

and replaced it with so called scientific understanding. However we need to understand when both the root and the practice of a alternative therapy is grounded in a spiritual reality which is not of God, sterilizing the religious aspects does not break the spiritual power that is manifested through the practice of that therapy. These alternative therapies in themselves do not have the power to heal anyone (How can stabbing someone with needles (acupuncture, heal them of cancer?) (or rubbing a particular crystal on a part of the body heal diabetes?) What brings the healing through these practices is the spiritual power behind the physical practice. So when we open ourselves up to these alternative practices we are potentially opening our lives up to the influence and oppression of demons.

As Christians we have been given the greatest healer and physician of all who is Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the one who can heal the sick, raise the dead and bring peace into our lives as the Prince of peace. Jesus declared in His name the sick would be healed, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame walk. We do not need to turn to the healing or spiritual practices of other religions to find our healing or our peace and tranquillity. As Christians we are called in 1 Thessalonians 5 v 21 – 22 to “test all things, hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” and we should not be looking to popular alternative therapies that come from at best false religions and at worst demonic powers and principalities. For to do so even in ignorance can open us up to real oppression and difficulties in our lives as Christians.

More Warnings from the bible:-

Leviticus 20 v 6, Acts 16 v 16 – 18 Warning against going to mediums and spiritualists

Isaiah 47 v 12 – 15 Warning against astrology

Magic charms that you wear as jewellery - Ezekiel 13 v 20 – 23

Diviner's wands – Hosea 4 v 11 –13

Sorcery – Acts 19 v 19 – 20

Witchcraft and Magic arts (Galatians 5 v 20, Revelation 21 v 8, 22 v 15,)

Occult (Deuteronomy 18 v 9 – 14

What is clear is that we should look to the Lord God / to the Lord Jesus alone for our full healing and our peace.

Many people today are looking for solutions to life's problems. One of those problems that affect most people at sometime in their lives is ill health.

But what do you do when the medical profession seems unable to help?

Many people today are disillusioned with the medical profession and are looking to alternative treatments for cures, healing and even peace and happiness.

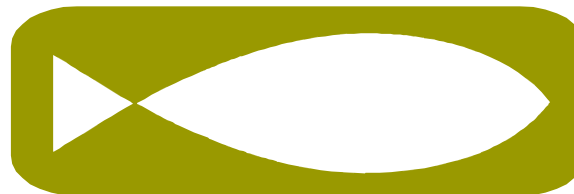
But are these complementary therapies really all they seem to be? Are they safe to use and what if any should a Christian's response be to the hundreds of alternative therapies out there?

In this tract we will look at some of the roots of alternative medicines and examine what a Christian's response should be if offered one of these treatments in light of the teachings and warnings of the Word of God.

Contending for the Faith Series: Leaflet 1



A Christian view of alternative therapies



© *Tract Written by Revd Rob Jones 14 / 1 / 08*

“ FOR I AM
THE LORD
WHO HEALS
YOU.”

YAHWEH
ROPHEKA

(THE LORD WHO
HEALS YOU.)

Since the time of the sixties Western society has been fascinated with eastern mysticism and spirituality. While many in the East have recognised the futility of these Spirituality's and beliefs and turned to Jesus. Many in western society and even in the church have opened their arms to alternative therapies and meditation and actively engaged

in them. It is estimated that 1 in 4 people in the UK use at least one form of alternative treatments or medicines. 3 out of 4 people want alternative medicines to be free on the NHS. When you go to your local doctor it is now standard practice for your doctor to suggest to you alternative therapies for certain conditions. 35% of UK doctors have received some training in alternative medicines and one in three doctors will offer alternative

treatments to their patients. The amount of different therapies available is staggering over 160, Examples : Acupuncture, acupressure, aromatherapy, crystal therapy, herbs, homeopathy, Hypnosis, macrobiotics, Indian head massage, Thai Chi osteopathy, reflexology, Transcendental meditation, yoga, Zen and Zone therapy. Many of the therapies employ the idea of inner

vital force or energy called “Chi” This so called life force or vital energy we are told ensures health and balance within our physical and spiritual bodies. When this life force is disrupted it is then that disease and illness results.

Through various treatments this life force can be manipulated to bring back health to the body, mind and even the spirit. Many of these ideas come directly from Buddhist and Hindu roots. Much of it is influenced by a religion called Taoism where Chi, Yin and Yang are fundamental concepts. There are other names for this so called energy force. Shiatsu call it Ki, Yoga TM based on Hinduism call it Prana, Homeopathy call it Vital energy

“ IS ANYONE AMONG
YOU SICK? LET HIM
CALL FOR THE
ELDERS OF THE
CHURCH, AND LET
THEM PRAY OVER
HIM, ANOINTING
HIM WITH OIL IN
THE NAME OF THE
LORD.
AND THE PRAYER
OF FAITH WILL SAVE
THE SICK, AND THE
LORD WILL RAISE
HIM UP.”

JAMES 5 V 14 - 15

“IN MY NAME they will
cast out demons; they will
speak with new tongues.
They will take up serpents
and if they drink anything
deadly, it will by no means
hurt them; THEY WILL
LAY HANDS ON THE
SICK, AND THEY WILL
RECOVER.”

Mark 16 v 16 - 18

“The words of Jesus Christ.”



and this has left many Christians vulnerable to popular culture and healing methodology without understanding the roots and dangers of these things to a Christian's spirituality and walk with God.

For Example

A German Physician who was fundamental in developing homeopathy - was a high ranking Freemason.

The Nursing professor who developed Therapeutic Touch / massage was both a Buddhist who has heavily involved with the occult and a psychic.

Scripture gives us clear warnings as God's people not to get involved in the beliefs and spiritual practices of other religions and the occult. The Word of God warns us that if we submit ourselves to any other spirit, but the Holy Spirit, then we can open ourselves up to bondage, oppression and even demonic possession. Scripture makes it clear that those who practice these mystical healing arts are not doing the work of God but are using demonic power

to bring healing and harmony, but with the side affect of passing on spiritual oppression and bondage into the lives of those they minister to. Satan many times appears as an angel of light and counterfeits the works of God to lead people into spiritual bondage. Within any main religion there are three different ingredients that make up a religion and faith. A **theology / philosophy** to believe in, learn

Chiropractic's call it Innate intelligence, Maori medicine call it Mana.

Alternative therapies are believed to restore health by relieving the blockage, destroying bad energy and restoring the flow of life force. The new age movement and eastern religions have a belief that god is an impersonal energy force that we are a part of or can become one with. This has led to the development of these life force therapies. In the 1960's there was a blend of eastern mysticism with astrology and the occult and out of this mix, a popular blend of philosophies, healing arts and spiritual disciplines swept over the western world. Unfortunately the Christian church has forsaken much of its understanding of the spiritual domain and discernment

JESUS
PRINCE OF PEACE

And follow . **Spiritual disciplines** to bring harmony, peace and closeness to the divine. **Healing arts** to open you up to the divine to bring healing of mind, soul and spirit. The issue is that when you open your life up to the spiritual disciplines or healing arts of another religion you are opening your life up to the spiritual power / force behind that religion.

This is important to us as Christians because the Lord makes it clear that we are to worship and have fellowship with Him alone. In fact in the Scriptures we read how the Lord God Almighty disciplined and punished His people when they engaged in idol worship or pagan practices. In fact on a number of occasions the bible makes it clear that the worship of other gods is the worship of demons and therefore the spiritual exercises and healing arts of those religions results in you opening your life up to the possible influences of evil spirits.

Leviticus 17 v 7 “ They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot.”

Deuteronomy 32 v 16 - 17

“They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals.”

Psalms 106 v 36 - 38

“ They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters who they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan.”

In many alternative practices pendulum swinging is used to diagnose problems. Pendulum swinging is a historical tool of Satanists.

Many Christians today have testified to the benefits of using alternative medicines while others have testified to

being oppressed by demons through the experience.

What has occurred in the west is that we have taken the religion out of these practices **PTO**

