of self,” and self is the source of all things, so naturally “Whatever is, is right”; knowledge places man above all law, but no matter—God does not condemn under any circumstance for “all sins committed are innocent”; and finally, any just and perfect being (which means everyone, since all are innocent) is Christ.

How could Satan get any rational person to follow such contradictory gibberish? The answer is “power.”

Vincent Cherry

¹"The New Spiritualism," 14 Our Firm Foundation, August, 1986
more. “In my studies I discovered there is a group of strange beings who maintain a school of wisdom . . . 

“The School has Masters who can disembowel themselves and travel instantly to any place they choose. . . . I knew that one of these Masters had come across thousands of miles, through the night, into my study. . . .

‘You have earned the right to reveal a Supreme Secret to others,’ said the vibrant voice. ‘You have been under the guidance of the Great School . . . Now you must give the world a blueprint.’”

From such a source we might expect any blasphemy, any outrageous lie. But what was the blueprint, the supreme secret? “Anything the human mind can believe, the human mind can achieve.”

Is That So Bad?

Really, this “secret” has a positive ring. It sounds hopeful, some might even say healthy. But God says the “heart (mind) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?” A very little reflection on the matter shows that Hill’s secret, whatever it is, isn’t Christian.

Instead, it neatly wraps up the very essence of spiritualism. If the power of the human mind (or spirit) is invincible, what then is death? What need is there for God? Indeed, what god could there be but man? If all men can work “miracles,” what is so special about Jesus Christ?

It is amazing to what extents man has allowed his “sophistication” to sink, as he chases fanciful delusions of grandeur. And the devil is sure to have a program for every whim. The list is probably exhaustless, but here are a few of the most common:

Even Christians have bought the devil’s line


And for every program, for every “cause,” there is someone to play the role of champion. These names you may have heard:

Isaac Asimov, Buckminster Fuller, Zig Zigler, Marilyn Ferguson, Elizabeth Claire Prophet, Maxwell Maltz, Adam Smith, Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller, Kenneth Copeland, Shirley MacLaine, Dag Hammerskold, Mother Teresa, and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (the Jesuit priest/paleontologist known as the father of the New Age).

Spiritualism is about to take the world captive

Yes, even Christians have bought the devil’s line. Satan has infiltrated the Christian world, presenting a new, enlightened, approach to becoming better people and workers for God. He has deceived many Christian leaders and led them to absorb and propagate his darling deceptions. “As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare.”

Peale writes “Imaging (use of the mind to produce a material reality) has been . . . implicit in all the speaking and writing I have done.”

Robert Schuller, of Crystal Cathedral fame in California, states: “I believe that the responsibility [of a minister] in this [New] Age is to ‘spiritivize’ religion . . . I talk a great deal to groups that are not positive . . . even to what we would call fundamentalists who deal constantly with words like sin, salvation, repentance, and guilt, that sort of thing.

“So when I’m dealing with these people . . . what we have to do is positivize the words that have classically only had a negative interpretation.” He also offers this advice: “The most effective mantras employ the ‘M’ sound. [Mantras are Hindu prayers to demons] You can get the feel of it by repeating the words, ‘I am, I am,’ many times over . . . Transcendental Meditation or TM is not a religion nor is it necessarily anti-Christian.” Unfortunately, for both him and all who believe him, such teaching is nothing short of soul-destroying error.

With enough material for volumes of exposé let us look to the Word of truth for our protection. The devil is out to destroy the very least vestige of Christ in His people. Church after church is falling, and has fallen.

The Roman Church, for one, is honest in admitting its fall from the truth, (though such admissions are not widely broadcast), “Confiding then in the power of Christianity to resist the infection of evil, and to transmute the instruments and appendages of demon worship to an evangelical use . . . the rulers of the church were prepared, should occasion arise, to adopt, or initiate, or sanction the existing rites and customs of the populace.” “All of pagan origin and sanctified by adoption into the church.”

As we view these things we must see that without Christ we will be deceived and overcome. So powerful is to be the final delusions that, “Spiritualism is about to take the world captive.”

Should we fail to keep our eyes on Christ we will be ensnared. “All who neglect the word of God to study convenience and policy, that they may not be at variance with the world, will be left to receive damnable heresy for religious truth. Every conceivable form of error will be accepted by those who willfully reject the truth.” You may not reject the truth, but a failure to study is equally dangerous. “Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his
attacks." "All whose faith is not firmly established upon the word of God will be deceived and overcome."13

Observing just a small portion of the inroads of spiritualism, let none of us think ourselves secure, in any position, or connection with any body of faith.

Though the agency of evil spirits strange gods were introduced; and because of transgression, the chosen people were finally scattered from the Land of Promise. This history Satan is striving to repeat in our day. God is leading His people out from the abominations of the world that they may keep His law. . . . The antitypical land of promise is just before us, and Satan is determined to destroy the people of God and cut them off from their inheritance. The admonition, 'Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation' (Mark 14:38), was never more needed than now.

"The word of the Lord to ancient Israel is addressed also to His people in this age; 'Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, [not even "positive wizards"] to be defiled by them;' for "all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:12."12

Take time each morning to know God and His truth. He has promised it will keep you and make you wise unto salvation. It will cause you to "hate every false way." Psalm 119:104

"Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee." Revelation 3:10

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1. The Great Controversy, 556
2. Napoleon Hill, Think and Grow Rich, 215, 216 (Fawcett, 1979) emphasis in original
4. Ibid., 176
5. The Great Controversy, 588
7. Robert Schuller, address at Unity Village, Unity tape
8. Schuller, Peace of Mind Through Possibility Thinking, 131, 132 (Fleming H. Revell, 1977)
10. Evangelism, 602
11. The Great Controversy, 523, 519, 560
12. Patriarchs and Prophets, 689

When modern spiritualism made its debut in the mid 1800s the Advent believers saw it as a sign of fulfilling prophecy. As such, it deserved to be watched, and watch it they did. The back page of the July 4, 1854, Review and Herald carried an account of the "Address of the National Society for the Diffusion of Spiritual Knowledge." It portrays the rapid rise to prominence which spiritualism enjoyed at that time, and brings to mind—32 years later—the question, "Could it happen again?"

T O THE Citizens of the United States: But a few short years ago, in an obscure locality, and under circumstances which seemed to warrant the belief in an early termination of the so-called dream, Spiritualism, in its present form was born. Its few advocates, in the early days of its life, were looked upon as lunatics—were despised for their faith; and men of respectability and standing in society could hardly be found who were willing to examine into the facts connected with the alleged phenomena, for fear of the reproach of the entire unbelieving community. Since that period, Spiritualism has extended with a rapidity unprecedented in the annals of the world—until today, it has become a respectable power in society. Men whose education and whose genius have fitted them for occupying the highest stations, either in politics or in the church, have sacrificed all positions of earthly aggrandizement for the sake of what they believe to be the enjoyment of high and holy truth. Connected with that movement today are many hundreds and thousands of men who are respected by their neighbors for their integrity and worth—esteemed and loved by their friends for their many amiable qualities. The subject has arrested the attention of the learned all over this land, and in many other lands. It has produced books, for and against. Many of the publications on both sides of the question are marked by ability and strength.

Within the last two years, Spiritualism has increased in strength and stature with a growth unprecedented in the history of mental giants. If it be a lie, there is every prospect of its enveloping this world, and by its weight, sinking this world one degree lower in the depth of degradation. If it be a lie, it has come in so lovely a garb that men will seek it unless they be warned by a strong voice; men will flee to it as though it were an angel sent from heaven—will become enveloped in its false light, and will be borne down to death by the weight of its false glory. If it be a lie, ye men of America, who have one thought towards the good of your fellows, it is your duty to come forward as one man, to tear the veil from the face of the lie, and expose it in all its hideousness. We challenge you as men—as earnest men, as men desiring the good of your fellows— to come forth and meet us in the fight, expose our errors, draw the shroud away, and enable the world to see us as we are. We challenge you to come and do that thing.

Citizens of the United States! We feel authority for saying that the day for raising the cry of humbug, chicanery, delusion, has passed away forever. You know—all of you who have reflective minds—that the application of these terms to this subject can no longer produce results; but that rather these invectives, launched at your supposed enemies, will rebound upon yourselves, and cover you with weakness. Your professed teachers, your men in high places, the learned of your universities, the eloquent of your pulpits have dealt in them long enough. And what results have they achieved? The theories which the universities sent forth to account for the alleged phenomena, as they were pleased to term them, have not only rendered their authors, but the universities, ridiculous in the minds of intelligent men. All the theories which they reared have crumbled to the dust, and their authors cannot shake that dust from off their clothing.
Science Falsely So Called

Ellen G. White

In these days when skepticism and infidelity so often appear in a scientific garb, we need to be guarded on every hand. Through this means our great adversary is deceiving thousands, and leading them captive according to his will. The advantage he takes of the sciences, sciences which pertain to the human mind, is tremendous. Here, serpent-like, he imperceptibly creeps in to corrupt the work of God.

This entering in of Satan through the sciences is well devised. Through the channel of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism, he comes more directly to the people of this generation, and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation. The minds of thousands have thus been poisoned, and led into infidelity. While it is believed that one human mind so wonderfully affects another, Satan, who is ready to press every advantage, insinuates himself, and works on the right hand and on the left. And while those who are devoted to these sciences, laud them to the heavens because of the great and good works which they affirm are wrought by them, they little know what a power for evil they are cherishing; but it is a power which will yet work with all signs and lying wonders—with all deceivableness of unrighteousness. Mark the influence of these sciences, dear reader; for the conflict between Christ and Satan is not yet ended.

If Satan were to make an open and bold attack upon Christianity, it would bring the Christian at once to the feet of his mighty Deliverer, who alone could put the adversary to flight. He does not generally do this. He is artful, and knows that the most effectual way for him to accomplish his designs is to come to poor, fallen man in the form of an angel of light. In this disguise he works upon the mind to allure from the safe and right path. He has ever been ambitious to counterfeit the work of Christ, and establish his own power and claims. He leads deceived mortals to account for the works and miracles of Christ upon scientific principles; he makes them appear as the result of human skill and power. In many minds he will thus eventually destroy all true faith in Christ as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Satan worked in a similar manner when through Moses the power of God was manifested in Egypt. He well knew that Moses was chosen of God to break the yoke of bondage from off the children of Israel; and he also knew that in this work Moses was a type of Christ, who was to come to break the reign of sin over the human family and to deliver those who were captives to its power. He was aware that when Christ should appear, mighty works and miracles would be wrought by Him that the world might know that the Father had sent Him. He trembled for his power. He resolved to accomplish a work which should answer a twofold purpose: (1) To destroy the influence of Moses as the servant of God, by using his agents to counterfeit the true work of God; (2) To exert an influence by his work through the magicians which would reach down through all ages, and in many minds destroy true faith in the mighty miracles to be performed by Christ when He should come to this world.

It was the power of God, and no human influence or power possessed by Moses, that produced those miracles wrought before Pharaoh. Those signs and wonders were designed to convince Pharaoh that the great "I AM" had sent Moses, and that it was the duty of the king to let Israel go so that they might serve the living God. Pharaoh called for the magicians to work with their enchantments. They also showed signs and wonders; for they wrought not by their own science alone, but by the power of their god, the devil, who through them ingeniously carried out his deceptive work. Yet even here the power of God was shown to be superior to that of Satan; for the magicians were unable to perform all the miracles which God wrought through Moses. Only a few of them could they do. The magicians' rods did become serpents, but Aaron's rod swallowed them up. And when they sought to produce lice, and could not; they were compelled to acknowledge even to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." (Exodus 8:19)

Satan was unwilling to have the children of Israel released from bondage that they might serve God. He wrought through the magicians in a manner to harden the heart of the tyrant against the miraculous manifestations of God's power. He also thought to stagger the faith of Moses and Aaron in the divine origin of...
their mission, and then his instruments would prevail. But after the magicians had failed to produce the plague of lice, they could no more imitate Moses and Aaron. God would not suffer Satanic deception to proceed further. His controlling power cut off the channel through which Satan worked, and even the instruments through whom Satan wrought so wonderfully could not save themselves from the plagues. We read: “The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boils was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.” [9:11]

When Christ came to earth, Satan renewed his attack. He came to the Saviour in the wilderness in the form of a beautiful young man—more like a monarch than a fallen angel—with Scripture in his mouth. Said he, “It is written.” He spread the word before Christ in the most attractive light, and intimated to Him that He need not endure so much suffering to gain his kingdoms; Satan would yield all his claims if Christ would but worship him.

Satan was dissatisfied in heaven because he could not be first and highest in command equal with the Father, exalted above Christ. In the wilderness he hoped to gain advantage through the weakness and suffering of Christ and obtain from Him that homage which he could not win in heaven. If he be successful, then the plan of salvation would have failed, and mankind would have been plunged in hopeless misery. But Jesus yielded not to the suggestion of the tempter for a moment; on the contrary, he asserted his superior power by bidding him, “Get thee hence.” [See Matthew 4:1-11] Satan was baffled. He then turned his attention to accomplishing his purpose in another way, by winning from the human race that honor which was refused him in heaven, and by Jesus on earth; and here he has been only too successful.

The plan of redemption was not defeated. The dear price has been paid for man’s ransom. And now our great adversary seeks to tear away the foundation of the Christian’s hope, by turning men’s minds into such a channel that they may not be benefited through the great sacrifice offered. He leads them to believe that they can do very well without an atonement; that they need not depend upon a crucified and risen Saviour; that their merits will entitle them to God’s favor. And then he destroys confidence in the Bible, well knowing that if he succeeds here, and faith in the detector which places a mark upon himself is destroyed, there are no bounds to the victories he may gain.

If the tempter can so deceive the human mind as to lead mortals to think that they possess the inherent power to perform great and good works, they cease to rely upon God. They acknowledge not a superior power. They give not God the glory which He claims, and which is due to His great and excellent Majesty. Satan’s object is thus accomplished; and he exults that fallen men presumptuously exalt themselves, as he exalted himself in heaven, and was cast out. He knows that if they take this course, their ruin is just as certain as was his own.

Virtue is destroyed and the foundations of spiritualism are laid

Another means by which Satan seeks to separate the soul from God is to make man believe that prayer is but a useless form. He well knows how needful are meditation and prayer; and by his devices he would divert the mind from these important exercises, that the soul may not lean for help upon the Mighty One, and obtain strength to resist his attacks. The prayer of faith is the great strength of the Christian, and will assuredly prevail. This is why Satan insinuates that we have no need of prayer.

Neglect of prayer leads men to rely on their own strength, and opens the door to temptation. In many cases the imagination is captivated by scientific research, and men are flattered through the consciousness of their own powers. The sciences which treat of the human mind are very much exalted. They are good in their place; but they are seized upon by Satan as his powerful agents to deceive and destroy souls. His arts are accepted as from heaven, and he thus receives the worship which suits him well. The world, which is supposed to be benefited so much by phrenology and animal magnetism, never was so corrupt as now. Through these sciences, virtue is destroyed, and the foundations of Spiritualism are laid. And thousands are conversing with, and receiving instructions from, this demon-god, and are acting according to his teachings, all the while supposing that they are obeying the voice of God through their dead friends.

Signs of the Times, November 6, 1884

EDITORS NOTE: The article printed above is of special interest to those seeking to understand Ellen White’s counsel on the subject of hypnotism. The overall tenor of her writings is consistently unfavorable to hypnotism (or mesmerism, as it was first named). From her earliest reference to mesmerism (Early Writings, 21) until the end of her life, Ellen White’s advice did not change. “This is the science that Satan teaches,” she wrote in 1905. “We are to resist everything of the kind. We are not to tamper with mesmerism and hypnotism.” Medical Ministry, 110.111.

As clear as the whole of her counsel would seem to be, questions have been raised concerning one seemingly contradictory statement. An 1862 Review and Herald article entitled “Philosophy and Vain Deceit,” later reprinted in Testimonies, vol. 1, 290-302, contains the following: “Phrenology and mesmerism are very much exalted. They are good in their place, but they are seized upon by Satan as his most powerful agents to deceive and destroy souls.” This single, isolated statement has occasionally been taken up by those enamored with the devil’s methods as sufficient justification for ignoring the overwhelming clarity of Ellen White’s life-long position.

Fortunately there is no need for perplexity. In 1884, Sister White reworked her presentation of this material, drawing heavily from her earlier article. The result was the article we have printed above. In presenting again what she had previously written, she said: “The sciences that treat of the human mind are very much exalted. They are good in their place; but they are seized upon by Satan as his powerful agents to deceive and destroy souls.”

Her intention when writing in 1862 is clear. In saying “they are good in their place,” she referred to the broader scope of her article, the “sciences of the human mind.” That there is a proper manner to deal with human minds is made clear in the article “Mind Cure.” That there is a proper use of “phrenology and mesmerism,” Satan’s “most powerful agents,” Ellen White never said.
The cassette tape was free. And—coming from a friend as it did—there seemed no reason to refuse it. Besides, it was supposed to be “really interesting,” just the thing for a good Sabbath afternoon. In these days of hard-sell, unchristian, mind-numbing propaganda, a person could well afford to be on the lookout for interesting spiritual food.

Of course, caution was in order still, for—sad to say—even within the Seventh-day Adventist Church there had been cases of subtle heresy. Desmond Ford for example, and it was rumored that there might be others as well. One really should be careful in this sort of thing. . .

Shortly after finishing a good Sabbath dinner, our imaginary average Adventist settles himself in a chair, and the tape begins to play. “Let me assure you of one thing,” the woman’s voice intones, “my husband and I are good old twenty-three hundred-day, 1844, sanctuary, judgment-hour, Spirit-of-Prophecy Seventh-day Adventists.”

A pretty good start, one must admit, but there’s more: “My husband is a retired Seventh-day Adventist minister. He has been preaching the good old three angels’ messages now for forty-two years. He has been a pastor, a departmental man in the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Departments, a chaplain in several Seventh-day Adventist medical institutions, both in the United States and in Canada, and we have been missionaries in Ethiopia.”

Dave Fiedler

Whew! Now that was about as good a résumé as you could ask for. This tape should be “kosher” for sure. And so it was that another average Adventist got his first look into a whole new world. A world peopled not only by the normal folk he lived with each day, but by powerful forces as well. Forces for good and evil, fiercely battling for the supremacy. A world where knowledge was lifesaving, where proper technique could mean—all too literally—the difference between life and death.

It was a world of adventure. Each moment, each movement, was fraught with eternal results. Fortunately, there was a source of inspired instruction—the pastor’s wife, the woman on the tape, was a prophet of God, a source of encouraging counsel.

No, our average Adventist had not
become ensnared in the mind-twisting fantasies of "Dungeons and Dragons." He knew better than to get caught up in the occult.

Or did he? Perhaps it's time for us "average Adventists" to take a long hard look at "spiritual warfare" and its growing number of prophets.

Did You Say "Prophets"?

Yes, it's true. But for readers who may not be aware of recent developments, perhaps a brief overview is in order: In the late 1970s a retired Adventist minister and an Adventist doctor were confronted with cases of demonic possession. In an effort to properly deal with the problem they "looked at recent cases where demonic forces had been successfully removed. They checked the methods of these recent cases with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and eliminated, to the best of their knowledge at that time, everything that did not measure up."

One might reasonably ask, "Where did they go looking, that their findings needed to be compared with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy?" All evidence links this early research to the writings of "Deliverance Ministry" authors from a number of different Protestant denominations.

This fact is significant. The volume quoted above—although clearly a defense of their course and conclusions—points out unmistakably that these two individuals drew their original premises of action from a source which was at least partially in error. What is more, the author strongly implies that these two men initially accepted theories or practices which they subsequently deemed to be erroneous.

It is, of course, true that "all have sinned," and we might say as well that all have made poor decisions in the course of their lives. Yet, in a matter of this importance, one would do well to carefully scrutinize every aspect before making a decision as to its validity.

As this new ministry expanded its scope of activity and influence within the denomination, a pattern emerged: beginning with an emphasis on the "legal aspects" of the great controversy, techniques, systems, and methodologies were developed to meet the various situations these men encountered. Considerable importance was placed on prayer—especially prayers of confession and intercession.

Legal Confession

It is very important, of course, that all sin be confessed and expelled from the life. This truth is agreed to by all mature Adventists. "Spiritual warriors," however, see an extra legal requirement involved in confession: "If Christ would move upon what was recorded from a person's thoughts, He would be placing Himself on shaky ground. The demonic forces and the rest of the worlds that are witnessing the conflict cannot read our thoughts. That's why Christ chooses not to move without our confessions being spoken aloud in our private prayers."4

This seemingly whimsical point is actually a crucial issue. The matter to be decided is this: When God wishes to bestow a blessing upon one of His children, is the recipient's eligibility dependent solely upon the condition of his heart, or are there additional requirements to be met and duties to be performed?

Please consider carefully. It is true that certain duties are required of an individual in order to enter covenant relation with God. The most obvious of these might be confession and restitution, but notice that these are not independent requirements on their own right which in some way entitle us to God's blessings. Rather they are the fruits of a convicted and converted heart. It is the condition of the heart which is accepted of God, not the performance of duty.

It is just such "legal" technicalities that form the basis of "spiritual warfare."

Intercession

The second distinctive feature of this "ministry" is its concept of intercession and intercessory prayer. They hold that, "Just as Christ . . . became the intermediary between the godhead and man, He is asking each one of us to accept the privilege and honor of becoming intercessors for our fellow men by His working in us and through us."8

It is this concept of intercession that leads the "warriors," when necessary, to confess and/or reveal another's sins. They may claim promises or victories for someone who is incapable of doing so for himself. They may even take upon themselves another's sins (or demons) to assist in freeing the powerless individual.

The alternative, of course, is a dependence upon Him who "ever liveth to make intercession." Hebrews 7:25

The Theory in Practice

These two root concepts (a "legal battle" as exemplified in the matter of confession and many other areas, and intercession in another's behalf) find their culmination in the ceremony of "direct confrontation." This procedure is the most severe employment of "deliverance" principles. It is an attempt to meet the "legal" requirements for the exorcism of demon powers from the life of one who—theoretically, at least—no longer has the ability to choose for himself. In practice, there has been great con-
cern that these dramatic, full-scale measures have been used somewhat indiscriminately, and with questionable results, particularly on the long range.

When the "spiritual warriors" conclude that direct confrontation is in order, the "patient" is asked to lie down on a mattress on the floor, for two reasons: first, for the sake of comfort during a session which may last for many hours, and second, for his own physical protection should he develop seizures.

Jesus did not cast them out in an orderly one-at-a-time sequence. He sent the whole lot fleeing at once.

Gathering around the mattress upon their knees, each "warrior" prays for the Lord's blessing. The "patient" (we will call him John) is asked to pray in his own behalf. If he cannot, one of the group prays in his stead. "Dear heavenly Father, I come in the name of John, because the demonic forces will not give him utterance. But Father, he has already expressed his desire for freedom. . . . I now come before the throne knowing his will and expressing that will through my voice. I, John, through an understanding of the conditions that need to be met for you to legally move on my behalf. . . . invite the Holy Spirit to fulfill each condition through me."9

Following a detailed procedure, the "warriors" deal methodically with what they see to be the problem: "I declare that all demonic forces that have come in illegally because the will has been down will be removed by [holy] angels. . . . I further declare that all demons not specifically assigned to John will now leave this room and stay removed. . . . Thank You, Lord, that this is done. Furthermore, demons, you cannot molest anyone in this room. You can do no harm, physically, emotionally, morally, mentally, or spiritually to anyone in this room. . . . I further declare that this room is totally in quarantine to any outside evil forces that would desire to enter this battle. Thank You, Lord, that this is done."10

In the course of this procedure we see the third distinctive characteristic of "spiritual warfare." The deliberate contacting of demonic forces—considered a necessity by the warriors—is perhaps the most controversial aspect of this whole philosophy. "Now demons. . . . when you are compelled to identify your presence in [John's] life. . . . you are authorized to use only the avenues in John that you already have legal access to. . . . "[Jesus Christ] has shown His angels the order in which each commander is to be brought up to this battle. The one He has personally chosen to be first will be forced by holy angels to show his presence and give his name. [Confusion] is the example used.]" Demon of confusion. . . . you will be taken from John by angels that excel in strength. You will be taken to a place that Christ wishes you to go. You will be held there until Jesus personally releases you at the end of time. . . . You will go out through the breath."11

According to the teachings of "spiritual warfare," John is on the way to becoming a free man. The process may require hours, days, or even extend over a period of weeks, but when the last demon is finally cast out, John should be free to serve the Lord. Actual case histories indicate that the devil must still have some tricks up his sleeve, since expectations are not always fulfilled—but that result is beyond the scope of this article.

What about talking with demons? "Spiritual warfare" declares it a necessary step in the "battle." What is the biblical evidence?

The well-known accounts of the healing of the demonsiacs of Gadara (see Mark 5:6-13, Luke 8:27-33) do contain reference to Jesus conversing briefly with the demons controlling the two men. These passages form the biblical base for this aspect of "spiritual warfare." But is this base really supporting the practices just described?

No, for at least five reasons: 1) Though there are two accounts, they represent only one incident—certainly not Christ's general practice. 2) Jesus did not initiate the conversation with the devils as do modern day "warriors"; certainly He did not consider discussion a prerequisite to exorcism, for He had already "commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man." 3) Though Jesus did ask "What is thy name?" He was easily satisfied with the answer of "Legion," and made no effort to pursue the individual names of the thousands of devils thus indicated. 4) Nor did He cast them out in an orderly one-at-a-time sequence, but rather sent the whole lot fleeing at once. 5) Lastly, the biblical account indicates a short time span for the entire exchange, not hours, days, nor weeks, but minutes.

As for support from the Spirit of Prophecy, it is fragmentary at best. Perhaps the clearest statement is found in Testimonies to Ministers, 249: "In this period of the world's history we have altogether too great a work to begin a new kind of warfare in meeting the supernatural power of satanic agencies."

But What About the Prophets?

"Spiritual warfare" has spun off a new subculture within the last two and a half years. Across the United States more than twenty individuals—all of whom have had previous involvement in "spiritual warfare"—have begun to hear a supernatural "thought voice" which identifies itself as Jesus Christ. This voice says much with which any conservative Adventist could agree. But it also says more, specifically using the vocabulary, and encouraging the practices, of the "warriors." Many individuals have received letters of instruction and warning from these "prophets." And many have been faced with the decision to either accept or reject their work. What are our people to do?

One interesting development of all this is that some have tried to selectively take one or the other of the two phenomena while leaving the one they don't care for. Some "warriors" are reluctant to claim that the gift of prophecy has been revived in the church. Others have accepted one or more of the prophets, but are hesitant to become involved with the sensationalism of "spiritual warfare." But the fact is, they are so closely related and complementary that they must either stand or fall together.

More than twenty people all testify to the same process

Continued on 31
Mind Cure
Ellen G. White

The relation that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected, the other sympathizes. The condition of the mind affects the health to a far greater degree than many realize. Many of the diseases from which men suffer are the result of mental depression. Grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life forces, and to invite decay and death.

Disease is sometimes produced, and is often greatly aggravated, by the imagination. Many are lifelong invalids who might be well if they only thought so. Many imagine that every slight exposure will cause illness, and the evil effect is produced because it is expected. Many die from disease, the cause of which is wholly imaginary.

Courage, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul. "A merry [rejoicing] heart doeth good like a medicine."

In the treatment of the sick, the effect of mental influence should not be overlooked. Rightly used, this influence affords one of the most effective agencies for combating disease.

Control of Mind over Mind

There is, however, a form of mind-cure that is one of the most effective agencies for evil. Through this so-called science, one mind is brought under the control of another, so that the individuality of the weaker is merged in that of the stronger mind.

The theory of mind controlling mind was originated by Satan to introduce himself as the chief worker

One person acts out the will of another. Thus it is claimed that the tenor of the thoughts may be changed, that health-giving impulses may be imparted, and patients may be enabled to resist and overcome disease.

This method of cure has been employed by persons who were ignorant of its real nature and tendency, and who believed it to be a means of benefit to the sick. But the so-called science is based upon false principles. It is foreign to the nature and spirit of Christ. It does not lead to Him who is life and salvation. The one who attracts minds to himself leads them to separate from the true Source of their strength.

It is not God's purpose that any human being should yield his mind and will to the control of another, becoming a passive instrument in his hands. No one is to merge his individuality in that of another. He is not to look to any human being as the source of healing. His dependence must be in God. In the dignity of his God-given manhood, he is to be controlled by God Himself, not by any human intelligence.

God desires to bring men into direct relation with Himself. In all His dealings with human beings He recognizes the principle of personal responsibility. He seeks to encourage a sense of personal dependence, and to impress the need of personal guidance. He desires to bring the human into association with the divine, that men may be transformed into the divine likeness. Satan works to thwart this purpose. He seeks to encourage dependence upon men. When minds are turned away from God, the tempter can bring them under his rule. He can control humanity.

The theory of mind controlling mind was originated by Satan, to introduce himself as the chief worker, to put human philosophy where divine philosophy should be. Of all the errors that are finding acceptance among professedly Christian people, none is a more dangerous deception, none more certain to separate man from God, than is this. Innocent though it may appear, if exercised upon patients it will tend to their destruction, not to their restoration. It opens a door through which Satan will enter to take possession both of the mind that is given up to be controlled by another, and of the mind that controls. Fearful is the power thus given to evil-minded men and women. What opportunities it affords to those who live by taking advantage of other's weaknesses or follies! How many, through control of minds feeble or diseased, will find a means of gratifying lustful passion or greed of gain?

There is something better for us to engage in than the control of humanity by humanity. The physician should educate the people to look from the human to the divine. Instead of teaching the sick to depend upon human beings for the cure of soul and body, he should direct them to
the One who can save to the uttermost all who come unto Him. He who made man's mind knows what the mind needs. God alone is the One who can heal. Those whose minds and bodies are diseased are to be in Christ the restorer. "Because I live," He says, "Ye shall live also." This is the life we are to present to the sick, telling them that if they have faith in Christ as the restorer, if they cooperate with Him, obeying the laws of health, and striving to perfect holiness in His fear, He will impart to them His life. When we present Christ to them in this way, we are imparting a power, a strength, that is of value; for it comes from above. This is the true science of healing for body and soul.

The Power of the Will

The power of the will is not valued as it should be. Let the will be kept awake and rightly directed, and it will impart energy to the whole being, and will be a wonderful aid in the maintenance of health. It is a power also in dealing with disease. Exercised in the right direction, it would control the imagination, and be a potent means of resisting and overcoming disease of both mind and body. By the exercise of the will-power in placing themselves in right relation to life, patients can do much to co-operate with the physician's efforts for their recovery. There are thousands who can recover health if they will. The Lord does not want them to be sick. He desires them to be well and happy, and they should make up their minds to be well. Often invalids can resist disease, simply by refusing to yield to ailments and settle down in a state of inactivity. Rising above their aches and pains, let them engage in useful employment suited to their strength. By such employment and the free use of air and sunlight, many an emaciated invalid might recover health and strength.

When the sunlight of God's love illuminates the darkened chambers of the soul, restless weariness and dissatisfaction will cease

Bible Principles of Cure

For those who would regain or preserve health there is a lesson in the words of Scripture, "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Not through the excitement or oblivion produced by unnatural or unhealthful stimulants; not through indulgence of the lower appetites or passions, is to be found true healing or refreshment for the body or the soul. Among the sick are many who are without God and without hope. They suffer from ungratified desires, disordered passions, and the condemnation of their own consciences; they are losing their hold upon this life, and they have no prospect for the life to come. Let not the attendants upon the sick hope to benefit these patients by granting them frivolous, exciting indulgences. These have been the curse of their lives. The hungry, thirsting soul will continue to hunger and thirst so long as it seeks to find satisfaction here. Those who drink at the fountain of selfish pleasure are deceived. They mistake hilarity for strength, and when the excitement ceases, their inspiration ends, and they are left to discontent and despondency.

Abiding peace, true rest of spirit, has but one Source. It was of this that Christ spoke when He said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you." This peace is not something that He gives apart from Himself. It is in Christ, and we can receive it only by receiving Him. Christ is the well-spring of life. That which many need is to have a clearer knowledge of Him; they need to be patiently and kindly, yet earnestly, taught how the whole being may be thrown open to the healing agencies of heaven. When the sunlight of God's love illuminates the darkened chambers of the soul, restless weariness and dissatisfaction will cease; and satisfying joys will give vigor to the mind, and health and energy to the body.

Ministry of Healing, 241-244, 246, 247

August, 1986 Our Firm Foundation 23
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last night I received the impression that I should enroll my dear mother (a devout Catholic) in your Bible Course. I hope that you will send the course to her please.

Osvaldo and Antonia Gonzalez Arcicio, Puerto Rico

[EDITORS NOTE: The Gonzales's second letter, bringing an update on the Bible Course, is one of our favorites.]

We would like to inform you that as a result of sending the Happiness Digest to Mother in Colorado, she is spending an hour every day studying the word of God. We are so thankful for that. She even has a friend that is interested in studying also.

Osvaldo and Antonia Gonzalez Arcicio, Puerto Rico

For many years now I've been looking for someone to publish basic Adventist truths, not as the people want to hear it, but the way it is. A friend of mine introduced me to this remarkable magazine and even though he lets me read some of his, I would like to have my own.

Donald R. Tardiff
Winter Garden, Florida

The March issue of Our Firm Foundation is excellent, outstanding, great, inspiring, and right on target as far as our Truth and Message are concerned. I love it. I wish every Seventh-day Adventist in the world could read this excellent issue. It is exactly what we need in this end time. If this publication could not reach the reader, what could?

James R. and Charlotte Cherry
Scottsdale, Arizona

I have been reading the special Health edition of Our Firm Foundation and really like it. For a long time we have needed information about health to hand out. We feel this issue is excellent to give to people interested in health reform or to open eyes about our health situation. We would appreciate whatever amount you have in the above range.

Rodger and Rose Kimbrell
Aquona, North Carolina

Being new Adventists of almost three years, we have noticed what is new news to us, is old news and sometimes forgotten news to others in the churches.

We pray that Our Firm Foundation will let the light shine through for us all, so that God's work can get finished.

Everett and Connie Hopper
Winchester, Tennessee

Might I first commend you on the excellent work you've done in preparing each issue of such an inspirational magazine. I've very much enjoyed every issue that I have read at the Union Springs Academy library; and am now enjoying those I receive at home. God's blessings upon the soul who thought of Union Springs when donating subscriptions!

John Charles Schumacher
Still River, Massachusetts

I had to go to Knoxville, Tennessee, to find that you are putting out the pure "Three Angels' Messages." As long as you stick to the Spirit of Prophecy and the pure doctrine of the founding fathers of this truth, I'll be with you.

May God bless you as you attempt to turn this denomination from modernism to the pure Word.

Robert E. Williams
Tonasket, Washington

What a marvelous, solemn time to be living. It seems to us that we see an awakening, more studying, and praying.

May your magazine eventually find its way into every home. What a blessing it is to us!

Ken and Doris Glantz
Calton, Oregon

I received a free issue of Our Firm Foundation from a good friend and I love it. I've been in the church for about four years and I see the banner of truth being lowered in so many places. I praise God you are lifting it back up. I want to help hold it up. I want a magazine that gives me "solid" spiritual food.

Thanks again for doing the right thing for Jesus. May He bless and open new doors for you as we get closer to the promised land. It is not far off as I see things going.

Mr. and Mrs. Gorden F. Pehler
Arcadia, Wisconsin

We surely do appreciate the service you folks are giving to awaken God's people.

We are glad you don't emphasize the errors in the church as much as you do the real message.

We don't need criticism but we need to be pointed to Jesus and obedience to His commands.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Johnson
Mattawa, Washington
Snares Of Satan

Ellen G. White

As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ, and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

Says the great deceiver: “We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath, reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man’s salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

“The Sabbath is the great question which is to decide the destiny of souls. We must exalt the Sabbath of our creating. We have caused it to be accepted by both worldlings and church members; now the church must be led to unite with the world in its support. We must work by signs and wonders to blind their eyes to the truth, and lead them to lay aside reason and the fear of God, and follow custom and tradition.

Many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side

“I will influence popular ministers to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their ministers’ explanations of Scripture, and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will.

“But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbath-keepers. We must excite popular indignation against them. We will enlist great men and worldly wise men upon our side, and induce those in authority to carry out our purposes. Then the Sabbath which I have set up shall be enforced by laws the most severe and exacting. Those who disregard them shall be driven out from the cities and villages, and made to suffer hunger and privation. When once we have the power, we will show what we can do with those who will not swerve from their allegiance to God. We led the Romish Church to inflict imprisonment, torture, and death upon those who refused to yield to her decrees, and now that we are bringing the Protestant churches and the world into harmony with this right arm of our strength, we will finally have a law to exterminate all who will not submit to our authority. When death shall be made the penalty of violating our Sabbath, then many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side.

“But before proceeding to these extreme measures we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who honor the true Sabbath. We can separate many from
Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall.

"Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here, and fix their affections upon earthly things. We must do our utmost to prevent those who labor in God's cause from obtaining means to use against us. Keep the money in our own ranks. The more means they obtain, the more they will injure our kingdom by taking from us our subjects. Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom and the spread of the truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God's people.

"Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we can gain many who would otherwise do us great harm. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.

"Until the great decisive blow shall be struck, our efforts against commandment keepers must be untiring. We must exercise great vigilance, and employ all our seductive arts to prevent souls from hearing the truth and becoming impressed by it.

"I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present, who will express doubts in regard to the Lord's messages of warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning and we shall secure them in our ranks at last. God will not permit His words to be slighted with impunity. If we can keep souls deceived for a time, God's mercy will be withdrawn, and He will give them up to our full control.

"We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence, and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate."

The Scriptures declare that upon one occasion, when the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan came also among them, not to bow before the Eternal King, but to further his own malicious designs against the righteous. With that they fail to hear the very things which they most need to learn.

Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind. There has been ever a class professing godliness who, instead of following on to know the truth, make it their religion to seek some fault of character or error of faith in those with whom they do not agree. Such are Satan's right-hand helpers. Accusers of the brethren are not few; and they are always active when God is at work, and His servants are rendering to Him true homage. They will put a false coloring upon the words and acts of those who love and obey the truth. They

It is Satan's plan to bring into the church insincere, unregenerate elements that will encourage doubt

the same object he is in attendance when men assemble for the worship of God. Though hidden from sight, he is working with all diligence to control the minds of the worshipers. Like a skilful general, he lays his plans beforehand. As he sees the messenger of God searching the Scriptures, he takes note of the subject to be presented to the people. Then he employs all his cunning and shrewdness to so control circumstances that the message may not reach those whom he is deceiving on that very point. The one who most needs the warning will be urged into some business transaction which requires his presence, or will by some other means be prevented from hearing the words that might prove to him a savor of life unto life.

Again, Satan sees the Lord's servants burdened because of the spiritual darkness that environs the people. He hears their earnest prayers for divine grace and power to break the spell of indifference, carelessness, and idleness. Then with renewed zeal he plies his arts. He tempts men to the indulgence of appetite or to some other form of self gratification, and thus benumbs their sensibilities, so will represent the most earnest, zealous, self-denying servants of Christ as deceived or deceivers. It is their work to misrepresent the motives of every true and noble deed, to circulate insinuations, and arouse suspicion in the minds of the inexperienced. In every conceivable manner they will seek to cause that which is pure and righteous to be regarded as foul and deceptive. And in this work the agents of Satan have their master and his angels to help them.

But none be deceived concerning them. It may be readily seen whose children they are, whose example they follow, and whose work they do. "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). They closely resemble Satan, the envenomed slanderer, the accuser of the brethren.

It is Satan's plan to bring into the church insincere, unregenerate elements that will encourage doubt and unbelief, and hinder all who desire to see the work of God advance, and to advance with it. Many who have no real faith in God or in His word, asent to some principles of truth, and pass as Christians; and thus they are enabled to introduce their errors as

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scriptural doctrines.

The position that it is of no consequence what men believe, is one of Satan's most successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel. From the beginning, the servants of God have contended against false teachers, not merely as vicious men, but as inculcators of falsehoods that were fatal to the soul. Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, firmly and fearlessly opposed those holy defenders of the truth. . . .

The Bible was designed to be a guide to all who wish to become acquainted with the will of their Maker. God gave to man the sure word of prophecy; angels and even so weak that they lose their balance. They cannot harmonize their views of science with Scripture statements, and they think that the Bible is to be tested by their standard of "science falsely so called." Thus they err from the faith, and are seduced by the devil. Men have endeavored to be wiser than their Creator; human philosophy has attempted to search out and explain mysteries which will never be revealed, through the eternal ages. If men would but search and understand what God has made known of Himself and His purposes, they would obtain such a view of the glory, majesty, and power of Jehovah, that they would realize their own littleness, and would be content with that which has been revealed for themselves and their children.

Those who are unwilling to accept the plain, cutting truths of the Bible are continually seeking for pleasing fables that will quiet their consciences.

Christ Himself came to make known to Daniel and John the things that must shortly come to pass. Those important matters that concern our salvation were not left involved in mystery. They were not revealed in such a way as to perplex and mislead the honest seeker after truth. Said the Lord by the prophet Habakkuk, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." (Habakkuk 2:2, 3) The word of God is plain to all who study it with a prayerful heart. Every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth. "Light is sown for the righteous." (Psalm 97:11) No church can advance in holiness unless its members are earnestly seeking for truth as for hid treasure.

By the cry of liberality, men are blinded to the devices of their adversary, while he is all the time working steadily for the accomplishment of his object. As he succeeds in supplanting the word of truth by human speculations, the law of God is set aside, and the churches are under the bondage of sin while they claim to be free.

Too many, scientific research has become a curse; their finite minds are guidance, they have no shield from delusion. Satan is ready to supply the hearts desire, and he palms off his deceptions in the place of truth. It was thus that the Papacy gained its power over the minds of men; and by rejection of the truth because it involves a cross, Protestants are following the same path. All who neglect the word of God to study convenience and policy, that they may not be at variance with the world, will be left to receive damnable heresy for religious truth. The apostle Paul speaks of a class who "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." He says of these, "For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, that they all might be dammed who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12) With such a warning before us, it behooves us to be on our guard as to what doctrines we receive. . . .

Innumerable are the erroneous doctrines and fanciful ideas that are obtaining among the churches of Christendom. It is impossible to estimate the evil results of removing one of the landmarks fixed by the word of God. Few who venture to do this, stop with the rejection of a single truth. The majority continue to set aside one after another of its principles, until they become actual infidels.

And this is the object which Satan seeks to accomplish. There is nothing that he desires more than to destroy confidence in God and in His word. Satan stands at the head of the great army of doubters, and he works to the utmost of his power to beguile souls into his ranks. It is becoming fashionable to doubt. There are many who seem to feel that it is a virtue to stand on the side of unbelief, skepticism, and infidelity. But underneath an appearance of candor and humility, it will be found that such persons are actuated by self-confidence and pride. It is a terrible thing to lose faith in God or in His word. Unbelief strengthens as it is encouraged. There is danger in even once giving expres-sion to doubt; a seed is sown which produces a harvest of its kind. Satan will nourish the crop every moment. Those who allow themselves to talk of their doubts will find them constantly becoming more confirmed. God will never remove every occasion for doubt. He will never work a miracle to remove unbelief when He has given sufficient evidence for faith.
TODAY MANY Christians are becoming aware of the relationship that exists between the mind, the body, and the spirit for achieving total health. As a Christian physician with nine years of traditional humanistic medical and surgical training, I was awakening to the concept of the “whole man.” I began to study books authored by Hans Selye, M.D., Nathan Pritikin, O. Carl Simonton, M.D., René Dubos, Norman Cousins and James Lynch. I even “dabbled” for the first time in Christian books like Ministry of Healing and Medical Ministry. It seemed that I could see a common thread of world brotherhood and mind expansion which could solve the tension I felt in the materialistic and technocratic surgical world that I lived in. Perhaps the practice of surgery did hold more challenge than just another by-pass surgery, which I knew from experience merely postponed death but did little to change the cause of the underlying disease condition.

I became interested in the popular holistic health movement as it began to sweep over this country. It was gratifying and reassuring to see that practitioners of the “holistic arts” were concerned about the totality of man, and I felt a certain camaraderie with them. Frustration in my own field gave way to hope for a better, more humane method of practice. It was rather stimulating to be on the edge of “new frontiers” in medicine. It was stimulating to be a medical heretic and challenge the stuffy “medical establishment.” There was a delightful informality with these practitioners. We hugged each other and accepted one another with our various peculiarities. This openness among the holistic professionals was in marked contrast to the highly competitive, formal atmosphere of traditional medicine. We had common goals in the lifestyle aspects of nutrition and exercise. We even talked about the spiritual aspects of man, something that was strictly forbidden in the standard practice of medicine.

I felt like a real missionary

“Leave those matters to the clergy and get on with the technology of saving lives,” was the implied directive from modern allopathic medicine. But for what reason? There had to be more to life than the latest technical advances in synthetic arteries or woven dacron prosthetic grafts. What was happening to the “souls” and the “spirits” of these human beings that I was putting synthetic arteries into? Who was taking care of their tears and hurts? Who cared about the whole person?

One evening I was asked to speak at a local holistic health meeting that met in the pleasant, comfortable home of several health professionals. There was much expression of acceptance and love. No one was ignored and I immediately felt at ease. As the meeting began we were led in an exercise of “centering” by a large, soft-spoken man. His melodious voice called us to lay aside the hectic activities of the day and to “become focused” on our immediate surroundings and on one another’s personal needs. We were to empty our minds of any negative thoughts and to become open to any ideas that would flow through our discussion. We quietly closed our eyes, relaxed, and centered our attention on each other and the “rhythm of life.” Because of my Christian social upbringing I thought we were just having “opening prayer.” There was some rather vague references to a “unified consciousness” which in my naiveté I assumed was reference to God. This idea made me even more at ease with this “family” of nurses, doctors, and research scientists. They were certainly no wild-eyed “hippie” group. They were “caring” professionals that I could trust. That night I spoke to them about vegetarianism and its impact on health. The topic was well received and many expressed interest in the fact that my church heritage included healthful teaching. Even though my Christian church ties were quite weak at that point, I felt like a real missionary. These people were accepting of all religions: Christian,
Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, atheist.

The next speaker was a registered nurse from a local hospital cardiology unit. With convincing organization and well-thought-out conclusions, she presented the concept of "touch therapy." Without actually touching the patient's body, the practitioner can purportedly adjust his "electrical aura." This adjustment is accomplished by allowing the hands to flow above the limbs and trunk with spiral movements. We divided into groups of two and practiced our "innate" ability to sense the "vibrations" of energy that she had said "clothed" the body. I wasn't sure that I could truly sense what she described, or what my partner enthusiastically experienced. But then, I was sure that I just needed more practice. I could feel the warmth of her skin next to mine. Thermal radiation explains physiologically, but this force was supposed to be something different. Perhaps there could be "energy" of which I was not fully aware.

The nurse then had a doctor lie down on the floor while she moved "congested energy" from his pelvic region to his legs. The doctor was able to testify that he indeed experienced a strange, but comfortable, tingling and warmth in his lower extremities. As a peripheral vascular surgeon, this assertion was of great interest to me. I was thinking how this new "energy" could be used to save those gangrenous legs and toes for which amputation was the only sad solution when there were no more arteries to bypass into. There was certainly more "natural" and humane than an amputation knife. My mind was focused on those pathetic people that I longed to help and often couldn't. Perhaps this system was the help that scientific advances had been unable to supply.

The nurse then moved her hands over the physician's chest in the same circular pattern. Suddenly she stopped, and with a cry of exclamation said, "You have a hard time completing tasks, don't you?" I was jolted to reality. The soft lights and pleasant voices no longer clouded my thinking. What had I heard? Was she "divining" his personality characteristics from these supposed "vibrations"?

Suddenly and clearly I could see what I was dealing with. This experience opened my mind to the realization that I must investigate the origin and mode of operation of these phenomena. This procedure was not some simple physiological technique that modern medicine had overlooked. Instead, it seemed to be a tool for "divining" the future. What did Scripture say about the power of Satan? Could he be the source of these "good techniques"?

"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan, displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved."[1]

This quotation depicts the great controversy. Satan can and will do miracles. After His resurrection, as Jesus was triumphantly taken from His disciples, victorious over His arch-enemy, we are told that "Satan again counseled with his angels, and with bitter hatred against God's government told them that while he retained his power and authority upon earth their efforts must be ten-fold stronger against the followers of Jesus. They had provoked nothing against Christ but must overthrow His followers, if possible."[2]

They are but channels for Satan's electric currents

Satan is using any and every method to snare the followers of Christ. I believe that the medical movement called "holistic health" is a part of Satan's master plan to capture unwary yet well-meaning people. Many, such as I, have read a smattering of inspired writings about health. They have a shallow understanding of the Scriptures and have never really taken the time to systematically decipher what God is really trying to tell Christians about health of the mind, body, and spirit. Armed with a few selected quotations from "religious" writers and Scripture texts that tend to "prove" the validity of their pet therapy or technique, well-meaning Christians have jumped wholeheartedly into this movement.

No quotation has galvanized my attention more than this succinct description of the techniques that Satan would use:

"All who do not earnestly search the Scriptures and submit every desire and purpose of life to that unerring test, all who do not seek God in prayer for a knowledge of His will, will surely wander from the right path and fall under the deception of Satan... His agents still claim to cure disease. They attribute their power to electricity, magnetism, or the so-called 'sympathetic remedies.' In truth, they are but channels for Satan's electric currents. By this means he casts his spell over the bodies and souls of men."[3]

Holistic Health is a diverse collection of healing techniques within the New Age movement. The underlying pervasive notion in many of the holistic techniques is a fascination with the "energy field." "Satan's electric currents" are an accurate description of what we will now explore. By starting with the more obvious associations with energy and working to the more subtle forms of this deception, its interwoven threads can be seen.

A common concept in much of Holistic Medicine is the "Aura." This theory holds "that every object is enveloped in a field of magnetic energy which acts as a medium for the interchange of other energies present in its immediate environment. This magnetic energy field, or MEF, is composed of seven rays related to the glands of the endocrine system. The harmony and balance of every individual and the degree and quality of each of these can be ascertained by observing the aura either subjectively, as some sensitives are capable of doing, or objectively using a special type of glass called a Kirlian screen."[4]

Immediately we can see and hear that this is no mere physiological concept. Instead, it is being explained in metaphysical terms of subjectivism. A medium is a necessary element. There must be someone who is "attuned" to these powers to see them. Even the trappings of science do not eliminate the need for a "sensitive" person, the medium, to operate the equipment. A very sophisticated piece of scientific equipment with dials, scopes and meters does not negate the fact that in this "science" some people are more sensitive than others. In fact, in the technique called radionics or psychotronics, the better the operator gets at being sensitive to the described "energy forces" the less he needs the equipment until he is able to divine the future or to make diagnostic judgments even without seeing the patient.

The seven "rays" of the magnetic energy field are none other than the Hindu concept of "Chakras" or energy focal points. While many authors try to treat the idea of the aura and the chakras as some wholesome, physiological, and natural event

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in all humans, Djwal Kul, in an amazing ravel of Christian terms and mystical parlance helps us to see the true origin of this idea. "The seven centers in your being are for the release of God's energy. . . . These seven centers are seven planes of consciousness. We experience God differently in different frequencies. . . . What, then, is worthy to inherit God? Only God is worthy of God. Unless we sense ourselves in and as God, we will not consider ourselves to be worthy of God. Therefore, that which inherits immortal life is the immortal flow of God which we make our own through the chakras."5

What we have briefly seen in relation to the aura and the chakra is to some extent representative of the whole field of "holistic" medicine. Over and over again the same ideas come to the fore, albeit in a myriad of forms. As a rule, the false systems now finding acceptance in a surprisingly large cross section of society can be identified by their inclusion of three main concepts:

1) Energy: This is a recurring theme. It may be called many things. The Hindu calls it "Prana"; Taoism and ancient Chinese medicine call it Chi, Ki, or Qi. D.D. Palmer, the founder of chiropractic, called the same energy "the innate." Franz Anton Mesmer used the word "Animal Magnetism" and the witch doctors of Polynesian refer to "Mana." Parapsychologists call it "Bioplasma." George Lucas of Star Wars fame calls it "The Force." But, by whatever name, they are all "Satan's electric currents." Beware of techniques that are stated to balance or increase energies or vibrations.

**Would it not be better to seek after the God of Israel?**

2) World View: Monism (a doctrine of universal "oneness") or Pantheism predominate the philosophy of the holistic healers. You are promised to become part of the "cosmic whole," the "Christself." In essence, you can become your own god. No matter how appealing this may sound, it is far from the truth. Unity of the whole world may be a lofty goal, but it will not happen without Jesus Christ as the Saviour.

3) Inherent Immortality: Reincarnation is a recurring theme. Some form of life after death in varying spiritual or physical forms must be included in holistic health teaching to answer the metaphysical questions inherent in mankind. Unfortunately, they fail to appreciate the clear, sensible teachings of the Bible on this point.

These three concepts, though not incorporated into all false teaching, are really the backbone of "holistic" teaching. They may be seen in slightly varying form in the use of pendulums, witching sticks, and "gem therapy." They show themselves in the practice of acupuncture, acupressure, reflexology, and iridology. They are inherent in the pseudoscientific techniques of Behavioral Kinesiology and Radiesthesia. When the common denominator of these healing systems is so readily apparent, it is cause for concern to find that sincere Christians too often overlook these "problem areas" and seek help through the devil's methods.

Would it not be better to seek after the God of Israel, than the gods of Ekron?

Adapted from the book *Mystical Medicine*, available from

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1. II Thessalonians 2:9, 10 NIV
2. Early Writings, 191
3. Testimonies, Vol. 5, 192, 193
5. Ibid., 79

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**Religious Liberty Update**

Under Orders: Where is Pope John Paul II taking the Roman Catholic Church? Already his firm hand has reversed the direction the Roman Church was headed when he came to power. In the two decades that may well remain to him, what new directions may we expect of this powerful leader, determined not to let things drift? The Pope seems himself as a man under orders, a matter of duty and obedience, and John Paul II is nothing if not a man of deep convictions and a sharp sense of duty. It is no accident that one of the new Pope's first moves was to revive the Sacred Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith—formerly known as the Inquisition. *Christianity Today*, October 6, 1985

First Pray, Later Slay: Coast to coast, fundamentalists and preachers are urging an age-old solution to their woes: praying for the death of their foes. The time for turning the other cheek is past. In Los Angeles, Baptist pastor R.L. Hymers Jr., called on his congregation to pray for the death of Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr., because he supports a woman's right to have an abortion. "I wouldn't use the word aberration. I think it may be that we're on the avant-garde. We're doing something the others will do later." Hymers ordered an airplane to circle overhead as Brennan spoke at a law school graduation. The plane trailed the message; "Pray for death: Baby-killer Brennan." *USA Today*, June 11, 1986

Crusades Again? The Crusades do not enjoy a good press in the modern West—even among Christians the Crusades have a poor reputation. They were "bloody aberrations . . . in no way representative of biblical Christianity." The fact that the Crusades ultimately ended in failure was a setback to the prestige of the medieval Papacy, for the Church as a whole. Many modern Christians reject the Crusades with horror, believing they were an attempt to make converts by force. Unless we understand the *jihad*, a holy war, and begin to take it seriously, we may soon find ourselves at a point where nothing less than a crusade can help. *National Review*, August 9, 1985
Regardless, let's take a short look at the "prophets." The first point of interest is that rather than receiving dreams or visions, these prophets hear a voice. What is more, this voice requires that its words be written down verbatim. Those familiar with biblical prophecy and the writings of Ellen White will remember that a relatively small proportion of what earlier prophets have recorded was dictated. Yet the minister on the casette tape mentioned at the beginning of the article assures us that he is "acquainted with more than twenty people to whom the Lord has spoken, and they all testify to exactly the same process."

The second characteristic worthy of notice is their use of flattery. "O My child, My child! You are greatly beloved... and I praise thee." "Child of light, blessed art thou. Love to thee, I have in infinite abundance." "I am excited for you! You have no idea what glory I have for you. I am excited for you." "I praise you that you were willing to repent." Perhaps the most disconcerting trait of these dictated messages is the introduction of unusual doctrinal insights. For instance: "The potential within My people for the crushing of the enemy of all life is infinite!" "You will untie My hands through thy prayers." "The direct teaching of My word... is My voice, child. My Holy Word." "The spiritual weight of spoken words is little understood or known by men of earth.

Someday I will show you vividly. It is not time yet." "[Satan's] degeneration in mental logic and power for sound reasoning has been well nigh complete... he does not know how to control his own power at this point." "Many heavenly symbols are not easy to understand. My symbols have infinite meanings and wide applications." Certainly many would find it encouraging to believe that Satan was a dithering idiot, and Dr. Ford's "apotelesmatic principle" seems to fit well with "infinite meanings and wide applications.

In matters of conscience, it is every man's responsibility to decide for himself. Naturally--and tragically--opinions will vary even on life and death issues. I, for one, do not like the sound of what I'm hearing from these new sources. On even shallow examination, it just doesn't "ring true." I reject these messages, including the portion which reads, "Do not resist and draw back when you see My hand working that which seems out of line with your former knowledge of Me." But what of our imaginary average Adventist? Did he really know better than to get caught up in the occult? Well, since his case is imaginary, and since I prefer happy endings, let's say that he did study, pray, and find his way out of the mazes of "Adventist spiritualism." By the grace of God, he was spared, pulled back from the edge of the cliff.

Now, dear reader, what of those whose cases are not imaginary? □

2. Ibid.
4. Ibid., 77
5. The Great Controversy, 525
6. Christ's Object Lessons, 143
7. Testimonies, vol. 4, 616
8. Esh, op. cit., 74
9. Ibid., 79
10. Ibid., 80, 81
11. Ibid., 81, 82
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.

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