

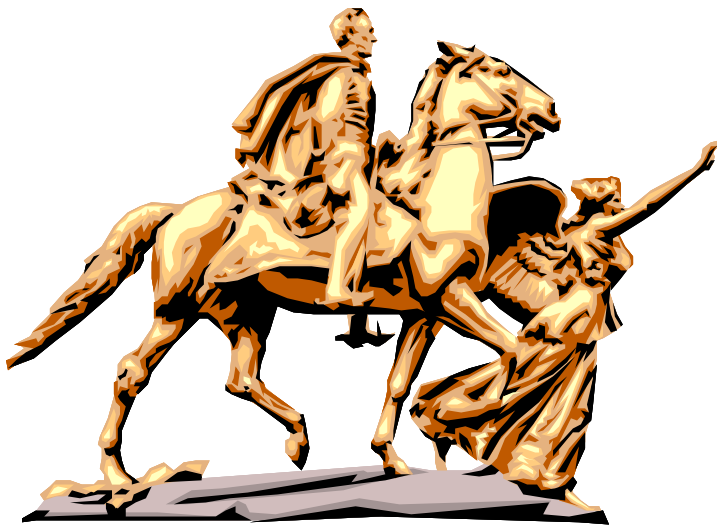


Sentinel

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Volume 9 No 2



SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND

TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

The current idea that man is going to be in charge through *Spiritual Warfare* is becoming all the more popular and is gaining ground, even in the more orthodox churches. Christians will take over cities, countries and even nations for Jesus. Prayer networks, Marches for Jesus, Twenty-Four Hour prayer vigils and Seven-days long prayer chains, strongly motivated and organised by and through actions like Peter Wagner's World Prayer Center (WPC) in Colorado USA and Bennie Mostert's Network for United Prayer in SA (NUPSA) are becoming almost everyday activities. Strongholds have to be and are being identified and Spiritual Mapping becomes essential so that Strongmen can be bound. Gatekeepers that can open and shut gates through prayer, even guard gates over areas, cities and even countries, are appointed. The Prayer of Jabez now almost as widely distributed as the video, *Transformations*, both add fuel to this distorted idea that exalts man and not God

— that man must prepare God's Kingdom on earth so that Jesus Christ can come again. This is not the message of the Bible! Jesus wondered whether He would find faith on earth when He returns. (Luke 18:8)

Paul writes in 1 Cor 1:18-31 that the message of the cross is foolishness to the world. This unchangeable central message of the Bible puts the emphasis on God, that He is on the throne and in control, and humbles man to the necessary position of self denial. This message is never going to be popular. Satan knew it in the garden of Eden when he tempted man with the idea of becoming like God and still does so today—a message strongly preached by the Word of Faith Movement for instance. And man enticed by the idea remains guilty of Romans 1:25 of worshipping the creature (himself) rather than the Creator.

In close association with this idea we have the ever increasing craze of deliverance. People, even Christians, must be delivered from all kinds of problems, sins, bindings, generation curses and even demons.

What do the Bible teach about things

like binding and loosing, deliverance, generation curses, demon possession, gatekeepers, spiritual mapping and strongholds?

THE GREAT COMMISSION:

It is clear from Scripture that we are to evangelise the world with the Bible as our sole guide for faith and practice. It requires us to adhere to the content of the Great Commission (Matt 28:19) and the nature and authority that Jesus gave to the Church and as passed on by the apostles. Is it not strange then that nowhere in Scripture could practices like those referred to above be found? Like with all cults we once again have to look carefully at Scripture to see how well known ministers in all sincerity misinterpret the Word of God to lend support to their views which influence Christians to such a great extent.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Nowhere in Scripture can these words be found. How do the proponents of this idea then arrive at this concept?

One of their favourite Scriptures is Ephesians 6:10-18, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God,

Continued on page 7



Sentinel is die tydskrif van **Kulte Inligting & Evangelisasie Sentrum** en word kwartaaliks gepubliseer om die gemeenskap in te lig en te waarsku teen misleiding, die ware Evangelie te verkondig en die Kerk bewus te maak van die gevare wat die dwaalleer van die kultes inhou. *Sentinel* is the mouthpiece of **Cult Information & Evangelization Center** and is published quarterly to inform and warn the community against deception, to spread the true Gospel and to alert the Church against the heresy of the cults.

Is 'n Interkerklike Evangelisasie en Uitreik-aksie van die Ned Geref Gemeente-EDLEEN

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Redaksioneel/Editorial

MORE DAYS MORE VIEWS....

On Tuesday evening, 24 April TV channel SABC3, in their program *Special Assignment*, reported on the recent happenings in the TB Joshua camp in Lagos. We saw many South Africans who attended these services of whom many especially went there to be healed. Among those was the young Wium Basson, who no doubt grabbed at this as a last straw as he really was terminally ill from cancer of the liver which had by then, as reported, spread to other organs. How ill this man really was and the pain that he endured as he sat in line waiting for healing could not be missed—he can only be admired for having found the courage to go and endure all of this. The very sad part was that the “prophet” passed him by and he returned unhealed to their home where he died days later. This and the utter look of despair in his eyes and on his face just ripped my heart to pieces for him as it no doubt did to many others as well who saw this program. Our sincere condolences to his bereaved family.

All of what I saw in this programme just brought to mind the diverse views people have of this and made me think.

I saw so many sincere people who appeared to really have spiritual experiences with quite a number declaring how wonderful it was for them as they really became aware of the presence of God. Numerous pronounced this man TB Joshua to be so loving, meek, gentle, kind and especially blessed by God. Various questions arise from all of this: 1.) Is all of this real? 2.) Do we have the right to criticise or judge the work at this place? 3.) If this is not of God is it possible that people can be saved while attending these services? 4.) If it is not God who heals through TBJ then who is it and will God really reach out His hand to some, even under these circumstances, and touch them, despite the fact that TBJ touched them or not, to heal those few that He chose to heal? 5.) Do we not give more recognition to Satan and so cause him and his demons to rejoice by pointing out his works rather than look for the real miracles of God among all of this and point these out instead? To these questions I have no doubt there will

almost be as many views and opinions as there are people.

Among the things that struck me was, 1.) that TBJ said he passed Wium by as he had not heard from God that he should pray from him. Reminds me of a Sia Baba in India of whom people say that he is the incarnation of God and that they are so impressed by the love that flows from this man. Various miracles also take place at his ashram. People have the habit of passing letters that contain their prayer requests to him and that it is a good sign that their prayers will be answered when he accepts the letters. His passing by their letters is for them a sign that the time is not yet right for them. 2.) Later medical tests confirmed that some people who confessed that they were healed were in fact not healed. Can you imagine what this does to their faith! 3.) Certainly God can heal and save people under any circumstances but entirely subject to His will and choice. The question is, “is the work at this place really of God?” I question whether this is so by the example in die programme of TBJ extending his right leg with pointed toes over a rail at a woman and so slaying her. Is this God’s way of doing things? 4.) When I saw Rev Jannie Pelsler and other pastors “rejoicing” I could not help thinking about Matthew 24: “For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.” (NIV) Certainly it is not easy to judge the work and discern the spirit/s that is/are at work here. But that we are commanded to do is clear in the Bible. See 1 Cor 10:15; 14:29 and 1 John 4:1.

And thus the debate will continue!

**Jaarlikse Kulte
Bewusmakingskamp
10 - 12 Augustus
Baptist Training Center
Roodepoort**

**Program belowe iets
besonders met hierdie
vyfde herdenking. Maak
seker jy loop dit nie mis
nie!!!**

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Dr Henk Stoker, Rev Johan Botha
& Rev Vernon Bekker (Theological)

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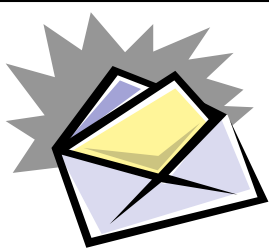
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Vrymesselary/Freemasonry

Japie Grobler*

* Dui Bestuurslede aan/

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Letters/Briewe

Thank you so much for all the news in this short letter of yours. It is highly appreciated. Glad to hear about all the churches that have been planted. God bless you all in the great task. We pray for all of God's richest blessings through His Son and our only Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ for your work and the pastors who went to Bible school.

We are truly blessed to hear that the material we sent you will be put to good use. Your prayers for further training in Malawi have already been answered: By arrangement with Rev Ryk van Velden (Secretary of Missions, Presbyterian Church, Nkhoma Congregation,

Lilongwe, Tel: 75-1253 (H) 75-8208 (O)), KIES/CIEC will present various training seminars in Lilongwe and Blantyre sometime during 2002, more specifically aimed at equipping Christians to deal with the Jehovah's Witnesses.



REV HUMPREYS ZGAMBO SERVING COMMUNION

GOOD NEWS FROM MALAWI

Thank God we just received yesterday the wonderful newsletters and the two Chichewa Bibles you sent us.

We strongly believe many of our Church leaders will really be blessed and benefit a lot from your teaching, encouragement and support. We are all determined and excited through prayer, persistence and personal witness, we will confront this confusing Jehovah's Witnesses cult making serious in-roads in Malawi.

We are praying and trusting God for a Leaders' Conference where your Group *Sentinel* can facilitate. For your information in the year 2000 by God's grace we planted Tengani House Churches with over 250 members, Thondwe 60 members, Nailuwa 56 members, South Lunzu 8 members, Mocambique — Murombara District 18 House Churches with 640 members.

This March 2001 we have already sent 5 full-time Pastors for Bible School training for 6 months ready to go into the deep rural areas.

Continue to pray for us and make arrangements to visit us for further training.

Looking forward to hear from you soon.

Love, greetings and blessings to you all.

Yours in Christ's Exciting Service,
Humpreys F. Zgambo (Rev)
General Secretary
Chichiri, Blantyre
Malawi

religious organisation it is so desperately fighting against.

In discussions I have consistently confronted various representatives of the organisation with straight questions to which I have consistently been given inadequate and incontextual answers. Most of these discussions ended with veiled threats. This is something I personally do not take kindly to. It also seems that these threats are the only way that the organisation has to try and answer very well-founded criticism.

I feel compelled to be honest with myself. If I could not accept the wrongs of the churches, I have to apply the same principle to the organisation. I shall, therefore, not engage in any further prolonged fruitless debates on this matter and I hereby disassociate myself from the Jehovah's Witnesses organisation.

May the Truth find you
Yours sincerely
HB du Toit

This letter was written and received some years ago. We have kept it on file and have decided to use it this time as a follow on to the letter we placed in the previous issue of elder and presiding overseer Willaim H. Bowen of the USA.

Ed

Ed

LETTER OF DISASSOCIATION

The Elders
Jehovah's Witness Congregation
Knysna

Due to reasons that are of no bearing on this letter, I have become involved in the study of the so called "apostate literature." I was very soon to discover why the organization so avidly discourages the reading of such critical writings. It became quite clear that only an organization with something to hide would discourage and studies outside the organisation with punishment as severe as disfellowshipping.

After more than an year's study, it has become clear to me that the organisation is definitely astray as to the position and status of Jesus Christ. The true Jesus and knowledge of him is the criteria in the Bible that could earn a person everlasting life. Not the belief in heaven or hell, blood, 144,000 and any other peripheral matters. Jesus and God and true knowledge of His Godship and reducing Him to "a god" the organisation is preaching a false Jesus. This one fact would reduce the organisation in turn to an unreliable source of knowledge. Just as unreliable as all those

DANKIE

Baie dankie vir die Kultes Evangeliseringshandleiding wat ek ontvang het.

Ek sluit 'n tjek hierby in.

Stuur asseblief ook die kwartaallike nuusbrieff, *Sentinel*, gereeld aan my.

Baie sterkte word julle toebid met die groot werk.

Willem Lubbe
George

Dankie vir die ondersteuning en gebede. Ons het dit alles sommer baie nodig en vind juis ook krag in die bemoedigings wat ons van lesers ontvang.

Ons het jou naam tot die poslys toegevoeg en dus sal jy voortaan gereeld hierdie nuusbrieff ontvang.

Red.



Photo from his site:

<http://www.themaninthesynagogue.org>

It is a well known fact that thousands flock to Lagos in Nigeria to visit The Synagogue, Church of All Nations. For many this is their last hope of healing of an incurable ailment, and “prophet” Joshua responds in no small measure as is verified by the many testimonies and videos that flow from The Synagogue. Well known figures like Springbok rugby player, Ruben Kruger and Dutch Reformed Pastor, radio personality and gospel singer, Jannie Pelser have been among such visitors. Ruben testifies to his healing of a brain tumor, yet medical confirmation is still being awaited now some 7 months after his so-called healing. Jannie states that, “Lagos was for me a personal encounter with my Creator, not with TB Joshua. It is important to acknowledge that it is God who heals and not TB Joshua.” (*Kempton Express*, 12 April 2001, p.4, quoted from *Finesse*, March 2001. My translation from Afrikaans)

Jesus’ message to searching and burdened people was, and still is, that they should come to Him for peace and rest. Some might say — “*But wait a minute — this is not so straight forward because He added a qualifier. A person must overcome some obstacles on his own and when he has done so without any assistance only then will He touch such a person. In fact He said to the woman who suffered from blood loss, take heart, daughter, because you have fought your way through this crowd and secretly touched the hem of My garment you are healed.*” (Matt 9:22, NIV) No this is **NOT** how it happened. Not a single healing by Jesus or the apostles re-

TB JOSHUA MAN OF GOD OR...

quired that a person had to conform to certain prerequisites. Jesus even rebuked the Pharisees for their efforts to find salvation in the Scriptures and not in Him. (John 5:39-40)

THE LAGOS REQUIREMENTS:

But before visiting Lagos a person is required to sign an indemnity form stating that he/she will be able to climb 108 steps unaided before this famous “prophet” would heal them. (*Rapport* 3 March 2001) Reminds us very much of what Roman Catholics do at certain “holy sites”—they climb the steps at these sites on their knees and despite the blood pouring from their knees continue until they reach the top as they believe that by this effort they will find favour with God.

This is what some of the disappointed visitors who could not climb the required number of steps and were put on a plane back to South Africa by church officials, said to *Rapport*: “It was like a blade of grass I grabbed at as death had already opened its door for me. I am imbued with cancer. I was desperate. Before I went to Lagos I had this picture in my head of how I would, after my return, run without trouble to my dad...” Mrs Annette de Beer (30). Jacques Terblanche burst out in tears when he said, that he climbed the steps at the Voortrekker Monument without aid, yet was also sent back, not having been healed of his blindness in his right eye and the muscle disease that greatly hampers his movements. Enoch Matshego also returned uncured and still goes about with a walking stick. His trip was paid for by his sister who used all of her savings, and Marthinus Leuvennink, a pensioner with liver cancer was taken to hospital within hours after his arrival in Bellville. His daughter Mildie said that he is “very sick.”

A recent *Rapport* (15 April) carries another article about Wium Basson (25) of Paarl an ex Springbok and Blue Bulls rugby player who was diagnosed a month ago with cancer of the liver. He also visited Lagos in a last desperate effort to be healed. As he stated before his departure that he believed that he was going to live, “because I am in the hands of the Best Doctor.” However, he and his mother re-

turned home when the “prophet” did not pray for him as he said that he waits for the Holy Spirit to tell him when and who to pray for. According to his sister, Melanie, “he is now in the hands of God, and if He comes for him, they will have peace about it.” Pastor Riaan du Plessis of Roodepoort who recently also took a tour group to Lagos says that he cannot explain why TBJ did not pray for Wium, but that “prophet Joshua has his own eccentric way of doing things.” Pastor Kobus van Rensburg of Stilfontein says that TBJ also did not pray for his neck injury last year when he was there.

As reported by *Rapport* of 3 March Mr Gerrie Rautenbach, tour leader, said that people were not completely honest about their medical conditions and when he saw them get off the plane in Lagos on crutches and in wheel chairs, he knew “it spelled great trouble.” One of the key figures who organises these trips to Lagos, Pastor Neels Labuschagne of Rustenburg, said that it was a very costly lesson and that “in future they will be very careful to evaluate the medical conditions of people thoroughly beforehand.” Can you imagine Jesus saying to those who came to Him for healing to go to his disciples first so that their conditions could be evaluated and then if not too serious that they will have to climb some steps to the top of some structure where He will await them and then only will He with His anointed right hand make some gestures that will send them careering around in wild frenzy and pray the fire down from heaven over those hardened sinners to free them from evil spirits and then maybe they will be healed. Did He and His disciples after Him not only do it with simple words, like “take up your bed and go home.” These people were not in trances or acted weirdly—they knew all the time what was happening to them.

What then is really behind all of this? Is this a moneymaking scheme or mass hysteria? Most certainly it is mass deception and demonic by nature—there can be no doubt about it!

Signs, wonders, healings and other manifestations often take place under the hands of false prophets and that even in Jesus’ Name, thus deceiving many, even

well meaning and serious Christians. But then Jesus warned us about it. (Matt 24:24.) Spiritual powers that are not of God—even if practiced in the Name of Jesus, are of the devil. “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ... For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.” (2 Cor 11:3,4,13-15, NIV)

SATAN HAS POWER:

“And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. **One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed.** The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling-place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous

signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honour of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. **He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast**, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.” (Rev 13: 1-15, NIV) So we see that the works of Satan can include healings and other great miracles!

Let us listen to the Word of God: “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...” (2 Thess 2:9, NIV)

WHO IS TB JOSHUA?

Just short of 40 he is married with children and claims that he relies on Divine instructions. His church, The Synagogue, Church of All Nations, “started less than 10 years ago with less than 10 members, but today, through his effective applications of the Word and Power of Anointing, the Church has grown tremendously...” (From his site.) Benny Hinn claims to have received his special anointing at the grave of another faith healer and false prophetess, Kathryn Kuhlman, where he says her spirit still hovers over her grave. In similar fashion it is said that TBJ received his anointing from the water god of Nigeria. Water thus plays an important role in the proceedings at the Synagogue. Further, in typical Word of Faith Movement-style the anointing flows from his anointed right hand like Benny Hinn, Kenneth

H a g i n ,
K e n n e t h
C o p e l a n d ,
R o d n e y
H o w a r d -
B r o w n e ,
C h a r l i e
C a p p s , and
others. There

is a strong similarity here: Indian guru’s also use their right hands to “anoint” people and that with occult powers!

It is really amazing to see how TB Joshua stares people hypnotically in the eyes and then by making certain gestures



with this famous right hand people uncontrollably spin around, stagger to the left or right and fall backwards, depending on his gestures, sometimes even considerable distances away from him. Testimonies confirm that women have vomited and urinated their infirmities on the ground after he “healed them.” He also exposes peoples’ sins in the services and then such people have to confess their sins in great detail. He also prays the fire from heaven down on hard sinners who do not want to confess to deliver them from demonic activity—to great amusement of the congregation. We should remember that in all of the Biblical examples fire from heaven was the punishment of God on sinners and not to cleanse them, and that it was the false prophet who caused fire to come down from heaven. (Rev 13:13) Is this really how God works? These, sometimes crude videos, vividly showing the private parts of people, are distributed in great quantities to show the world how God works in Nigeria through this man. Is this really what God wants people to see? Why does he not quietly go about this business like Jesus Christ who commanded many of those whom He healed not to tell anyone?

TBJ is a vegetarian who states that people who eat fish cannot be delivered, because some witches and wizards called *Ogbanjes* (people who had demonic spirits) could not be freed as they were not human beings but half human and half fish, and if a person eats fish then you cannot deliver them. He says that “the divine per-

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

Continued on page 6

Joshua: Continued from page 5

son in me can do a million things simultaneously. I can appear to thousands of people in their dreams in any part of the world to set them free of their sicknesses, problems and afflictions.” Then why the requirement to sign an indemnity form, climb 108 steps and visit Lagos?

Pastors who did research on him write: “This alleged prophet... mixes psychic powers with God’s Word, thus producing lying signs and wonders. He practices a very high level of witchcraft... [so that people jump] into the so-called holy water and so receive the baptism in the water spirit. This same holy water is being given to drink when serving communion... According to the intercessors of Nigeria this synagogue was previously known as the synagogue of Satan... The all-seeing eye within a pyramid appears in many of the drawings in the synagogue. Semiramis/[Ashstoreth] statues (mother & child) are at the foot of beds in the various sleeping rooms. It symbolises sexual lust and idolatry.” (See Judges 2:10-13; 1 Sam 7:3-4, I Agbaje and A Kalu, *Pastor WF Kumunyi and Prophet TB Joshua: Are Both Messengers of God?*)

TESTIMONIES:

On his site are posted various testimonies of people who claim to have been healed of a variety of ailments. There is a woman who have been healed of leg cancer, a man of paralysis and then a number of HIV/AIDS. Like Benny Hinn, this is the great “in-thing”—the healing of this terrible disease, for which the medical world has yet to find an effective cure. The site claims that these people have been “...certified **Negative** by the Federal Ministry of Health.” Why do they not post the certification/s on their site or at least provide the address of this Ministry so that this statement can be verified by anyone? There is also the testimony of Mr Eugen Huesser of Switzerland who stated that he suffered of HIV/AIDS 1, 2 and 3 for 10 years and was cured when prayed over by TBJ. A later check-up by the hospital confirmed his healing. Once again no details are provided so that it can be verified.

Then there is the video (*Divine Miracles 5*) that recently came to hand, which shows how a woman is allegedly cured of breast cancer. For a very long time you have to sit and watch how a smallish hole miraculously is formed in the breast and the most unsightly pinkish puss oozes from it, runs down her torso onto her skirt and eventually forms quite a large puddle on the floor. One of the audience who claims to be a medical doctor then confirms that he examined her and that she was completely cured of this cancer of the breast. Funny that the mark where the hole was

remained. Does God not heal completely? Once again we have no confirmation that it was really cancer she had. (When I was a teenager I suffered from boils. Many of these burst open on their own and the most unsightly puss then oozed from them. I still have the scars left by such holes.)

Should we just accept the testimonies of such witnesses or question it? Are we guilty of doubting God’s work if we ask for verifiable proof? Jesus even told some whom He healed to show themselves to the priests! (Mark 1:44; Luke 5:14; 17:14) Is TBJ correct when he quotes Heb 11:1 (“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”) in his newsletter, *The Synagogue, Church of all Nations*, Vol 3, No. 5, p.1? This is also an old tactic—quote the Bible out of context to lend credibility to your statement. Although he is dealing with faith in this article he applies this verse to the miracles which is the key to people’s faith. “All the wonderful things that you see God perform through me in The Synagogue... I believe, are enough to add to your faith in Jesus Christ. **You need more faith to be convinced of the things of the Lord.**” (Emphasis in original) A couple of questions now arise:

1. When will a person have enough faith as a result of miracles?
2. When did God ask us to believe in miracles, rather than in His Son?
3. Does our salvation depend on miracles?
4. Does verse 1 of Hebrews 11 not point us to the unquestionable faith in God of the heroes of the Old Testament, rather than works and miracles?

No wonder that we also read in this article “by faith you can have healing...” Do we conclude from this that those who are not healed did not have *enough* faith? Like the Word of Faith Movement of Kenneth Hagin his theology strongly supports the “name it and claim it” principle. You are able to create your own reality—whatever you claim in the Name of Jesus and believe you will receive, be it financial success, health, healing or whatever. To doubt your healing would be to doubt God. The result is then that those who have been prayed over by him believe they have been healed and to go for medical verification of their healing would show their doubt and then their faith was not strong enough. What a vicious circle! Various examples exist of people who have been declared healed of cancer and other serious sicknesses by Benny Hinn and others, who stopped their medical treatment because they believed, only to have died later of the very sickness they were declared to have been healed of. No doubt similar examples exist from the TBJ-camp.

DOES GOD THEN HEAL?

Of course God does, but He does it when, where under whatever circumstances, through whomever and how He wants to. We cannot dictate to Him or will His works through the calling down or inviting of the Holy Spirit. God will and does not cause people to fall into trances/ altered states of consciousness (ASC) so that they dance, jump around, laugh, vomit, urinate or perform all kinds of other antics while they are under the so-called anointing. Only Satan will let people do these things. He has always tried to copy God but will always add his specific trademarks by which we should identify his signs and wonders.

Take Paul’s words to the Corinthians to heart: “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor 11:3, NIV) An now, let us consider some examples from Scripture, which must be the only standard against which Christians must measure whatever anyone says or does.

In Acts 19 from verse 19 we read how Paul was especially blessed by the Lord so that many heathens were healed through mighty works. People were even healed when handkerchiefs and robes of Paul were laid on their bodies. We also read of certain unbelievers who exorcised evil spirits in the Name of Jesus. They met with some disaster though. And we see how those who came to believe in Jesus Christ burned their books of magic and the occult. We hear of certain co-workers of Paul—Timothy and later of Trophimus an Ephesian. (See ch.20:4 and 21:29) Paul advised Timothy to take the medicine of their time—a little wine for his stomach condition and Trophimus he had to leave ill in Melitus. Despite all the wonderful healings that were done by Paul among the heathens his dear brothers, believers, were not healed. It appears then that God may work through mighty deeds among heathens so that they, through the miracles, would turn to Him. Believers, however, trust in Him and know that their lives are completely in the hands of the living God. That nothing that happens in their lives is outside the will of God. Therefore, they trust in the power of personal prayer and resign their lives in full confidence to the Almighty. Paul’s life is a good example. We know that he had a thorn in the flesh and that he prayed for it to be taken away, but eventually accepted that through this weakness the power of God was manifest in his life.

(You are welcome to order Dr Walter Martin’s audio, *Does God always heal?* from us. Ook beskikbaar is Dr Henk Stoker se kasset oor Goddelike Geneesing.)

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that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

When the important points in these verses are considered in its context as well as that of other Scriptures then we find that, 1.) there is no mention of a war in which the believer must attack Satan and his demonic forces. The opposite is rather true. Our fight is a defensive one, not an offensive one. The distinction is made by the type of sword in verse 17. It is not the heavy sword used by the Roman soldiers when they attacked but the short dagger-type sword they used in defense and close combat. 2.) After having put on the full armour then the believer has to subject himself to God in prayer (v. 18) so that he may be prepared to “make known the mystery of the gospel.” Note that prayer is not part of the armour—it is appealing to God for strength, endurance and faith. It seems clear then that spiritual warfare is fought by preaching the Gospel.

An excellent example is found in Acts 17. Paul is in the city of Athens on Mars hill among an abundance of idolatry. Imagine this: In the shadows of the temples of the head god Zeus and his consort, Diana goddess of lust, Mars, Jupiter and many others he stands in the Areopagus and preaches the Gospel. He had all the opportunities in the world to bind strongmen, spiritually map out the city and identify and name demonic forces over areas, organise Jesus marches and prayer vigils, wage spiritual warfare, appoint gatekeepers, identify and exorcise demons, cleanse areas and claim them for Jesus, but what did he do? He defended the Gospel and reasoned in the synagogues and in public with unbelievers with the result that “...some men believed, joining themselves to him, among whom also were both Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.”

(v.34, *Green's Literal Translation*) The answer therefore, lies in “[s]ubmit[ting] yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) It is not achieved through all kinds of unbiblical human efforts. The battle has been completely fought and won on the cross. It is through this that, “Giving praise to the Father who has given us a part in the heritage of the saints in light; Who has **made us free from the power of evil** and given us a place in the kingdom of the Son of his love;” (Col:1:12-13, *Bible in Basic English, BBE*. Emphasis mine) It is clear from this that God delivered those in Christ from the power of darkness and translated them into His kingdom of light and the darkness can not have any hold over them. If we still have to battle the devil and his foes then God did not complete His work of redemption on the cross. We are to do what God says in His word: “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.” (Eph 4:23-27) It is, therefore, a matter of renewal of the mind (Rom 12:22), wilful decisions that have to be made, not being delivered from this or that binding.

To connect Daniel 10:13 to Ephesians 6:12 and conclude that we are to actively wage war against spiritual powers, ie., demonic forces is to use Scripture completely out of its context. A strong warning comes from Jude: 9 “But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”

SPIRITUAL MAPPING:

The promoters of spiritual warfare make it clear that proper spiritual warfare cannot be fought unless spiritual mapping is introduced and applied. What is this, you may ask? This unbiblical technique is supposed to enable Christians to take areas, cities and even countries for God. How is this done? First of all the name of the strongman has to be known! To achieve this the secular and religious history of an area, city or country has to be researched to ascertain and determine the identity or identities of the *ruling spirits* over such areas. Once you know this, Dick Bernal tells us, then you apply a four step method to take a city etc., for God. 1.) Call out a prayer and fast, 2.) Identify the spirit or principality, 3.) Determine its geographical location, and, 4.) Call him/it by name. (*Storming Hell's Brazen Gates through Militant, Violent, Prevailing Prayer*, Jubilee Christian Center, p.55) Listen to Bennie Mostert: “As commanded by Jesus,

Evil must be bound with a very specific and definitive action in the places or people where *he* is working.” (*Geestelike Oorlogvoering*, CUM, 1998, p.15. My translation)

How easy can it be? To rid your area of, say drug abuse by teenagers, all you have to do is map out the area, identify the strongman through this technique and bind him and voila! your area is free of drug abuse. And so we can go on and on! Just bind the old strongman of lust and prostitution stops, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera! Do you honestly think that this can be achieved? This concept merely highlights the grave error in theology of people who support this view. The heresy is strenghtend by Earl Paulk who states in his *Held in the Heavens*: “Christ in us must take dominion over the earth ¹...the next move of God cannot occur until Christ in us takes dominion.” Bennie Mostert strongly promotes the same technique: “We must regain the area where Satan reigns for God and rule over it in His Name.” (*Geestelike Oorlogvoering*, p.12, My translation) The idea that man must wage God's battle renders Him powerless to a large degree and makes Him equal with Satan. To argue that God delegated certain power and authority to man over the spirit realm is also a distortion of Scripture.

This concept has its roots in the incorrect interpretation of Matthew 12:27 and Mark 3:27 dealing with the binding of the strongman and Matthew 16:19 and 18:18 about the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Let us briefly deal with the binding of the strongman first. The context is found in the preceding verses. Jesus heals a man who was deaf and dumb and in the process exorcise an evil spirit. The pharisees questioned His technique but Jesus stated that He drove the devil out by the Spirit of God. If he had done it through Beelzebub, then the kingdom of evil would have been divided among itself, which would have rendered it weak and almost powerless, eventually leading to its downfall. Jesus referred to His overcoming of the Devil in the wilderness when He was tempted. This is where He resisted him and weakened him. Jesus, therefore, bound the strongman. If believers consider themselves as having special power over spiritual entities because they hold the keys of the kingdom then they err in very much the same way the Roman Catholic Church errs who sees the pope as the one holding these keys. Believers open or close heaven to unbelievers by preaching the Gospel or not. It is the Gospel that calls people to repentance, not spiritual mapping, identifying strongholds and binding strongmen!

DEMONIC POSSESSION:

For us to get an idea of how to deal with demons and their influence on people it would serve us well to look at some of the

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many examples in Scripture and how Jesus dealt with them. It is noticeable when we read carefully to see that the driving out of demons was not connected to the healing but rather to relieve suffering and torment. It sometimes looks as if the disease may have had a connection to the demonic possession but on close scrutiny it becomes clear that this was not the case. In Mark 5 we find the man possessed by a legion of demons. Note that the name had no bearing on the infirmities of the man but was descriptive of their number. John 5 is often used by people to say that the impotent man at the bath of Bethesda was paralysed because of sin and when Jesus forgave his sins he was able to walk. This is not the case! "When Jesus saw him there on the floor it was clear to him that he had been now a long time in that condition, and so he said to the man, **Is it your desire to get well?**" (v.6, *BBE*, Empahsis mine) Jesus then told him to take up his bed and walk, which he did. In verse 14 we see that Jesus found the man in the temple and said to him that he is now well but that he must sin no more otherwise a worse thing will come over him. In essence this means that Jesus took care of his infirmity and it was now up to the man to take care of his eternal life—something that he still had to do.

In the examples of the woman caught in the act of adultery in John 8 and the Samaritan woman in chapter 5 we do not see Jesus driving out a demon of lust or adultery but rather that He told them to go and sin no more. They like all of us were faced with moral choices. It was not devils that made them commit these sins.

Sins do not originate with demonic influences but in the hearts/minds of man. Let us look at Gen 6:5, "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart** was only evil continually." (Emphasis mine) Of the fall of Satan in Isaiah 14:13 God states, "For thou hast said in thine heart..." That is why believers are reminded to concentrate on the things of God. Refer to Phil 4:8; Col 3:2; 2 Thess 3:5; 1 Cor 2:16; Phil 2:5; 1 Pet 1:3. It is time we place the responsibility where it ought to be—with man himself. He must take responsibility for his sins and not look for a way out. That he needs to be delivered from this or that binding or even have a demon of alcohol, lust, lying, anger, or whatever driven out. Whatever happened to, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36) If we continue to seek release from the sins of the flesh through other means than the cross then we reject the completed work of Christ on the cross—He bore ALL our sins in His body. (1 Pet 2:24) Then we do exactly what Roman Catholic priests do every Mass—sacrifice

Christ again and again. Then Hebrews 7:27 has lost its meaning and Christ's words "It is finished." (John 19:30) were spoken in vain.

FOREFATHER CURSES:

Part and parcel of this whole spiritual warfare theme and bindings in our lives is that we are told these could be the result of one or more of our parents or grandparents having been witches, freemasons or that they had delved in the occult. We are to research our past and actively break these curses and confess it. After all the Ten Commandments states, "...for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me..." (Ex 20:5) Surely if the children continue in the way of their parents and their ancestors then God will punish them. However, if a son or daughter turn to God and repent of their wicked ways then God will pardon him/her and forgive their sins, for His son became sin for us (2 Cor 5:21). The history of the kings of Israel and Judah serve as an excellent example. Those kings who upheld idolatry were punished, but those kings (sons of kings before them) who destroyed the idols and repented, found favour in Gods eyes and they were blessed. Ezechiel chapter 18 also refutes this delusion.

What better example than that of the blind man in John 9:13: "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." We also see here that the man's infirmity was not because of sin, that Jesus did not drive a devil of blindness out or released him from one or other binding.

GATEKEEPERS:

So-called gatekeepers form an intergral part of this whole concept. People are being and have to be appointed as gatekeepers. Their purpose and aim is to stand guard over areas, cities and even countries. Through active *spiritual warfare* they close gates over their territories to the identified strongmen and evil spirits to prevent them from entering such an area. Thereby they protect that area from evil. They also allow and pray down the working of the Holy Spirit for specific purposes — i.e., they allow the good to enter. A prayer by Bill Hamon serves as perfect example: "Father, as a father of the prophetic, we release supernatural signs and wonders and apostolic miracles. We open the Eastern Gate, and let the King of Glory come in! Come in! Come in! Come in! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Halleluia! Yeah! Wow! All right!"²

The duties of these gatekeepers are: 1.) Intercessors—pulling down strongholds by spirit-filled prayer, which includes musicians. 2.) Apostolic provision—bringing wealth stored up for kingdom work. 3.) Prophetic proc-

lamation—announcing God's purposes. 4.) Warriors—soldiers with a warrior's heart (spiritual warfare). 5.) Apostolic leaders—bring forth divine doctrine and government.³

This concept has its origin in the twisting of Scriptures in the OT that refer to the elders and others who sat at the gates of the cities to deliberate over important matters as well as the gatekeepers of the Temple. The texts referring to "keys of David" and the gatekeeper of the sheepfold (John 10) are also misapplied by proponents of this concept in an effort to support their teachings.

We must not loose sight of the connection their teaching of this concept has to the occult. For instance witches call on the female guardians or spirits of the east, north, west and south to guard these portals when they draw their magic circle at meetings of their covens. The illustration below is called a mandala. (See *Sentinel Vol 8 No 4* for more about Mandalas) It stems from Buddhism and note the gatekeepers at the four corners. New Agers also have their specific gatekeepers who "stand" guard over areas.



SUMMARY:

Space did not allow us to look into all of the errors contained in this broad concept of *spiritual warfare* but we trust that we have been able to sensitise you for the subtle delusion brought about by those who go about teaching these misleading concepts to believers and even succeed in bringing them into the church.

We need to take note that, "the church does not have a mandate in the Bible to set up the Kingdom for God, although Restorationists with their 'apostles' and 'prophets', Reconstructionists, Latter-Rain, Kingdom Now, Manifest sons of God, Dominionists, followers of the Word of Faith, Positive Confession and Prosperity schools, and advocates of the 'Social Gospel', all have the church restoring the kingdom of Christ for His coming." (Michael de Semlyen, *All Roads Lead To Rome?*, Dorchester House Publications, 1993:99

END NOTES:

1. This is known as Dominion Theology which teaches that man must take dominion over the earth, kick Satan out and reign over the earth.
2. From Tricia Tillen's site. (<http://www.banner.org>)
3. Tillen
