

# Church of Oprah Exposed!

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## The Church of Oprah Exposed!

**Have you heard about the largest church in the world? She reaches 15-20 million everyday.**

Oprah's new online class covering Eckhart Tolle's 'A New Earth' is exposed. They conducted the first mass trance March 17th 2008. Over 2 Million participated in this new age trance, a new book Don't Drink the Kool-Aid uncovers shocking truths that must be shared.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgKIkruHZko>

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The Great Heretical Idea: Oprah and Eckhart Do the New Age Shift

by Warren Smith

"Get ready to be awakened." [1] - Oprah

"The twenty-first century will be the time of awakening, of meeting The Creator Within. Many beings will experience Oneness with God and with all of life. This will be the beginning of the golden age of the New Human, of which it has been written; the time of the universal human, which has been eloquently described by those with deep insight among you.

"There are many such people in the world now - teachers and messengers, Masters and visionaries -who are placing this vision before humankind and offering tools with which to create it. These messengers and visionaries are the heralds of a New Age." [2] - "God" **Neale Donald Walsch, Friendship With God**

"...[T]his book itself is a transformational device that has come out of the arising new consciousness. The ideas and concepts presented here may be important, but they are secondary. They are no more than signposts pointing toward awakening. As you read, a shift takes place within you."

"This book's main purpose is not to add new information or beliefs to your mind or to try to convince you of anything, but to bring about a shift in consciousness, that is to say, to awaken.... It will change your state of consciousness or it will be meaningless. It can only awaken those who are ready. Not everyone is ready yet, but many are, and with each person who awakens, the momentum in the collective consciousness grows, and it becomes easier for others."[3] - **Eckhart Tolle, *The New Earth***

"Don't get attached to any one word. You can substitute 'Christ' for presence, if that is more meaningful to you. Christ is your God-essence or the Self, as it is sometimes called in the East. The only difference between Christ and presence is that Christ refers to your indwelling divinity regardless of whether you are conscious of it or not, whereas presence means your awakened divinity or God-essence."[4] - **Eckhart Tolle, *The Power of Now***

I stared at the huge stack of books in the Barnes & Noble bookstore. The title of the book was *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life Purpose*. The title sounded like a new book by Purpose-Driven pastor Rick Warren, but it was actually the latest selection in Oprah's Book Club. A colorful orange and blue paper band around the book invited the reader to "Join Oprah and Eckhart for a worldwide web event... Every Monday night beginning March 3, 2008 for 10 weeks... Register at [Oprah.com/anewearth](http://Oprah.com/anewearth)." A personal message from Oprah stated: "Get ready to be awakened."

It was clear to me that Oprah was no longer content to just popularize New Age beliefs, she would now teach them. This was a bold move by a woman who was obviously willing to do everything in her power - which is considerable - to convert the world to her New Age worldview.

## **The Shift**

With friend and New Age author Marianne Williamson simultaneously teaching *A Course in Miracles* daily on Oprah & Friends XM Satellite Radio, Oprah now offers two very public New Age classes. These classes are teaching millions of people that the way to save themselves and the planet is not by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, but rather by accepting "the Christ within." For someone who probably has an aversion to traditional proselytizing, Oprah is giving new meaning to the word "proselytize" as she continues to push her New Age beliefs upon the world. But, in defense of her role as a New Age proselytizer, Oprah would probably be the first to tell you - it's all for the good of the world. She would also probably argue that what she is teaching is not New Age, but a "New Spirituality." Curiously, that just happens to be the same term that some emerging church leaders like Brian McLaren are using as they introduce New Age ideas and language into the church.[5]

Oprah can call her New Age teachings whatever she wants, but she and her ever-growing band of New Age colleagues are still teaching that "we are all one" because we are all "God" and "Christ." As Marianne Williamson writes, "We are all one, we are love

itself. 'Accepting the Christ' is merely a shift in self-perception."[6]

The "shift" Williamson, Oprah and Tolle describe is "awakening" to the "Christ within" and the "God within." "Shift" is the key word. It means to move from one position to another - as in shifting one's awareness away from the mind and "ego" to the collective "Christ consciousness" or "Christ within." And, as in shifting your belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to a New Age belief in the "Christ within." With her New Age classrooms on satellite radio, and now on the Internet, Oprah apparently feels an urgency to teach everyone how to "awaken" and make this "shift" to the "Christ" within. With her Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) kicking in next year we can expect to see her New Age views showcased on an even grander scale.

In her first class with Eckhart Tolle, Oprah asked if people had experienced the "shift" while reading Tolle's book, *A New Earth*. The question reminded me of Werner Erhard's New Age EST program in the 1970s that taught this same idea of shifting one's perception, and then similarly asking - "Did you get IT?" Obviously, there is pressure to "get IT" - to feel the shift: Oprah felt the shift - did you? Are you understanding this new [age] way of looking at yourself and the world? Or, are you being blocked by your mind and your ego from seeing this New Spirituality that can save our planet? Keep logging onto our classes. Keep reading Tolle's book -you'll 'get it.'

Years earlier, when launching the New Age movement publicly with her book *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, Marilyn Ferguson introduced this concept of the "shift," connecting it to the mystical ideas of Teilhard de Chardin - the father of the New Age movement - "whose new perspective would trigger a critical contagion of change" which would result in the "rapid transformation of the human species, beginning with a vanguard" of emerging leaders. She explained how scientist-philosopher Thomas Kuhn coined the term "paradigm shift" to describe "a distinctly new way of thinking" which entailed accepting new truths. When "the new paradigm gains ascendancy" and "a critical number of thinkers has accepted the new idea, a collective paradigm shift has occurred." Ferguson said the "shift" would result in a "new knowing" of the occult world called an "awakening" of "deep inner shifts." [7]

## **Evolve or Die**

Tolle's book *A New Earth* - like *A Course in Miracles* and other New Age teachings - exploits the idea that the world is at a crisis point and insists that we must "spiritually evolve" as a species to avoid personal and planetary disaster. According to New Age leaders like Tolle, spiritually evolving means "shifting" or converting to the heretical belief that we are all "God" and that we are all "Christ."

In both his book and his class with Oprah, Tolle reiterated the words that New Age leader Barbara Marx Hubbard was given by her New Age "Christ" - "evolve or die." [8] In other words, don't feel any pressure, but if you don't "shift" your point of view, and "get it" that "we are all one" and that "we are all God," our planet will probably be destroyed and our human species will become extinct.

Tolle and Oprah stayed away from the harsher aspects of this "evolve or die" dictate in that first Internet class. Hubbard, however, has made it clear that in the future, those who refuse to make the "shift" by seeing themselves as "God" will be eliminated by something called "the selection process." [9] Hubbard, who is highly respected by her New Age colleagues, claims that her "Christ" has laid out an Armageddon alternative peace plan to save the planet. This peace plan is predicated on accepting the "shift" in consciousness that Oprah and Tolle (and other New Age leaders) are teaching - the "shift" to the Christ within.

Hubbard's New Age view of the future inspired her to be one of the co-founders of the World Future Society and she is currently listed as a member of its Global Advisory Council. [10] Emergent leader at the "vanguard" of church "transformation," Brian McLaren, has also written about an Armageddon alternative [11] and just happens to be one of the featured speakers at the upcoming World Future Society's annual gathering.

### **Surprised by the Truth**

In describing their New Age/New Spirituality "shift" and the necessity for everyone to spiritually evolve, Eckhart Tolle erroneously states that once you "awaken" to your Christ-consciousness and your own godhood, the shift is "irreversible." [12] What he neglects to take into account is that there are large numbers of us who formerly made the "shift" to these New Age beliefs only to discover - by the grace of God - that we had been greatly deceived by these New Age teachings. The Bible proved itself to be true as it exposed the New Age/New Spirituality for what it was - a lie. It was very humbling for us to realize that the Bible was true after all, and our New Age beliefs were wrong. God was God and we were not. Jesus was the one and only Christ. There was no universal "Christ-consciousness" or "Christ within." We were amazed to discover that there really was a deceptive spirit world and an actual devil; that we really were sinners that needed to be saved by Jesus Christ. What we came to understand was that the whole New Age plan to save the world was part of the very deception that Jesus warned would come at the time of the end (Matthew 24). We were stunned by the truth of the Bible and shocked at our own gullibility to have believed that we were "God" and "Christ." We had been very sincere about our New Age beliefs, but we were sincerely wrong - as are Oprah and Tolle.

The New Age paradigm "shift" is a deceptive device that is being cleverly used by a very real spiritual Adversary who is out to deceive the world. One of the definitions of "shift" in Webster's Dictionary is "a deceitful scheme or method; a trick." [13] The New Age/New Spirituality "shift" advocated by Oprah and Tolle is such a "shift." It is, in every sense of the word, diabolically "shifty."

<http://www.crossroad.to/articles2/08/discernment/3-27-oprah-eckhart.htm>

**Part II** <http://www.crossroad.to/articles2/08/discernment/3-29-shifty-oprah-eckhart-2.htm>

Part III <http://www.crossroad.to/articles2/08/discernment/4-5-oprah-eckhart-3.htm>

Part IV <http://www.crossroad.to/articles2/08/discernment/4-5-oprah-eckhart-4.htm>

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3. Tolle, *The New Earth*, p. 6-7.
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5. Brian McLaren, quote cited in *Faith Undone* by Roger Oakland (Silverton, OR: Lighthouse Trails, 2007), p. 11.
6. Marianne Williamson, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1996), p. 32.
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9. Warren Smith, *Reinventing Jesus Christ: The New Gospel* (Ravenna, OH: Conscience Press, 2002), pp. 16, 19.
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11. Brian McLaren, *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything* (Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group, 2006), p. 175.
12. Tolle, *The New Earth*, p. 7.
13. *Websters New World Dictionary* (New York: Websters New World Dictionaries, 1988).

Warren Smith is the author of [\*Deceived on Purpose: The New Age Implications of the Purpose-Driven Church\*](#), [\*The Light that was Dark: From the New Age to Amazing Grace\*](#) and [\*Reinventing Jesus Christ: The New Gospel\*](#)

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### [The Heart](#)

**Deuteronomy 11:16-18a:** "Take heed to yourselves, **that your heart be not deceived**, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; **And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you. Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul...**"

**Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25:** "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

**Proverbs 28:26:** "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."

**Jeremiah 17: 9 &10:** "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

**Proverbs 18:2:** "A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself."

**Proverbs 18:2:** "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits."

**Jeremiah 17:5:** "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."

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**Luke 21:8:** "And he (Jesus) said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them."

**II Corinthians 4:4:** "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

**Matthew 7:15:** "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

**Titus 1:15b-16:** "...unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

**II Corinthians 11:13-15:** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

**II Peter 2:17-19:** "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

**Colosians 2:8:** "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

**I Timothy 4:1&2:** "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot

iron..."

**Ephesians 5:11:** "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather reprove them.**"

**Matthew 24:24:** "...if it were possible, they shall deceive **the very elect.**"

**II Corinthians 2:11:** "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we **are not ignorant of his devices.**"

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**John 3:16&17:** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, **that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; **but that the world through him might be saved.**"

**John 14:6:** "Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**"

**Romans 5:8-10:** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** Much more then, **being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

**Titus 3:5:** "**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost...**"

**Acts 4:10-12:** "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, **which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**"

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Warren Smith, in his book *Reinventing Jesus Christ* talks about the critical mass. He quotes New Ager Marianne Williamson:

So it is that a new politics centers around the arousal of that power, using prayer and meditation to create a forcefield of transformation.

It is a mystical revolution that will usher in a mystical age.

As a loving critical mass coalesces, as hearts around the world continue to yearn and

work for peace, then new forms will emerge to actualize our new planetary vision.

Williamson is not some obscure New Age guru. Today, she works diligently in Washington, DC, rallying for the support of Congressmen and others to start a [U.S. Department of Peace](#). Every year, she, Walter Cronkite and other influential individuals and groups grow that much closer to the DOP becoming a reality.

The question must be asked, Will Williamson's critical mass and Rick Warren's critical mass join up together? And will the transformation each of them pushes for become a common goal between them. Such a merging would certainly quicken the process of change.

From [Rick Warren's website](#) (pastors.com) "This is a time, which calls for a critical mass of transformational leaders who will commit to creating a synergy of energy within their circle of influence so new level of social, economic, organizational and spiritual success can be reached. We have not, however, developed the leaders we need for this noble task. To reach such heights, we will need to un-tap the leadership potential of skillful leaders who are successfully directing various organizations and systems. Some of these men and women, knowledgeable and committed, to there profession, will be the transformational leaders we need to create the needed synergy of energy."

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/index.php?m=200608>

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## Obama heals hundreds

AUSTIN — Ginny McCallum, 43, who has been confined to a wheelchair for much of her adult life, came to hear presidential candidate Barack Obama speak at the University of Texas. Afterward she found herself in a wheelchair access breezeway as Obama and his entourage exited the arena. The candidate spotted her, came over, grabbed her hand and pulled her up. She found herself standing for the first time in eleven years.



"He smiled at me and said, 'Yes, you can,'" she says. "I was so stunned I didn't know what to do."

McCallum is among hundreds of people who say they have been healed by the Democratic candidate, in one of the most surprising and little-acknowledged aspects of his campaign. Reporters have shied away from the story, chalking it up to "Obama-mania" and people's feelings of elation.

"We don't talk about it a lot, but yeah, it does happen," says one staffer who says he has seen multiple people healed on a rope line. "We don't

know exactly how or why it's happening, and the Senator won't talk about it. He usually insists that people keep it quiet and just report it to their pastor or priest."

Greeting supporters after a rousing speech in Houston, Obama stepped into the



dense crowd and spontaneously began touching people: a legally blind woman, a man deaf in one ear, a cancer sufferer and a lame man.

"Yes, you can," Obama said as he laid hands on afflicted bodies.

The people's reactions were so joyous as to be almost frightening. They jumped and shouted and wept. Before they could thank or embrace the candidate he was well down the rope line healing others. Their excitement was lost in the general din of the crowd.

Aides acknowledge that the phenomenon is occurring with greater frequency.

"His power goes beyond simple inspiration," says one aide. "There is something developing here that I'm not sure any of us fully understands."

They say Obama has told them privately that his time has not yet come, so it would be inappropriate to talk about the healings right now. He says he will wait until the convention to speak publicly about the "special calling" he believes he has to lead the country. They do expect him to start alluding to "the providential nature of what is happening on the campaign trail" in an upcoming address, mostly because word is getting around.

People have begun bringing relatives by the score to campaign events in hopes of a healing touch.

"It's not the speeches that are drawing people anymore, as good as they are," says a senior staff member. "It's people wanting to get better, and wanting their friends and relatives to get better. It's the belief that there's something more here." •

[http://www.larknews.com/march\\_2008/secondary.php?page=1](http://www.larknews.com/march_2008/secondary.php?page=1)



#### BOOK REVIEW: An Honest Look At "Don't Drink the Kool-aid"

**April 9th** - On March 3rd, a book titled *Don't Drink the Kool-Aid* was released by author Carrington Steele. The book, subtitled *Oprah, Obama and the Occult*, seeks to document Oprah's ties to the occult and the New Age religion. Since its release, Steele has had several radio interviews, and a [promotional video on YouTube](#) has received over two and a half million hits. Steele's efforts to alert Christians and the public are noteworthy. However, after a thorough examination of this book, Lighthouse Trails must issue a public warning.

Lighthouse Trails was contacted by two other ministries who brought up issues regarding the use of their material in Steele's book. Upon reading Steele's work ourselves, our editors discovered that the 80-page book was filled with verbatim passages copied from other writers material, which was presented as Steele's own authorship. Because of the sensationalistic overtones of the book (e.g., comparing Oprah to Jim Jones who gave poisoned Kool-aid to over 900 people), and because plagiarism most often ignores the original context and authorial intent of the material copied but is not ethically credited, Lighthouse Trails cannot, in good conscience, promote Steele's book.

While we regret to issue this finding because we do believe that Oprah Winfrey's efforts to convert the public to her New Age beliefs must be exposed, we fear that Steele's book could negatively reflect upon and misrepresent long-standing and reputable ministries. In addition, because the author also plagiarized some secular sources (such as *CNN*, *Fox News*, and *Rolling Stone* magazine), we believe this book may, in addition to being a poor Christian testimony, be legally problematic. Particularly, the fact that one paragraph in a book we publish, *A Time of Departing*, was illegitimately copied in [\*Don't Drink the Kool-Aid\*](#) and passed off as Steele's own writing, has forced us to speak up.

Some of the ministries whose research and writing were plagiarized include Let Us Reason Ministries, Herescope (Discernment Ministries), Apologetics Resource Center, and Lighthouse Trails Publishing. Material was also lifted from the websites of Oprah Winfrey, *The Secret*, *Washington Post*, *A & E Television Networks*, and *CNN* and presented as the author's own writing. For a partial list of these instances, please [click here](#).

On April 7th, Lighthouse Trails spoke on the phone to Carrington Steele, and we expressed our concerns over the book. Steele said that she had done the book with a pure motive and thought she was within the guidelines of the Fair Use Act when using the material of others. Steele said that she had previous editorial experience (her website says as a magazine editor). Lighthouse Trails explained that the Fair Use Act pertains to quoted material that does not require the original author's permission if it is properly footnoted. It does not mean that sections of copyrighted material can be used verbatim without proper citation of the original source. Unattributed use of another's writing that is passed off to the public as one's own is plagiarism. *Kirsch's Handbook of Publishing Law* (the industry standard for copyright issues) explains that copyright infringement occurs when the material used is under legal copyright. *Kirsch's Handbook* states that verbatim copyrighted material must be credited.

When Lighthouse Trails spoke with Carrington Steele, she stated she had done both the writing and the research on the book without help or support from others. However, it was pointed out to her that she often said "we" and "us" in her interviews, and we wondered to whom she was referring. At this point, Steele said she could not answer that question, saying she was not at liberty to say. We found this response to be curious and disturbing.

Because the chapter on Barack Obama did not contain any documentation that he was involved in the occult or the New Age, Lighthouse Trails asked Steele if there was political motivation involved. What's more, the chapter on Obama did not seem to fit in with the rest of the book. Steele said she was not politically motivated. However, with Obama's name on the cover of the book and with a chapter especially devoted to him, yet with no evidence demonstrating his connection to the spirituality of Oprah and other New Agers, *Don't Drink the Kool-Aid* gives the appearance of having political overtones, even if Steele did not intend this.

While Lighthouse Trails is not attempting to defend Obama and his beliefs, and while we have grave concerns over the current political state of our country and our world, we must make it clear that our efforts and our research are to defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We make every effort not to propagandize political actions by mere associations. Our research does at times address political figures but strictly from the stand point of relating their spirituality to the Christian faith.

Furthermore, in our own research we have made every attempt to steer clear of personal indictments against any author or teacher we critique. Rather than trying to vilify a person, we choose to focus on that person's public teachings. That's why on our website and in our books, while we do question and dispute the teachings of popular Christian figures, we attempt not to draw notice to their personal lives and pass judgment as to whether or not they are truly Christian. We steer clear of trying to evaluate motivations but focus primarily on public teachings. The personal issues *Don't Drink the Kool-Aid* references--abused pasts, divorced parents, and other personal matters--are inappropriate for a book that attempts to evaluate the spiritual teachings of others.

We must also state, that while we are truly concerned about the significant influence Oprah Winfrey has over millions of her viewers, we are equally concerned about Christian leaders who are promoting a contemplative spirituality, which possesses the same panentheistic roots as the New Age spirituality that is promoted by Oprah. Thus, it would be erroneous to only focus on Oprah while ignoring the reality that many Christians are also accepting this New Age spirituality. In the latter case, and according to Scripture, leaders who mislead believers by introducing New Age spirituality under the cover of Christian pretense are especially accountable to God.

In conclusion, if *Don't Drink the Kool-Aid* had been written by a university student, he or she would have been severely disciplined for their plagiarism. While this report is not written with the intent of hurting Carrington Steele or refuting her basic message of Oprah's New Age propensities, we had no other choice than to go public with our serious concerns. Our prayer is that the gospel message be proclaimed, spiritual deception be exposed, and many who now follow the path of New Age spirituality will have their eyes opened.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (II Corinthians 4:4)

<http://www.lighthouse trails research.com/newsletter041408.htm>

#### **Fox News Misses Point on Oprah - Dismisses New Age Impact**

On April 17th, Fox News released an article titled, "[Is Oprah Starting Her Own Cult?.](#)" Fox reporter Roger Friedman begins the article by stating: "Oprah Winfrey may have gone too far in exploiting and

distributing the teachings of a questionable New Age writer." He is referring to Oprah's present promotion of New Ager Eckhart Tolle and his new book, *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*. However, while Friedman's title and subtitle give the impression that this will be a warning to readers of the serious dangers of Oprah's New Age philosophies, Friedman puts most of his energy into trying to show that Oprah's motivation and passion for what she does is money and power related. In addition, he minimizes the New Age's impact and reality by calling it "gobbledygook," "nonsense," and "kooky."

What's more, Friedman questions whether Eckhart Tolle is "an appropriate spiritual leader," but his concerns focus more on Tolle's troubled past rather than Tolle's spiritual beliefs. Of Tolle, Friedman says: "He says he spent time wandering and sitting in London's parks, with "no relationships, no job, no home, no socially defined identity." Friedman adds:

His books, "The Power of Now" and "A New Earth," are the same gobbledygook as most New Age stuff. They're all about self-empowering and how to find out who we are. "Awakening" is Tolle's key word.

Friedman goes after Oprah, but not for her spiritual affinities--he believes the energy that drives Oprah is pure greed. He makes statements like: "Winfrey is nothing if not gifted at recognizing what's already popular in the culture and exploiting it," and "You'll notice that she, not Tolle, has the sole copyright on the broadcasts. Ka ching!" For an article that starts off in one direction, Friedman veers off with an entirely different focus.

While no one can argue that Oprah is an extremely wealthy woman, and she is most likely not complaining about that, Friedman misses the mark when he insinuates that this is her main agenda. Oprah is a woman on a spiritual mission, and it just so happens that this mission is to bring "awakening" to humanity through New Age philosophy. And though Friedman alludes to what this New Age philosophy is when he says "awakening," he does not seem to understand the implications of the New Age vision to awaken mankind to his own divinity.

Friedman is not alone in his assessment that the New Age is nothing more than gobbledygook and nonsense. Many people feel this way about it. Ray Yungen explains that the reason they do is because they don't believe that mysticism (i.e., New Age) or the supernatural are real. Therefore metaphysics is just "kooky," like Friedman refers to *A Course in Miracles*. Yungen illustrates why mysticism is not just silliness and is based on an actual presence:

If mystical experiences are not real, then there would be no continuity in their end results. But through the ages, when one examines different reports, it is clear to see there is uniformity to these experiences, meaning that they are tied into a central force of spiritual connection that does not change its message.

Friedman's article is actually a kind of paradox, and here is why: Friedman, representing Fox News, says that *A Course in Miracles* is "kooky." But would Fox's owner, Rupert Murdoch, agree with that? Probably not. Recently, Murdoch showed his support for Robert Schuller by participating in the Rethink

Conference at Crystal Cathedral. In an article on *WorldNet Daily* ([Rethinking Robert Schuller](#)), former New Age follower, Warren Smith, documents Schuller's long-standing commitment to *A Course in Miracles*, which incidentally is also being promoted heavily by Oprah this year. As Smith points out, in Schuller's 2005 book *Don't Throw Away Tomorrow: Living God's Dream for Your Life*, *A Course in Miracles* advocate Gerald Jampolsky's endorsement sits on the back cover. Schuller is as dedicated to *A Course in Miracles* today as he was in 1982 when he praised Jampolsky in his book *Self Esteem: The New Reformation*.(1) One can only wonder what Rupert Murdoch would think if he knew *Fox News* was calling *A Course in Miracles*, "kooky."

*A Course in Miracles* and the New Age are anything but "kooky." Instead, they are a serious attempt to redefine biblical Christianity; and it is not just Oprah who is introducing these false teachings to the world. They are also being presented by men like Robert Schuller, but unlike Oprah, no one is calling Schuller into account--on the contrary many high profile Christian figures continue to support him.

It is difficult to know what Friedman's objective was in writing this article. Possibly political, trying to discredit Obama by discrediting Oprah, such as in the recent release of Carrington Steele's book [Don't Drink the Kool-Aid](#). But whatever the reason Friedman wrote the article for Fox, he did not issue a needed warning about the New Age vision for the world and the ramifications this vision will have on millions of people throughout the earth.

No one can know for sure to what degree money plays in Oprah's zeal, but one thing we can know is that Oprah has been devoted to the New Age vision for many years and she is passionate about helping others to grab hold of this "awakening" of divinity within. Friedman insinuates that Oprah cares more about money than she does about people. It is poor reporting to attack what cannot be proven and to avoid reporting on the obvious. Oprah has shown herself to be a caring person, who is often willing to give her own money to help the needy. This cannot be legitimately disputed.

What must be disputed though is her message - Creator and creation are one and the same, and thus man is divine. For all the well-meaning efforts Oprah makes to help humanity, her zeal and passion are leading millions down a road that goes further and further away from mankind's only hope - Jesus Christ, as Lord, Savior, and God.

Although Oprah claims to be a Christian and sees Jesus as a great spiritual master, she does not see Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and does not see Him as a personal Savior; rather, she sees Him as a model for the christ-consciousness. This is what Jesus proclaimed would be the sign of His coming in Matthew 24.(2)

Perhaps Friedman truly believes that New Age spirituality is a bunch of silliness. Some Christian leaders

believe this too. Rick Warren's chief apologist has stated: "[Rick] Warren has made it very clear that he feels the New Age and everything connected to it is pure silliness."<sup>3</sup>

The Bible is very clear that familiar spirits (those which are behind the New Age spirituality) are not to be dismissed as kooky or silly. Scripture warns adamantly of the enemy of our souls who seeks to devour us, ("Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8) and who is the father of lies (John 8:44). It also says that a day will come upon the earth when there will be such a great falling away that if possible even the elect (the body of Christ) would be deceived (I Timothy 4:1, Mark 13:22). And it states that we should not be caught unaware of these coming times like a thief in the night (I Thessalonians 5:1-4). We are to recognize and expose the deeds of darkness and let our lights shine so others may accept the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, who is God come in the flesh. And let our zeal not be in vain for worldly matters but rather let our zeal be found in Him.

It's time that the media and those who represent themselves as Christian leaders present the New Age and its teachings for what they are--a paradigm shift that is seeking to remove biblical Christianity from our world today.

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10: 2-4)

**Notes:**

1. Warren Smith, *Deceived on Purpose* (Magalia, CA: Mountain Stream Press, 2004), chapters 5 and 9.
2. To understand this in light of biblical prophecy, read [For Many Shall Come in My Name](#).
3. Quote by R. Abanes

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/>

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