

Relativism and Enlightenment

Genesis 3:1-5

East Berlin Community Church

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June 27, 2021

Introduction

- Interest in the "Spirit World" today
- Review of the first two "Spiritual Flaws"
 - Genesis 3:1-5 -- *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die." Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day that you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"*

Relativism and Enlightenment

A. Spiritual Flaw #3-- "You will know Good and Evil" or MORAL RELATIVISM

- Genesis 3:5-- *"For God knows in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*
- 1. **How does Satan break down the moral fiber of society?**
 - a. He begins with questioning God's Absolute Standard.-- Genesis 3:1-5
 - 1) He casts doubt on the **source**—"Did God really say that?"
 - 2) He questions the **accuracy** or **truthfulness** of God's Word. *"You will not surely die"*
 - 3) He questions the **fairness** of the standard. God is withholding something good from you.
 - b. He replaces God's Standard with Man's Thinking.
- 2. **How do people determine right or wrong today? PRAGMATISM** What works!

B. Spiritual Flaw #4-- "Your eyes will be opened" or a NEW SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

1. **How is a person is "born again" according to New Age thinking.**
 - a. **It begins with a MYSTICAL PSYCHIC EXPERIENCE**, that is, an encounter with another spiritual being.
 - 1) There are four spiritual beings in this universe besides man: God, good angels, Satan, and fallen angels.
 - 2) Good angels and God are out, leaving only Satan and fallen angels as possible sources
 - 3) Satan as an *"angel of light"*.
 - 2 Corinthians 11:14-- *"Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."*
 - b. **It is cultivated through MEDITATION**
 - 1) Biblical meditation is the *"filling of one's mind with the Word of God"*
 - Psalm 1:2 -- *"delights in the law of the Lord and in his law does he meditate day and night."*
 - Philippians 4:8 -- *"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."*
 - 2) New Age meditation is the 'emptying of one's mind of all rational thought'.
 - a) In Transcendental Meditation (TM), one recites a mantra (a non-sensical word) over and over again to empty one's mind.

- b. With yoga, the physical positions and exercises are designed to stop the movement of the mind.
- 3) *Can Yoga be “Christianized”? Can Yoga be divorced from its Hindu religious roots?*
- a) Many Christians practice yoga, and find that it is a way of strengthening the body, relieving stress, and finding inner peace. Christian colleges are teaching courses on yoga.
 - b) Yoga is an ancient Hindu practice intended to unite a person’s soul with the impersonal, universal force Hindus call “god”.
 - c) The Bible warns against syncretism—against mixing pagan religious practices with the true worship of God.
 - (1) Israel, at Sinai connected the gold calf with the worship of Yahweh
 - Exodus 32:4-5 -- *“Then he said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.’”*
 - (2) Throughout Israel’s history, they mixed together Baal worship with worshipping Yahweh.
 - (3) God’s standard then, and for us today is not to mix pagan religious practices with the worship of the true, living God.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 -- *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be my people.’ Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the LORD. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the LORD almighty.”*
- c. **It culminates with Contacting ‘spirits’ or ‘channels’ and inviting them into one’s heart**
- 1) Jose Silva and the teaching of Silva Mind Control
 - 2) Illustration: Carlos Santana’s interview in *Rolling Stone Magazine*
 - *“His meditation spot is in front of the fireplace. A card with the word “Metatron” is spelled out in intricately painted pictures on the floor next to the fireplace. According to Santana, “Metatron is the architect of physical life. Because of him, we can French kiss, we can hug, we can get a hot dog, wiggle our toes.” He sees Metatron in his dreams and meditations. HE looks a bit like Santa Claus, “white beard and kind of this jolly fellow.” As Carlos sits facing the wall, the candles lit, he has a yellow legal pad at one side, ready for the communication that will come. “It’s kind of like a fax machine” he says. The few times that he has felt the presence of Metatron in the room, he says that “It’s an enormous peace. I feel lit up. I’m not Carlos anymore. I’m not bound to DNA anymore. It’s beyond sex. It’s beyond anything this world could give you a buzz. IT makes me feel like Jesus embraced me and I’m bathed in light.”*
 - 3) Analysis: *Is this a genuine religious experience with the living God?*
2. **How is a person is “born again” according to God’s Word or how can you have the “REAL THING” instead of a satanic imitation?**