

# Comparative Religion Overview

## New Age movement and the Occult

**“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4**



**Prepared by Ross Wakeley**

## Study 8: New Age movement and the Occult



*Take your stand against the devil's schemes. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12).*

Every cult group or alternative religion to Christianity has a demonic origin—as they ALL deny Jesus' statement: *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,* (John 14:6) and assert an alternative to salvation through Jesus. God's Word also informs us that, in reaching people with the good news of Jesus Christ, we face people spiritually captive: *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God* (2 Corinthians 4:4). For **every** person, our call is to **love the person**—*Jesus said, "I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,"* (Matthew 5:44)—while also helping people, in the power of the Spirit, by our lifestyle, words, use of spiritual gifts and acts of mercy, **discover the truth.**



### Introduction and History:

The most overt spiritual deception involves the New Age Movement (NAM) or New Spirituality (NS) and Occult. The term New Age refers to "a time of transformation, a time that will bring great change." The change will be a renewed emphasis on the self and self-discovery. This self-discovery is rooted in origins such as paganism, witchcraft, and Eastern religions like Hinduism and Buddhism. The New Age Movement (NAM) has become an umbrella term for the "rising interest in the occult in our day." Within occult circles the Movement is perhaps better known as the Aquarian Age, the Human Potential Movement, the Holistic Health Movement, or simply Cosmic Humanism. In all of these systems, human beings are seen as free to do their own thing without any accountability to anyone or anything beyond themselves. In the occult world it is a common belief that there are twelve ages in evolutionary time and that each age lasts approximately two thousand years and that the New Age of Aquarius is the era of the 21st century.

A growing number of people are embracing New Age practices. About 67% of adults in the USA claim to have had a psychic experience. Twenty-five per cent of people believe in reincarnation and among Uni students that percentage rises to thirty. Forty-two percent of American adults believe that they have been in contact with individuals who have died. US researcher, George Barna finds that 93% of Americans believe in God. However, 53% also believe "that all people pray to the same god or spirit, no matter what name they use for that spiritual being." So half of all Americans, are already **syncretists**—a blend of various religious beliefs and a denial that God's Word is the final authority for judging truth. In the mid-1990's Barna reported that 62% of born-again Christians believe that "there is no such thing as absolute truth." In 1999, he found that 45% of the born-again believe that just "being good" will earn a person a place in heaven. It seems that a syncretized, personalized, universalized path of works is becoming ever more alluring to many. Russell Chandler, former religion journalist for the *Los Angeles Times*, claims that 40% of Americans believe that all is God, 36% believe astrology is scientific, and 25% believe in reincarnation. In 2001, by a 3-to-1 margin (64% vs. 22%), in the U.S. adults said truth is always relative to the person and their situation. 10% of Americans believe that God represents a state of higher consciousness. **Source:** [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org) In Australia, 18% of Australians often or occasionally sought direction from a horoscope, 9% practised Eastern meditation, and 7% used psychic healing or crystals. **Source:** [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

The NAM is a modern revival of ancient, divergent, religious traditions and practices. The actual original root is back in Genesis 3:1-5 and the outcome is seen in the movement's continued historical expressions. In the original lie, Satan questions God's word, His authority and loving rule—*The serpent ... said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"* (vs. 1). Satan then disputes that death results from disobedience—*"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.*" (vs. 4), and then claims *"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil,"* (vs. 5) which is an appeal to enlightenment through 'secret' or Gnostic wisdom and so be "like God".

Many of the occult practices and beliefs revived by the modern NAM were a part of early pagan cultures. Practices common to the NAM such as witchcraft/sorcery, spiritism, divination, (clairvoyance; seeing the future), necromancy (consulting the dead), and astrology are clearly and strongly condemned in Scripture (Deuteronomy 18: 9-17, Isaiah 47:9-15). These practices were spread through the religions of the Chaldeans, Egyptians, and the Assyrian-Babylonian culture. World religions with beliefs and practices mixed with the NAM are Hinduism, Buddhism and Taoism. One occult influence in Europe was Druidism, the religion of the Celts, which extended from 300 B.C. into the Middle Ages.

In more recent times, during 1960's, a revival of Eastern mysticism took place and traditional values were challenged. Zen, Transcendental Meditation, and yoga all became popular. In the 1980's, Shirley MacLaine's books and TV mini-series gave the NAM popular exposure and momentum. Christians should recognize the NAM has many 'disguises,' such as: astrology, aura, black and white magic, bioenergy, Brahman, Buddhism, chakras, *chi* energy, Christ-consciousness, Christian Science, Church Universal and Triumphant, crystals, Druidism, Eastern mysticism, ESP, EST, extraterrestrials, The Forum, firewalking Freemasonry, Gaia, gnosticism, Hare Krishna, higher consciousness, Hinduism, human potential movement, kaballah, karma, magick, mind science, near-death experiences, neo-paganism, nirvana, parapsychology, prana, psi, psychic, reflexology, reincarnation, reiki, religious science, shamanism, Silva mind control, spiritism, Tai Chi, Taoism, tarot cards, Theosophy, therapeutic touch, trance-channelling, Transcendental Meditation (TM), transpersonal psychology, UFOs, Unity School of Christianity, witchcraft, yin-yang, Yoga, and Zen. **Source:** [www.watchman.org/profile/nwagmpro.htm](http://www.watchman.org/profile/nwagmpro.htm)

### **Key themes and beliefs in the New Age Movement:**

Given the diversity of the New Age Movement, there are still a number of major beliefs generally held in common by most groups within this movement:

- ❶ The belief in **monism**—New Agers believe that "all is one." Everything and everyone is interrelated and interdependent. Ultimately there is no real difference between humans, animals, rocks, or even God. Any differences between these entities are merely apparent, not real.
- ❷ The belief in **pantheism**. Since New Agers already believe that "all is one," the next logical assumption would be that "all is god." All of creation partakes of the divine essence. All of life (and even non-life) has a spark of divinity within.
- ❸ The next major tenet of the New Age follows as a logical conclusion from the other two. If "all is one" and "all is god," then we should conclude that **"we are gods."** We are, according to New Agers, ignorant of our divinity. We are "gods in disguise." The goal, therefore, of the New Age Movement is to discover our own divinity.
- ❹ We discover our own divinity by experiencing a **change in consciousness**. The human race suffers from a collective metaphysical amnesia. We have forgotten that our true identity is divine and thus must undergo a change of consciousness to achieve our true human potential (hence the name, the Human Potential Movement).
- ❺ Another tenet is **reincarnation**. Most New Agers believe in some form of reincarnation. In its classic form, the cycles of birth, death, and reincarnation are

necessary to work off our bad "karma" and to reach perfection. The doctrine of karma says that one's present condition is determined by one's actions in a past life. The Western version of reincarnation held by many New Agers places much less emphasis on bad karma and postulates an upward spiral towards perfection through reincarnation. This view is espoused by such people as Shirley MacLaine and Sylvester Stallone.



- ⑥ A final major tenet is **moral relativism**. New Agers think in terms of gray, rather than black or white. Denying the law of non-contradiction, New Agers will often believe that two conflicting statements can both be true. They teach that "all religions are true" and "there are many paths to God."

**Source:** [www.probe.org/docs/newage.html](http://www.probe.org/docs/newage.html)

### The language of the New Age Movement

Over time, the New Age has changed the meaning of several Christian terms:

- ① **God:** An impersonal energy force, existing in all things. To the New Age, "God" can be referred to either as she or he, mother or father, god or goddess. Most New Age teachers hold that Mother Earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars—indeed all of nature—can be worshiped as "God."
- ② **Christ:** A reincarnated avatar, Messiah, or messenger sent from the "hierarchy" (see *Angels* below) to give the living on earth spiritually advanced revelation. The New Age contends that Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Jesus, and many others were "Christs," but one greater than all of them will soon come to usher in the New Age.
- ③ **Angels:** More frequently called Ascended Masters, Masters of Wisdom, Ancient Masters, spirit guides or inner guides, spirit counsellors, one's Higher Self, the Self, Superbeings, aeons, muses, or walk-ins. Collectively called the "hierarchy." Whichever term **is** used, the discerning Christian will recognize these shadowy entities not as "angels," but as demons. "*Satan masquerades as an angel of light.*" (2 Cor. 11:14)
- ④ **Born Again (Rebirth):** Personal or planetary transformation and healing. The point at which a New Age believer "lets go" and allows his/her Higher Self or Inner Guide (translated: demon) to guide and direct their life. Some New Agers describe this as *Kundalini*, a Hindu term meaning "serpent power," a moment of instant rebirth when the recipient is said to be transformed by a flash of light, receiving the benefit of higher consciousness as well as greater spiritual awareness and wisdom. Such a rebirth is said to convey "Christ consciousness" on the individual.
- ⑤ **The Second Coming:** The New Age assigns two definitions to this phrase, each of which subverts the true meaning of the Second Coming of Jesus prophesied in the Bible. First, it is claimed that at the Second Coming, a New Age believer achieves "Christ consciousness," an exalted, higher state in which he is spiritually transformed into a divine being. This phrase also can mean the appearance on earth of the New Age Messiah, or "Christ," and his hierarchy of demons from the spirit world.
- ⑥ **Heaven or Kingdom of God:** The terms heaven and Kingdom of God are often indistinguishable to the New Ager. Each refers to a spiritually cleansed and purified earth in which mankind has achieved "Christ consciousness" and has become akin to godkind. The New Age, or Aquarian Age, is expected to be the era when heaven and the Kingdom of God are realized on earth.
- ⑦ **Hell:** New Agers deny the existence of a hell and a judgment. They deny that sin and evil exist. God is alleged to be beyond good and evil, neither of which are relevant terms to the New Age.

**Source:** *Dark Secrets of the New Age*—Texe Marrs p.14,15 Crossway Books

**The development of Satan’s Religion of Paganism/New Age Movement**

| <b>Original Lie</b>  | <b>Classical Names</b> | <b>Resulting Beliefs</b>   | <b>Contemporary Expressions</b>   |
|--|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>“You will be like God” (Genesis 3:5)</b><br><b>PRIDE: “I am God”</b>                        | PANTHEISM              | God is a force<br>God is all that exists<br>Matter is illusionary<br>We are all God                                | Animal rights<br>Environmentalism<br>Human potential<br>Confident in the deity of mankind               |
| <b>“You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:4)</b><br><b>PRIDE: “I determine my own destiny”</b>   | REINCARNATIONISM       | Time is cyclical<br>We keep “going around”<br>Evil is explained as karma<br>Evolution                              | Studies in death and dying<br>Belief that there is no judgment<br>Channeling<br>No fear of suicide      |
| <b>“You will know good and evil” (Gen 3:5)</b><br><b>PRIDE: “I determine my own morals”</b>    | RELATIVISM             | There are no absolutes<br>Morality depends on the situation<br>Whatever feels good is right<br>Evil is illusionary | Immorality<br>Music that is evil<br>Values clarification<br>Confusion because God is both good and evil |
| <b>“Your eyes will be opened” (Gen 3:5)</b><br><b>PRIDE: “I have all the knowledge I need”</b> | ESOTERICISM            | You can achieve enlightenment<br>You can consult inner guides<br>You are the light                                 | Drugs<br>Horoscopes<br>Contact with occult powers<br>TM   |

**Source:** *Satan’s Evangelistic Strategy for this New Age* E. Lutzer & J. DeVries p.9

**Satanism—The World of the Occult:**

C. S. Lewis in his book *Screwtape Letters*, says this about Satan:

*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.*

Power has become an obsession with satanists. It is sought after on the physical, mental, and spiritual levels. According to one former occultist, the greatest lure into the occult is "power" and "knowledge." Not just corporate power, but personal power. Gaining knowledge that others do not possess is another aspect of the occult. When an individual has more knowledge, it affords them a degree of power over those who do not have access to that knowledge. Within the occult world, there are various sections:

- **Occult**—Secret or hidden knowledge. This knowledge is not discerned by the five senses and is therefore, supernaturally received through the practice of divination.
- **Witchcraft**—The use of scripturally forbidden supernatural powers to manipulate people and events. Commonly known as the "craft of the wise" or "wicca," the worship of nature and feminine energies of mother nature. Witchcraft is manifested in two opposing views: white magic, and black magic or witchcraft (see Deut. 18:10)
- **White Magic**—The use of supernatural power to manipulate a person or an event to bring about good. The practice of divination is used to bring about "positive" results such as knowledge, healing, etc.

- **Black Magic**—The use of supernatural power to manipulate a person or an event to bring about evil or destruction. Manipulation is achieved by use of rituals and the casting of spells.
- **Satanism**—Unlike Witchcraft, Satanism is the worship of Satan, formerly known as Lucifer, and the practice of Black Magic. Satanism is a reaction against the Christian church and the Word of God in particular. Satanism promotes a do-what-you-want attitude and is ultimately the worship of oneself.

### **Satan's Goal:**

According to scripture, Satan's goal is to deceive man by blinding him to the truth of the gospel and to receive worship for himself:

- *"All this I will give you (Jesus)," Satan said, "if you will bow down and worship me." (Matthew 4:9)*
- *The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him (Revelation 12:9).*
- *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)*
- *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit (Isaiah 14:12-15).*

On a practical level Satan desires to alter an individual's values and turn them against themselves, their beliefs, family, God and society. Through the New Age Movement, many New Agers are committed to the cause of replacing the Judeo-Christian worldview with their own. As a result many New Age leaders have begun to influence direction in education, environment, psychology, medicine, physics, art, sports, media, entertainment, politics, the business and corporate community, and even the church. Because of its chameleon-like nature, because of man's natural rebellion against God and his preoccupation with self, and because the Christian church has been somewhat unresponsive, the New Age Movement has radically permeated every aspect of our culture. It is a sociological phenomenon!

**Source:** [www.probe.org/docs/satanism.html](http://www.probe.org/docs/satanism.html)      [www.watchman.org/na/introna.htm](http://www.watchman.org/na/introna.htm)

### **The subtle invasion—Feng Shui**

Satan is the master of disguise, as Paul teaches—"*... 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.*" (2 Thessalonians 2: 9,10) One 'door' the enemy uses today is Feng Shui. This occult activity is gaining popularity in the West, with the general public and corporate world, especially when considering interior design: all to improve one's health and wealth. Advice from feng shui consultants, can be found in women's and architect's magazine, interior decorators' publications—from Australia through to many European countries. Many feng shui practitioners claim it is based on the world-view centred on 'chi' or 'breath', which is the universal energy that permeates all things ('use the Force, Luke'). In feng shui, a person designs every aspect of their house so as to bring in the most positive balance of chi. Feng shui seeks to balance the yin and yang forces of 'chi', but getting the right balance seems to be extremely difficult. An imbalance of yin and yang supposedly makes chi disrupt your life. Chi is apparently fickle—it will leave as soon as it can, but if you treat it well and make the house attractive, it may linger around for awhile and bring you money and happiness. Chi is also not very intelligent—it seems chi can only enter through the front and leave through the back.

## A Christian response to the New Age movement and the Occult

Individual New Age and occult followers are at various stages of transition and assimilation of its teachings. In addition, since the NAM teaches that truth is relative and individualistic, Christians must approach New Agers as individuals. Model the example of Jesus—*"He was filled with the Holy Spirit and power ... and went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."* (Acts 10:38) Treat each one as a person: not a target. Ask New Agers questions to better understand their world and worldview. What spiritual background do they have? What happened in their lives that precipitated this path? What books, experiences, or ideas are most influential, most important to them? The answer should give Christians good direction as to where to focus their attention. In recent years, people like Ross Clifford and Philip Johnson have gone to New Age events such as the *Body, Soul and Mind festival* to love and talk constructively with people who are on a spiritual search and found this model of being alongside people (see Paul's example in Acts 17, 1 Corinthians 9:16-22) has been fruitful. Contact this ministry: 9594 0142; PO Box 367, Hurstville 1481

Fundamental issues that need to be addressed with New Agers are the source of truth, the irrationality of relativism, factual and historical errors, the fallacies and inconsistencies of living out their world-view, and finally, a clarification of the real God, Jesus, and gospel, contrasted to those of the New Age—there is a choice to be made instead of blurring the distinctions. Fundamentally, intercessory prayer is absolutely necessary. The battle for the soul of a person is won through God's grace, intervening and drawing them to Himself.

**Source:** [www.watchman.org/profile/nwagmpro.htm](http://www.watchman.org/profile/nwagmpro.htm)

## A Biblical response to the New Age and Occult

The New Age Movement is a religious system with three basic beliefs:

- ◆ Evolutionary Godhood
- ◆ Personal Divinity
- ◆ Global Unity

### ① Evolutionary Godhood

- Is the next step in man's evolution. It will not be physical, but spiritual. For the most part, the NAM espouses evolution, both of body and spirit. Man is developing and will soon leap forward into new spiritual horizons. Evolutionary Godhood also means that mankind will soon see itself as god, as the "Christ principle." The NAM teaches that man's basic nature is good and divine.
- **God's Word** declares that we are **all sinners**: *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned* (Romans 5:12), and that our nature is corrupt, *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath* (Ephesians 2:3).

### ② Personal divinity

- As the average New Age person believes themselves to be divine, they can then create their own reality. If, for example, a person believes that reincarnation is true, that's fine because that is their reality. If someone they know doesn't believe in it, that is alright too because that is someone else's reality. They can each have a reality for themselves that "follows a different path."
- **God's Word** says that God alone is the **creator**: *This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself* (Isaiah 44:24). The New Ager who believes in their own divinity and ability to create defies the authority and position of God. It is listening to the lie of the devil who spoke to Eve and said she would be like God (Genesis 3:5).

## A Biblical response to the New Age and Occult:

### ③ Global Unity—consists of three major divisions:

- ◆ Man with Man
- ◆ Man with Nature
- ◆ Man with God.

- **Man with man**—The NAM believes we will all learn our proper divine relationship with one another and achieve harmony and mutual love and acceptance through the realization and acceptance of divine proper knowledge. Within this harmony is economic unity. Many New Agers are looking for a single world leader who, with New Age principles, will guide the world into a single harmonious economic whole and a world of spiritual unity—that is, a one world religion.

**God's Word** reminds us in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, *Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.* See also Revelation 13:17; 14:9,11; 16:2; 19:20.

- **Man with nature**—The NAM says that God is all, and all is God, so nature is also part of God. Man must then get in tune with nature and learn to nurture it and be nurtured by it. In this, all people can unite. We must live in harmony with animals, understand them, and learn from them, is the general philosophy of the New Age. The New Agers have a name for the earth—"Gaia"—which they say is to be revered and respected. Some New Agers even worship the earth and nature.

**God's Word** teaches man's superiority over animals—*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground"* (Genesis 1:26-28). Mankind is called to care for and act as a steward of God's creation (Genesis 2:15). God will hold Christians responsible for the stewardship that has been entrusted to them. Note that any part of God's creation is not to be worshipped—*God said, "You shall have no other gods before me."* (Exodus 20:3)

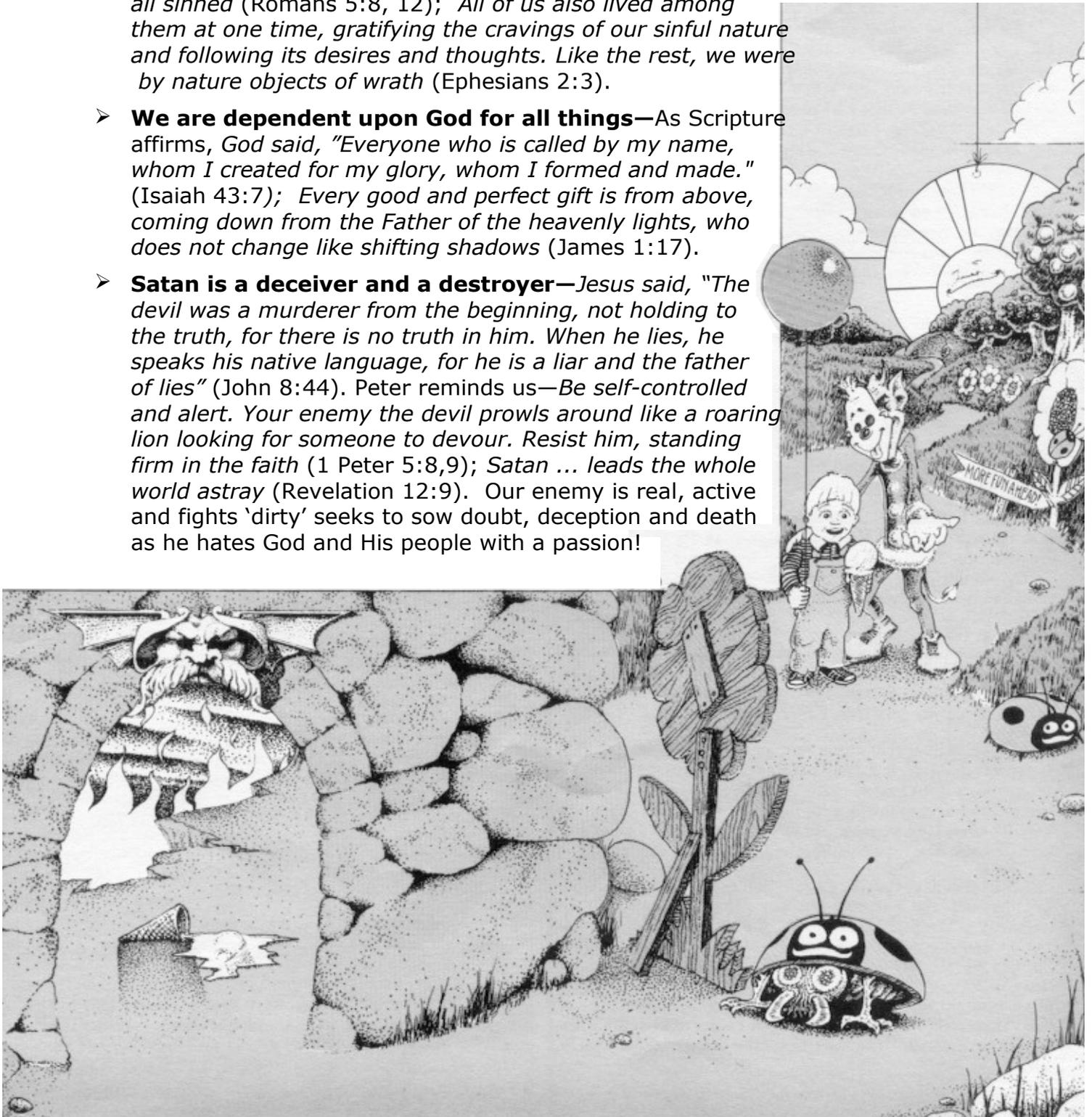
- **Man with God**—The NAM teaches that man is divine by nature, and that every one—once they see themselves that way—will be helped in their unity of purpose, love, and development. The goal is to realize fully our own goodness. The New Age god is impersonal. New Agers seek to elevate themselves to godhood, and so they lower the majesty and personhood of the true God. The New Age movement does believe in honesty, integrity, love, peace, etc. It just wants to do it without the true God. It wants to do it not on His terms, but on its own.

**God's Word** affirms the correct view of God: *As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one'* (Romans 3:10-12). God's nature is declared for all to see—*Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse* (Romans 1:27). God has also shown in his actions that is a personal God: the incarnation of Jesus shows that (Col 1:13-20).

## A Biblical response to the New Age and Occult

### ④ The New Age Movement and Occult ignore Biblical doctrines:

- **God's Word and Christianity are the truth**—All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). This is affirmed in 2 Peter 1:20,21—Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- **Man is a sinner**—God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us ...Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned (Romans 5:8, 12); All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Ephesians 2:3).
- **We are dependent upon God for all things**—As Scripture affirms, God said, "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (Isaiah 43:7); Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).
- **Satan is a deceiver and a destroyer**—Jesus said, "The devil was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). Peter reminds us—Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith (1 Peter 5:8,9); Satan ... leads the whole world astray (Revelation 12:9). Our enemy is real, active and fights 'dirty' seeks to sow doubt, deception and death as he hates God and His people with a passion!



## A Biblical response to the New Age and Occult:

- ④ ➤ **God's punishment for our rebellion is eternal**—John writes, "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books (Revelation 20:11,12; see also Psalm 5:5,6).
- **The consequence of sin is eternal separation from God**—Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear (Isaiah 59:2); For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- **Jesus is the only way to God**—Jesus said, "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him (Matthew 11:27). Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well" (John 14:6,7).
- **God is personal**—He speaks and has given Himself a name "I AM" (Exodus 3:14); He is long-suffering (Psalm 86:12; 2 Peter 3:15); forgives all who repent (Daniel 9:9; Ephesians 1:7; Psalm 86:5); and hates sin (Habbakuk 1:13).
- **Jesus is the only solution and offers grace for our rebellion**—The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved (Acts 15:11). ONLY the Bible speaks of **grace**—the unmerited favour of God on all who trust Him. Every other religious system on earth has some form of salvation dependent totally or in part on what the person does. **Christianity is spelt DONE ... not DO.**

**Source:** [www.carm.org/nam/naresponseto.htm](http://www.carm.org/nam/naresponseto.htm)

### Summary:

The Bible teaches that God's creation is not an undivided unity but a diversity of created things and beings. The creation is not unified in itself but held together by Christ in whom *all things hold together* (Colossians 1:17). Christianity rejects the concept of monism.

Second, Christianity is theistic, not pantheistic. The Bible teaches that God is an imminent, personal, triune, sovereign God. God is separate from His creation rather than merely a part of the creation as pantheism would teach.

We are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26), so we have dignity and value (Psalm 8). New Agers teach that we are gods and thus have divinity within our humanity.

New Agers flirt with the occult to achieve a change in consciousness. These practices involve direct contact with spiritual entities. The Bible warns against the danger of these practices and lists such activities as divination and spirit channeling as detestable practices (Deuteronomy 18:9-13) that are to be avoided.

The Bible teaches resurrection of the body (1 Corinthians 15), not reincarnation of the soul. Likewise, the doctrine of karma is foreign to the gospel. Salvation comes from grace, not through the works in this life (Ephesians 2:8-9) or in any other alleged past life. We will not be reborn after death. Hebrews 9:27 clearly teaches that, *it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment*.

Finally, the Bible teaches absolute truth. God has clearly communicated to us his moral law (Exodus 20:1-17), which we are to obey. Contrary to the New Age teaching that "there are many paths to God," Jesus clearly taught, *I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (John 14:6).

**Source:** [www.probe.org/docs/newage.html](http://www.probe.org/docs/newage.html)

## How can Christians witness to those in the New Age Movement?

Many have realised that science does not hold all of the answers to life, the universe, and everything, and so some are turning to the spiritual for more meaningful answers. Many look in the wrong places and stumble blindly into New Age philosophies—and get trapped (see 2 Corinthians 4:4). Christians have a responsibility and an opportunity to share their faith with those who are actually searching for spiritual wisdom and point them to Jesus Christ. Use these suggestions to share Christ with your New Age friends as God directs—

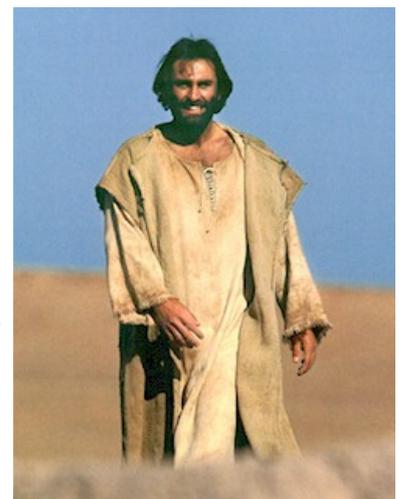
- ❶ Given the great diversity of beliefs in the New Age Movement, **don't automatically assume that you know what the person believes**. Simply ask your friend what they believe about a given subject. What may be true to one New Ager, may not be true for another! Show an attitude of genuine humility.
- ❷ **Earn the right to be heard**. Many Christians are ill equipped to dialogue with New Ager's. If a Christian says something which is not true of the New Age movement, the New Ager will tend to reject much of what is then said to them because they will have lost some respect for that Christian. If you are going to talk to those in the New Age movement—do your homework! Research what they believe. If you say something that they feel you have misunderstood them on, but it *is* actually accurate, be prepared to back it up with quotes from New Age Movement leaders and authorities.
- ❸ **Stress the uniqueness of Christ**. Most New Agers will admit to Christ being an 'enlightened one' of some description, but will deny His unique status as the only Son of God and the only way of salvation.
- ❹ **Stress that humanity has a sinful nature** (Romans 3:23). Most New Agers don't think about the issue of sin at all because they feel that all they need to overcome problems is deeper meditation and to eventually realise one's own divinity. Show them they are sinners in need of a Saviour coming from the 'outside', not man having the potential to save himself by releasing something hidden within himself.
- ❺ **Don't preach at them or talk down to them**. Instead, make a statement in the form of a question. For example, instead of saying something like: "You New Agers believe in channelling demons", say something like "Am I right in assuming that the New Age Movement believes in channelling spirits to give messages? How can we be sure that these spirits are really who they claim to be? Are you aware of what the Bible says about evil deceiving spirits?"

Jesus Himself asked many questions to force people to think. Paul used this model when he preached at Athens in Acts 17—*he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols*. (v. 16). However, he did not go storming in and calling them a bunch of idol worshippers, etc. Instead, he said: *Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects*, and noted their statue "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD". Paul used this as an opportunity to tell them about the God they can know. Modern New Agers are just like these ancient men of Athens. Like the apostle Paul, Christians can also take advantage of the spiritual hunger in the hearts of people, commend them for seeking spiritual things, but then point them to Jesus.

**Source:** [www.spotlightministries.org.uk](http://www.spotlightministries.org.uk)

### Our God who is with us:

- ❖ God is all knowing or Omniscient—Matthew 19:26
- ❖ God is all powerful or Omnipotent—Revelation 19:6
- ❖ God is present everywhere or Omnipresent—Psalm 139:7-12
- ❖ God is holy—Revelation 4:8
- ❖ God is eternal with no beginning or end—Deuteronomy 33:27
- ❖ God is truth—John 14:6
- ❖ God is characterised by justice—Acts 17:31
- ❖ God is love—1 John 4:16
- ❖ God is Word become flesh—John 1:14



## Weapons of Warfare for every Christian:

- ❶ **Name of Jesus**—use His name to command the enemy to leave: *Paul ... said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her"* (Acts 16:18).
- ❷ **Word of God**—speaks to our self, to Satan and to the Lord when we declare it. God's Word has power: *The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart* (Hebrews 4:12); *The Lord says, "My word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:11). Declaring scripture shifts it from head to heart and we stand in the authority of our position in Jesus: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ* (Ephesians 1:3).
- ❸ **Blood of Jesus**—proclaim the supremacy of the finished work of the Cross: *We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus* (Hebrews 10:19); *God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross* (Colossians 1:19,20).
- ❹ **Word of our Testimony**—*Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death* (Revelation 12:10,11). Our testimony is what we speak out—every time we talk! Do we declare the character and love of Jesus in what we say or our humanity?
- ❺ **Our Obedience**—our obedience to Jesus' Lordship of our life is a declaration on earth and in the heavenlies, while rebellion gives demonic access. Each day we choose: to walk down into the 'valley of rebellion' or go up to the 'mountain of the Lord'—*Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD ... He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths* (Micah 4:2).
- ❻ **Worship**—in this we declare who God is and our love and trust in Him. *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only'"* (Luke 4:8); *Jesus said, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:24); *Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire* (Hebrews 12:28,29).
- ❼ **Speaking in tongues**—using this spiritual gift is part of warfare as it sensitizes our spirit and heightens our receptivity to God. Praying over a person in tongues positively affects the spiritual atmosphere. As we mature in this gift, it moves from head to heart to our belly (warfare tongues).
- ❽ **Lifestyle service in the Kingdom**—*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many* (Mark 10:45). Acts of service are all that we do for others—giving, mercy, compassion, etc—and in God's hands, they are acts of warfare as we take ground for the enemy and show Jesus. *Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men* (Ephesians 6:7).
- ❾ **Fasting**—*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting ...* (Acts 13:2). Fasting was part of the lifestyle of the early Christians and adds an 'edge' to us in hearing God and being effective as His warriors.
- ❿ **Intercessory prayer**—flowing from the church is a powerful weapon of warfare. The apostle Paul teaches: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God* (Philippians 4:6). This flows from our spirit and the relationship we have with the Father—never neglect the power of prayer.

## Weapons of Warfare for every Christian:

- ❶❶ **Perseverance with Confidence**—*May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance (2 Thessalonians 3:5). Stand in Jesus' promises, what He said and His model to us—and go for it! Don't be intimidated by the enemy.*
- ❶❷ **Communion**—*this is a declaration of the finished work of the Cross; it affirms the divinity and humility of Jesus and proclaims—in faith—His Second Coming. Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).*

**Source:** Mike Bickel and Sue Walker

Jesus is a warrior and He gave us instructions on how to fight the battle and the power to fight the battle—*Jesus said, "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" (Luke 11:13).* Graham Cooke tells the story of having a vision in which he was dwarfed by a giant—he felt intimidated and fearful in the situation. Then he looked past the giant and saw the face of Jesus. He saw Jesus smiling at him and reminding him that in Jesus, he was far mightier than any giant. He was called by Jesus to stand on his security in Jesus; the promises of God's Word and the weapons of warfare the Lord has equipped us with. As this was occurring, Graham's perspective changed—he had grown and the giant had shrunk. He was now much bigger than the giant! He and Jesus rejoiced as Graham realised afresh—as we focus on Jesus, we know we are victors! *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3; 2:6).*



*Speaking the truth  
in **love**, we will in all  
things grow up into  
Jesus Christ.  
(Ephesians 4:15)*

## **A Christians authority in Jesus**

*Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:10)*

*"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." (Romans 16:20)*

*'Paul said, "I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes." (2 Corinthians 2:10,11)*

*"Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:14)*

*"... 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." (2 Thessalonians 2: 9,10)*

*" Satan ... leads the whole world astray." (Revelation 12:9)*

*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Matthew 25:41)*

*'The Lord said to Paul—"I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'" (Acts 26:17,18)*

*"Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power ... went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." (Acts 10:38)*

*"If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." (James 3:14-16)*

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you." (James 4:7,8)*

*"The devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (1 John 3:1)*

*"This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother." (1 John 3:10)*

*"Satan ... leads the whole world astray." (Revelation 12:9)*

*'Jesus answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil." (Matthew 13:37-39)*

*'Jesus said, "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." (Luke 10:19)*

