



The Downfall of The End-Time Church

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1. THE PYTHON SPIRIT

The spirit of Python has to do with divination.

Acts 16:12-17 (vs 16) *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:*

Divination = Πύθων / Puthōn (poo'-thone) - From Πυθώ Puthō (the name of the region where Delphi, the seat of the famous *oracle*, was located); a *Python*, that is, (by analogy with the supposed *diviner* there) *inspiration (soothsaying)*: - divination

Divination, in this case, is translated from the Greek word Poo'-thone, or python. Divination is to speak oracles under an inspiration. Divination is the counterpart to true prophetic utterances. Prophecy is to speak under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. Divination is speaking error, often mixed with Truth, under the inspiration of the pythonic, divining and familiar spirits.

We will see in this study that this spirit is rampant in the church world today as it was in the church of Pergamos in the days of the seven churches in Asia Minor.

The natural python is neither poisonous nor venomous. They carry no sting and can seem harmless and unthreatening. However, if certain species of the Python snake are fed enough, and grow large enough, they are indeed deadly to a human. The strength of a python is incredible. They have strong teeth, curved inwards, fashioned for the purpose of grabbing their prey and holding on while they coil their long bodies around their victim and begin, slowly, to limit their ability to breath. The bite in itself does not kill. The bite is the initial "grab" which leads to the kill. The victim is then killed by the python wrapping itself around and restricting the breath of their catch, little by little, until the victim is suffocated to death. The church has been bitten and the python is coiling around the very existence and fiber of the people of God. With every exhale the crushing continues and the move of God's Spirit becomes more and more restricted. We are coming to the place, if not already arrived at the place, where the church is void of God's presence but filled with "customer satisfaction".

The picture of the natural python is a powerful demonstration of this destructive spirit. The purpose of this lesson is to cause an awakening within God's people and bring a conscious awareness of this deadly force moving in the midst of the church today. May we find ourselves on the watchtower, alert, awake, and aware of the forces of darkness that have, and continue, to filtrate into the church and bring spiritual death in these last and final days of time. Be not deceived. The greatest weapon and tool of the devil in these last and final hours of time is deception itself.

SPIRIT OF DECEPTION:

Matthew 24:4-5 *4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

Deception simply means to cause someone to believe something that is not true.

The first sign Jesus gave to His disciples in His response to their question concerning the signs of His coming was that there would be deception. He warned us, His followers, **to take heed that no man deceive you.** These notes are written with that in mind. May we become awakened to the spirit of deception lurking in the way with the intent of deceiving and leading astray from the Truth of God's Divine Word.

Take heed means to *hedge* about (as with thorns), that is, *guard*; generally to *protect, attend to*: - beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keeper, keep self, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, wait (for), watch (-man).

To take heed we must hedge about the truth we know to be real; we must protect truth; we must beware of those spirits that would come in privily and seek to lead astray; we must be keepers, observers, waiters, and we must be watchmen on the watchtowers.

All overcoming begins with watching. Without setting up the watchtower and being a watchman upon the tower of prayer and spiritual awaked-ness and awareness we are in danger of being overcome before even getting the chance to go to war. If we are not watching the enemy has as advantage of surprise in his attacks.

The devastation, loss of life, and destruction of military equipment at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 would never have happened had the US military been on the watch. Pearl Harbor was attacked at 7:48am by 353 Imperial Japanese aircraft. It was a surprise attack that no one on the US side expected. They were not watching for it. All eight US Navy battle ships that were in dock were damaged, with four of them being sunk. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship, and one minelayer. Also, one hundred eighty-eight U.S. aircraft were destroyed; 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded. (information from Wikipedia: Attack on Pearl Harbor).

1 Peter 5:8-9. *Be sober, **be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

To be sober and vigilant simply means to be alert and watchful. One of the greatest weapons of demonic warfare against God's people is what I call the "lullaby song". A lullaby is a quiet, soft, gentle song used to cause a baby to fall asleep. The devil uses such "melodies" to cause God's people to fall asleep. These melodies, figuratively speaking, are quiet, gentle, and soothing to our hearts. They feel so right to the flesh. They move our sense of spiritual discernment and alertness to become dull and nullified, inactive and senseless. They cause us to "feel" that everything is just right and that the path you are on is the right path.

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

The devil's lullabies are made up of false, unsound doctrines, twisted truths, and carnal reasoning. They appeal to man's carnality and take grip of his inner most being with a subtle and yet devastating sting of death. Once the mesmerizing lullaby grabs the soul the python spirit is able to grab with his teeth, coil around

his victim who has become paralyzed and spiritually unconscious and squeeze all spiritual life out of his victims being.

The watchtower must be erected and occupied in the life of an overcoming believer!!!

Luke 21:33-36. *33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: **but my words shall not pass away.** 34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 **For as a snare shall it come** on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Watch ye therefore, and pray always,** that ye may be accounted **worthy to escape all these things** that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

In the case spoken of in Acts sixteen, Paul, and others, were on their way to pray when this pythonic spirit "attacked". This spirit will go after sincere people who have a genuine hunger and thirst for God. It will attack us in our attempts to serve God. It is sly, and seemingly "on your side", and does not seem to be threatening or life altering. But it is!

2. THE SOURCE OF DIVINATION

For years many have believed that it would be Hollywood that would be the demise of the church in the end times. Even though Hollywood and all it offers is demonic to the core and offers nothing for the health of the spiritual man, yet it alone is not what the devil is using to bring down the end-time church. The devil is using things that are "acceptable" to the church and things seemingly based on Christian principles.

As already mentioned divination is to speak oracles under inspiration. **Divination is the counterfeit of speaking the prophetic Truth under the inspiration of the life-giving Spirit of God.** The inspired word of God comes from His holy oracle and is indeed called *the oracles* of God.

The damsel who screamed out after Paul, and the others with him, was a soothsaying diviner. Yet she spoke the truth. But her words were not inspired by the Spirit of God. They came from an unclean oracle and therefore her words had an unclean motive.

The Hebrew word for divination is Kaw-sam. This word means ORACLE.

ORACLE means **a place** at which divine advice or prophecy was sought and **a response / message** given from the oracle.

An oracle is the place from which a *word* is sought, or in other words it is a source. But it also means the words, or the response that comes from the place that is sought. God's most Holy Place in the tabernacle and temple were called **The Holy Oracle**.

- THE PLACE OF THE HOLY ORACLE

1 Kings 8:6 *And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto his place, **into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place**, even under the wings of the cherubims.*

Psalm 28:2-3 *Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands **toward thy holy oracle**.*

- THE WORDS OF THE HOLY ORACLE

Acts 7:38-39 *This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the **lively oracles to give unto us**:*

The law of God, His Divine Word, was given as lively oracles, or living, inspired words full of the breath and life of God. These words came from God's presence, or from His Holy Oracle, and were living words.

John 6:63-64 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

The words that Jesus spoke were lively, inspired, holy oracles from His Father.

John 12:49-50 *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

Jesus' spoken words had a clean, holy, pure, living origin and source. They came from the Father. His words were divinely inspired oracles full of life. His words were never about promoting, honoring, exalting, or lifting himself up. His words never bore witness of Himself, but rather bore witness of the Father and His Kingdom, and Kingship.

John 5:30-31 *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.*

Imagine, the words of Jesus Christ Himself, the Word in flesh, being not true? Yet He said that if His words were to testify or witness of Himself they would be a lie. It is not that His words were wrong, or false. But the source would have been wrong or out of order because it would not be coming from the Father but rather from Himself. That would be making the testimony untrue. What makes truth the truth? The source!!

UNCLEAN ORACLE

Divination comes from an unclean, unsanctified source or oracle. Without this “place” the python spirit would have foothold, or springboard from which to minister his death.

God designed man as a threefold being; body, soul, and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The spirit, the heart, of man was given to him as a means by which man could live in fellowship with God; spirit joined to spirit, fire to fire. God gave man a spirit which was to become God’s throne room, or holy oracle within man. God has two throne rooms, as it were. One is in heaven, and the other He desires to have in the hearts of mankind.

- GOD’S THRONE ROOM IN HEAVEN

Isaiah 66:1-2 *Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:*

- GOD’S THRONE ROOM IN THE SPIRIT OF MAN

Isaiah 57:15-16 *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

Our spirits are to be a mirror reflection of the throne room of God in heaven. Jesus even taught His own disciples to pray “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven”. (Matthew 6:10)

2 Corinthians 6:16-17 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, **I will dwell in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

Luke 17:20-21. *Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.***

It has been God’s purpose, from the beginning, to establish His throne room, His holy oracle, in the heart of mankind. God designed our spirits to host and to house His dwelling presence as the King, master, governor, and ruler of our lives from the holy oracle within. All that we are, all that we do, and all that we say comes from this oracle within our hearts. An unsanctified oracle, or an oracle throne room that has not yet established God as the Master, King, and supreme authority, will yet act upon the presiding authority within the spirit/heart.

Matthew 15:18-20 *But those **things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart**; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts,*

false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

When God created Adam male and female and placed them in the Garden of Eden, their spirits, the throne room within, was empty. God told man what His will was. He gave man the command to dress and keep the garden. He commanded man to eat of all the trees, including the tree of life. But man was not to eat of the tree in the midst of the garden, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:15, Genesis 2:17)

Through man's obedience to God's word and commands he had the opportunity to invite the King of all life into his spirit and take the throne of his heart and will and from there He would govern and rule upon earth through the obedience of mankind. But instead, man chose another master. He chose the voice of the serpent. The serpent used oracles of divination, truth mixed with lies, to allure mankind into deception.

Genesis 3:2-5 *And the woman said unto 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 hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

Adam female believed and acted upon the deception of the serpent. Adam joined Adam-female in her disobedience to God. From that day until this day the serpent has governed the hearts of humanity from an unholy, self-centered, and diseased oracle, or throne room within the spirit of man. It is from this unholy oracle that divination springs. It is from a place in our hearts that has not yet been captivated by the King of Glory that the serpentine, pythonic spirit speaks through the mouths of countless "Christians".

The spirit if divination often speaks truth, but the source is wrong and the truth is mixed with error. The words are not coming from a holy oracle, but rather from an unclean, unholy oracle wherein is a throne occupied by *the self* and demonic influences man inherited from Adam's fall.

Our hearts have been occupied by the kingdom of darkness ever since man's disobedience to God's commands. **Jesus died to reclaim the throne room.** But this does not happen at salvation. Rather, it is a process of spiritual growth. As we grow in sanctification and dying daily to the self, we will come to the place of finally allowing, and welcoming, the Father to take His rightful place on the throne of our hearts. (Hebrews 8:10). The reclaiming of the throne room is an act of war. It is a choice of daily dying to the *self* that co-shares the throne of the heart along with the serpentine nature that crawled in from the beginning. It is a spiritual journey from Egypt to Zion.

(John 17:17, Ephesians 5:26, 1 Peter 3:15, Ephesians 4:14-16, 22-24, Ephesians 2:21-22, 1 Peter 2:2)

Jeremiah 17:9-10 *9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 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.*

We should take heed indeed to ourselves as our hearts are more deceitful than anything else. There is some unfinished business within our hearts, an oracle that needs reclaiming, a stolen throne room that God desires to possess. It is from this place that all issues of life proceed from.

Proverbs 4:23-24. *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

The word *issues* mean, boundary, borders, exit, going forth, deliverance, and source. As God is allowed to *possess the heart* He sets the boundaries of life. He sets the fence-line, the border, and He becomes the source of life springing from within. We must keep, guard, consider and protect our hearts with all diligence! God wants His throne room.

3. THE CHARISMATIC CURSE

The so-called Charismatic movement, or Charismatic Renewal as it was referred to, sprang up in the early 1960's. In some areas of the universal church there was a genuine move of God. However, this "renewal" was mainly based upon people receiving and operating in the gifts of the Spirit.

The renewal was found within all mainstream denominations such as within the Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, Seventh Day Adventist, Roman Catholic, Calvinist, and Presbyterian churches, to mention a few. It was also embraced within the Pentecostal churches throughout the world. What I believe God intended to be a blessing and a stepping stone into greater Truth and experience with God actually has become a curse and has opened the door to the present day Emergent church which has, and is, crippling the church of God. (we will look at the Emergent Church in the next section)

The Charismatic Movement erred in that it veered off track by replacing the purity, depth and clarity of the revelation and teaching of God's word with prophetic gifts as well as the operation of the other gifts of the Spirit. People who had the "gift of prophesy" were revered as prophets. There was no distinction made between the ministry of a prophet and those who had a gift of prophesy. Receiving the gift of prophesy does not make anyone a prophet.

▪ THE WORD PROPHET

The "word prophet" is one of the five-fold ministries given to the church, A true word prophet brings God's word to the forefront. A prophet is called to tear down and build up with the word of God.

Jeremiah 1:5-10. *5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I **ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.** 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. 9 Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, **to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.***

ROOT OUT – PULL DOWN – DESTROY – THROW DOWN – BUILD – PLANT

This is the ministry of a Word prophet! He does these things with, by, and through the inspired word of God!

All the prophets in God's word throughout history had this same mandate and ministry as Jeremiah had. A word prophet is sent to the nation as a whole (or to a whole body, group, church). He is sent to deliver word that stirs the heart and causes a shift, a change of direction, a change in mindset, and to give a clarity of purpose.

- THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

The gift of prophesy, on the other hand, is not given to the church as a leading ministry. This gift is given primarily for edification, not for direction or governing.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5. *1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. 2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 But he that **prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.** 4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth **edifieth the church.** 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, **that the church may receive edifying.***

The gift of prophesy is for anyone in the church to receive, as are any and all the gifts of the Spirit. But, the word Prophet is one of the fivefold ministries and must not be confused with the gift of prophesy.

The Charismatic movement made the mistake of allowing "gift prophets" to guide the direction of the movement. The word of God was no longer the rock upon which things were built. If the move of God had truly taken root within the various traditional churches where the charismatic renewal took place, those who had been touched and affected by it would never have remained in their respective church denominations, but, would have come out. Many of these church denominations emphatically denounce, reject, vehemently oppose and despise great portions of the revelation of God's word, the Catholic Church being one of the worst offenders. The true Spirit of God will lead and guide into all truth, not away from truth. (John 16:13)

I call this the Charismatic curse because it has become the root of divination and witchcraft springing up in the church disguise in the name of the Lord. This movement has become the root to the rise of false prophets, false apostles, false teachers, and false pastors or shepherds.

- False Prophets - Matthew 24:23-24, Mark 13:22
- False Teachers – 2 Peter 2:1-2
- False Apostles – 2 Corinthians 11:13
- False Pastors/Shepherds – Jeremiah 23:1

Is the church today conscious of these false ministries and anointings in the midst? Are we heightened in our awareness of this false spirit that is working overtime to lead God's people into error?

4. PROPHESY AND DIVINATION

As we have already seen the major difference between the true spirit of prophesy and divination is the source. True prophetic word comes from the oracle of God. Whereas the words of divination come from an unholy, unsanctified oracle within the spirit and are inspired by demonic powers and pythonic spirits.

Divination was obviously a very serious matter for God since He warned His people not to engage with this spirit or entertain it in the land they were to go and possess.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 *9 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.*

*10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or **that useth divination**, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,*

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.

*14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, **and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.***

WE ALL DIVINE:

Actually, there is not person who is not, and who has not been guilty of divining. We are all diviners in some form or fashion until our oracle within the heart is sanctified and possessed by the presence of God. We divine by reading into people's lives. Diviners use tarot cards, lots, tea leaves and other things to read and divine future for the seeking. So also, we read into situations surrounding a person and we "come to conclusions" and we speak prophetic words concerning them. This is divining.

So-called "prophets" in the church often read people's faces, actions, and reactions and then proceed to divine over people's lives. This is false. It is not that what have perceived is not true. But the source of "their word" is not God. Yet God's Name is used and proclaimed over them.

Many churches have prophetic "rooms" for people to go into to receive a "word from God". This is nothing but pure church witchcraft and has no place in God's house. People seeking for "tailor made" words from God are not truly seeking God or His will. They are seeking to feed their own satisfactions, pride and rebellion.

FALSE PROPHETS USE DIVINATION:

Any prophetic word that does not have its source in God and is not inspired by the breath and the Spirit of God is divination. False prophesy and prophetic words are inspired by spirits of divination and familiar spirits.

Jeremiah 14:14-15

*Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets **prophesy lies in my name**: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: **they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination**, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.*

Ezekiel 13:2-3. 6-7. *2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that **prophesy out of their own hearts**, Hear ye the word of the Lord; 3 Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, **that follow their own spirit**, and have seen nothing!*

*6 They have seen **vanity and lying divination**, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. 7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken **a lying divination**, whereas ye say, The Lord saith it; albeit I have not spoken?*

True prophets depend on the Spirit and the Word of God only as their source of inspiration and information. They need no an outside source apart from God to operate in their call and ministry. Diviners depend on *reading people or events. They look for signs, signals, movements, and things that will affirm their perceptions, including listening to tales and gossip.*

The church world is FULL of this spirit. It has brought a curse upon the church for which we have yet to see the ramifications.

This is an area where God has warned His church to be watching for. We have been warned of these false Christs (anointed ones), false prophets, false apostles, and false teachers. And yet this spirit is rampant within the church and leading multitudes of people astray and away from the truth.

DIVINERS USE SECRETISM:

If you are stopped in the parking lot after church, or in the bathroom during church, or even in a corner of the church foyer, and someone wants to prophesy over you or give you a *word from God*, RUN! Words given in such a manner cannot be tried. They cannot be judged by leadership. But then again, the whole purpose and reason of secretism is to avoid leadership. The secret also gives the diviner certain control over the person to whom they are ministering because there is a knowledge between them that nobody else knows. (Secretism is not an actual word in the English dictionary even though there have been some writers who have used it as I have chosen to do).

Secretism is one of the doors used by cults, and the occult for entering into their society. To enter the Masonic Lodge, for example, you must go through a secret right and initiation. To be part of a witch's coven you also must go through a secret initiation ceremony.

The spirit on diviners loves to work in secret. It is often portrayed by the diviner as humility and not wanting to impose. But in reality, it is demonic and is a sly spirit at work. True gifts of the Spirit operate opening in the church and can be tested. All gifts, and those operating the gifts, should be under the authority of the leadership.

2 Peter 1:20-21. *20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

There is no private, or secret interpretation to the word of God, or indeed to any prophetic word. Many times, someone may have a prophetic word from God and with the word they also try, in secret, to give an interpretation. This is dangerous. In a case such as this a "prophet", or person with the gift of prophesy can tear down in a few minutes what a pastor, counselor, or a loved one has built up in someone over many years.

Cults bask in secret wisdom. They cloak themselves in knowledge that supposedly no-one else has, or no-one else understands. God is, indeed, a God of mysteries. But He is a revealer of those mysteries to any, and all, who seek and knock. God's mysteries are not hidden from us. Rather, they are hidden for us.

1 Corinthians 2:7-10. *7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

Ephesians 1:9-10. *9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

Ephesians 3:3-4. *3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*

Colossians 1:26-27. *26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

The only prophetic book in the New Testament is called "Revelation". God is a revealer. God works in the light. Those ministering in His Name should also work in the light. (I am not saying there are not some things that should not be done in secret for the sake of privacy, of course there are. But in such cases the ministry should be blessed, sanctioned, and honored by leadership)

Some of the traits of this divining spirit on people's lives are: Manipulation, Hunger for control, Rebellious towards authority, Promotes the self, lives in despair and/or depression, Desires to be recognized, Unclear and unclean motives, Desire to control others, Thirsts for reward (which can be honor, acceptance, a title, a ministry, fame, recognition etc.).

DIVINERS OPERATE IN FLATTERY:

Diviners will, most of the time, use flattery in their prophetic utterances. Commonalities such as "God is with you, no matter what", "Don't be afraid of anything, or anyone, God loves you", "You are blessed and not cursed", and other such common phrases and ordinary comments are frequently used. There is nothing wrong with encouraging a brother or a sister. There is certainly nothing wrong with quoting God's word to yourself, or to another. But, when you are presenting a "tailor made" message to someone from God you have better know the source and the inspiration from whence the word is coming.

Ezekiel 12:24. *For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.*

Psalms 12:2-3. *2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. 3 The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:*

Psalms 78:34-37. *34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God. 35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer. 36 Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues. 37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.*

Proverbs 7:21-23 *21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; 23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.*

I know of cases where people have been told not to worry about anything going on in their lives because no weapon formed against them could prosper, "Thus saith the LORD". Even though this is Bible truth it did not pertain to a particular couple's situation who were living in sin, running from God, and ignoring His very poignant warnings. They took the diviners word to mean everything was OK and God was on their side. They were both killed in a car accident. Be careful what you say is God. Know the source of your inspiration! Using flattering words when God is trying to get someone's attention is not Godly. It is in fact demonic and deceitful!

5. POST-MODERN CHRISTIANITY

The "post-modern" era came into view in the 1950's. It started changing everything in society. Traditional architecture began to change as architects got out of the box, as it were, and designed buildings with curved lines and outlandish shapes previously thought either crazy or impossible. Literature began to change as writers also crawled out of the box and allowed themselves to express words, language and

opinion that was previously unthinkable to see in print. The whole idea of the post-modern way of thinking was that everything should be questioned, yet nothing should be questioned. Do as you please, be as you wish, say as you want; as long as it feels right, do it. The idea is that nothing is off limits and everything is possible. There is nothing or nobody that has the right to question what you want to do. This is the tower of Babel all over again.

This way of thinking was some thirty or so years later adopted by the church in what is known as post-modern Christianity. The church caught on and thought it was something so fresh, new, exciting and a means of adapting to the current culture and bring about much needed change within the church.

Actually, post-modernism isn't so modern; this way of thinking is not new. It began in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1-3. *1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

Did God really say that?

Are you sure?

Does what God said really mean what is said?

Post-modernism Christianity questions authority, any authority. As Dr. Ravi Zacharias states, "The authority is taken away from the author and it goes to the reader". This places you, the man, in the position of God. The serpent told Adam-female, "you will be as gods, knowing good and evil". (Genesis 3:4-5). That means that man, in his new-found knowledge, would be able to redefine good and evil, as a god. Man would be the god-master proclaiming what was good and what was evil, what was right and what was wrong; what he desires and sees as right, he can do.

Post-modern Christianity falls into line with basic post-modernist thinking. It is about...

- **experience over reason,**
- **subjectivity** (based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions), **over objectivity** (not influenced by personal feelings or opinions in considering and representing facts),
- **spirituality over religion,**
- **images over words,**
- **outward over inward.**

The (churches) reaction was a *dissolution of "cold, hard fact" in favor of "warm, fuzzy subjectivity."* Think of anything considered post-modern, then stick Christianity into that context and you have a glimpse of what post-modern Christianity is.

For example, because experience is valued more highly than reason, truth becomes relative. This opens up all kinds of problems, as this lessens the standard that the Bible contains absolute truth, and even disqualifies biblical truth as being absolute in many cases. If the Bible is not our source for absolute truth, and personal experience is allowed to define and interpret what truth actually is, a saving faith in Jesus Christ is rendered meaningless. (*info source: gotquestions.com*)

This is what began to happen in the Charismatic Renewal. Man placed himself in the position of God. The gifts became a means of departing from the solid principles of divine, eternal truth, and individuals acting as God. God's name was used, in the form of spiritual gifts, for man to proclaim his own wishes, wants, preferences, ideas, plans, thoughts, purpose, and yes even what was acceptable as right and unacceptable as wrong.

People with so-called gifts began taking control of people's individual lives, and whole church movements, through divining prophetic utterances, unsanctified oracles, and leading people into subjective experiences. Truth didn't matter anymore because after all, DID GOD REALLY SAY THAT? Well, some would say, I think He is saying this.....

These are the days of post-Jordan all over again. History always repeats itself, yet humanity never learns. Once Israel had crossed Jordan into the Promised Land the tribes settled into their respective places of inheritance. Eventually, Joshua, their leader, died. At this point in Israel's history they had no king, authority. They entered into the time period of the judges and in this 300-year period Israel lost sight of God as their Master, King and governor.

Judges 17:6-7. *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

Judges 21:24-25. *In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

When there is no authority, no king, no voice, no absolute vision, purpose and reason, the people will do what is right in their own eyes. The effect this had on the tribes of Israel at that time is the same it is having in the church world today.

- Israel entered into a time of idol worship. They adopted the idols of the land as their own and worshipped them as God. **(Judges 2:11-13. 19)**
- They made leagues with enemy nations God had told them not to join with. **(Judges 2:2-3)**
- Immorality was rampant. **(Judges 19:22-30)**
- The ministering priests, sons of Eli, were sons of Belial, wickedness. **(1 Samuel 2:12)**
- The Glory of God was lost to the Philistines when the ark was taken from its place in Shiloh. **(1 Samuel 4:1-11, Psalm 78:58-61)**

Has the history of the people of God taught us nothing? The time period of the judges, when there was basically no authority in the land, when the people did what was right in their own eyes, looks just like the post-modern Christian church.

The post-modern church brought birth to the Emergent Church.

6. THE EMERGING CHURCH

There is a "movement" in the church world today called the Emergent Church, or the Emerging Church. This movement began springing up in the 1990's and early 2000's.

Emergent means: move out of or away from something and come into view; become apparent, important, or prominent; recover from or survive a difficult or demanding situation; in the process of coming into being or becoming prominent.

Participants (of the Emergent movement) seek to live their faith in what they believe to be a "postmodern" society. What those involved in the conversation mostly agree on is their disillusionment with the organized and institutional church and their support for the deconstruction of modern Christian worship, modern evangelism, and the nature of modern Christian community. *(info source from Wikipedia)*

The leaders of the Emergent movement say the church is no longer relevant and in its present state unable to reach the modern age. **Hence, the philosophies adopted by the leaders of this movement are based on relevance to the culture and adopting beliefs and practices to adjust to the climate of the present day.** Truth has become obsolete, not absolute! Absolute truth is no longer relevant.

- Churches have therefore become more like coffee shops, than sanctuaries.
- Worship services have become more like concerts and stage performances, than adoration to God.
- Sermons have become like discussions, conversations and "make me feel good about yourself" talks
- Leadership now looks more like friendships and personal relationships
- Everything is geared towards creating a "seeker friendly" environment – don't offend anyone
- All truth concerning eternal judgement, hell, and separation from God is considered hate speech

The Emerging Church world is where the spirit of divination, and familiar spirits, have taken hold and continue, like a python, to crush true spiritual breathe and life out of God's people, His church. Any sincere, truth seeking person today is going to meet this spirit and will have to fight it down in spiritual warfare.

The Emerging Church does not have a definite understanding, or solid revelation of God's Word, or absolute truth. As a matter of fact, they believe it is pride and arrogant to believe in, and embrace, absolute

Truth. In their view there is no absolute Truth and no sure interpretation or understanding of Truth. Emergent church leaders have stated, "nobody has ever gotten the interpretation of the Gospel right, no one really knows what it means".

Tony Jones, one of the leaders of the Emergent Church once stated, "Emergent does not have a position on absolute truth, or on anything for that matter. You don't ask you neighbors at a dinner party, 'what is your position on absolute truth?', no, you don't. It's a nonsensical question. Emergent is about changing theology – the message of the gospel changes.

Actually, it is very difficult to define the Emergent movement. Since they do not believe in absolute truth everything is open to discussion. It has been said that this movement is like trying to nail jello to a wall. It simply keeps moving. And if you corner them on one aspect of their position, they very comfortably change positions.

2 Timothy 4:3-4. *3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

Titus 1:9-11. *9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*

Titus 2:1-2 *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

Traditional Christianity is both frowned upon and rejected as a past dinosaur, a broken machine, and a system that does not work and is ineffective in the present day. (Isaiah 58:12, Jeremiah 6:16-17)

The emerging church **does not even believe that there is one way to God**, one path to salvation, and one law by which man must live. In their view there are many paths to God. (John 14:6, John 6:35-40, John 8:12, John 11:25-26, 1 John 5:1. 11-12, Philippians 2:10-11)

Eastern religions and practices are mixed together with Christin faith. (1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, **EZEKIEL 8:16-18**)

Anything goes, anyone can, there are no boundaries, no fences, and no specific plan of God for His people and no specific laws to adhere to and live by. Being casual is encouraged – be yourself! (Proverbs 25:28, Proverbs 24:30-31, Hebrews 13:20-21, Luke 9:23, Hebrews 10:36)

They believe one can belong, before you believe. According to the Emergent beliefs anyone can belong, serve, speak, sing, play instruments, demonstrate your art skill, all without believing, since believing is not relevant. Belonging is relevant. (1 Corinthians 12:11-13, Galatians 3:25-28, Ephesians 2:8-13, Colossians 1:12-14)

The Emerging Church believes in the evolving of Truth. In other words, what was valid yesterday does not count today. They teach that as man evolves, as times change, as fashion changes, as all manner of trends change, so also the church should be evolving in its teaching, practices, worship, and behavior. (**Hebrews 13:7-9, Matthew 24:35, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Psalms 100:5**)

This movement is "all inclusive". Nothing, or nobody, should be excluded no matter who you are or how you live. (**2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Psalm 4:3, Leviticus 20:26, Romans 1:1, Deuteronomy 14:2, 1 John 4:4-5, Revelation 18:4, James 4:4, John 15:19**)

They believe that there is no actual, literal hell, or place of God's judgement, you can do as you please and live as you want. In their view there are no eternal consequences since you can choose heaven or hell now, in time, based on how you choose to live your life. (**Revelation 20:14-15, Daniel 12:2, Matthew 7:22-23, Matthew 11:22, John 12:48, 2 Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 9:27, 1 Peter 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Matthew 22:13, Revelation 22:12, Luke 19:26-27**)

This "movement" is the tool of the spirit of deception. It is the vehicle being used by demonic powers to strip the church of Truth. It has, and is, leading countless people into heresy and with it a false sense of security. As a matter of fact, one emergent church leader recently said, "Jesus was considered a heretic, Martin Luther was considered a heretic, so maybe we need to be listening to the heretics of the day because they too may be leading us into new enlightenment". Jesus indeed was called a heretic in His day. However, not because people were searching for the truth, but rather because they hated the truth.

THE LOVE PHILOSOPHY:

The Emergent Church basis its entire philosophy on "love", supposedly God's love. This so-called God's love is expressed through tolerance. We are supposed to tolerate anything, everything, and anyone, no matter what. Was this not the problem with the church of Thyatira in Revelation chapter two? Jesus said He had something against them because they suffered, or tolerated, that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce God's servants into idolatry and immorality.

Revelation 2:20-21. *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou **sufferest** (to let be, that is, permit or leave alone: - commit, leave, let alone) that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

If Jesus walked and taught among us today, in the present climate of the church world, He would be considered one who demonstrates "hate speech". Jesus, the love of God personified, was full of love for the sinner. But He was full of indignation and hate towards sin. He stood for righteousness and for His Father's purpose and plan calling a spade a spade but giving all of Himself to save the lost. He was frank in His speech and often rebuked, reviled and rejected for the things He said and did.

- He called a Samaritan woman a dog – Matthew 15:24-28
- He called the Scribes and Pharisees hypocrites, vipers and serpents – Matthew 23:29. 33

- He literally whipped salesmen out of the temple courtyard and called them thieves – Matthew 21:13, John 2:15-16

All this, and much more, would today be considered hate speech.

Yes, we are to love. God Himself is love. But God also hates. We can only truly love God by loving what He loves and hating what He hates. But God's love is not as the world's love. So, neither is His hate as the world's hate.

God's love is truly unconditional – the world's love is not. The world only loves its own (John 15:19) God's hate is built on two essential qualities of God: Holiness and justice. The world's hate is built on "self" and it targets anything, or anyone, that does not comply. (1 John 3:12-13)

The love, and hate, demonstrated by and through the emergent Church is not the love, or the hate, of God. It is worldly love and worldly hate. If the love they expressed were truly built on the love of God, they too would love what God loves, and hate what God hates.

God hates:

- False religion ([Isa 1:14](#) ; [Amos 5:21](#))
- Hypocrisy and lies ([Zec 8:17](#))
- The wicked and those who love violence (Psalm 11:5)
- Wrongdoing ([Isa 61:8](#))
- Divorce ([Mal 2:16](#))
- Idolatrous practices ([Deu.16:22](#), [Hosea 9:15](#), Jer. 44:4)
- A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. (Proverbs 6:17-19)
- Doctrine of Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:15)

Jesus was the love of God in human flesh. Yet He never, not once, allowed His standards for truth and righteousness to drop. He never once placed anything before the will of His Father. He even loved Lazarus, Martha, and Mary so much and was considered their personal friend. But when Lazarus was dying and his sisters called for Jesus, He did not respond; at least not until His Father said He could. Some would say He hated, or did not care, or was not moved, or not compassionate. No! He stood for something. His Father's will, and truth, uncompromised!

7. CURSING WHAT GOD HAS BLESSED

It is not possible to curse what God has blessed. A blood bought, sanctified, redeemed sinner who has entered into the blood covenant with Jesus Christ, is blessed!

Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (Romans 4:7)

So, a plan has been put in motion by the powers of darkness; a doctrine called the *doctrine of Balaam*, a diviner, is being taught throughout the Emergent Church. And the spirit of Jezebel and her teaching is being taught and tolerated in the Emergent Church.

The doctrine of Balaam teaches God's people to embrace that which God has commanded His people not to touch, hence bringing a curse upon themselves. This doctrine is full of idolatry, spiritual adultery, heresy, and is tainted with the things of the world and the flesh. They teach to love what God hates, and to hate what God loves. This is done by calling the light darkness and calling the darkness light.

Isaiah 5:20-21. *20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

The doctrine of Balaam is in full force today within the church. It has used spirituality, divination, or false prophetic utterances, to lead people astray. Since what God has blessed cannot be cursed this doctrine is leading multitudes to bring the curse of God's judgement upon themselves.

- ❑ **THE COUNSEL OF BALAAM - Numbers 31:16**
- ❑ **THE WAY OF BALAAM - 2 Peter 2:15**
- ❑ **THE ERROR OF BALAAM - Jude 1:11**
- ❑ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM - REVELATION 2:14**

Balaam's name is mentioned 63 times in 8 books of the Bible, 5 books in the Old Testament, and 3 books in the New Testament.

Jezebel on the other hand, even though a very important figure and a prominent spirit we must be aware of and war against and not tolerate, is mentioned 23 times in scripture in 3 books; 2 books in the Old Testament and 1 book in the New Testament.

The mentions and warnings concerning Balaam throughout scripture should arouse our interest to be aware, conscious, and delivered from this spirit.

See diagram on following page...

Jesus told three of the seven churches that He had something against them.

1. CHURCH OF EPHESUS – Left their first love – Rev. 2:4
2. CHURCH OF PERGAMOS – Had doctrine of Balaam & Nicolaitans - Rev. 2:14
3. CHURCH OF THYATIRA – Suffer that woman Jezebel – Rev. 2:20



From the layout of the seven pieces of furniture of the Tabernacle of Moses, and by inserting the Seven Churches in the same order that God spoke that the furniture should be set, we see an incredible picture emerge. The Seven Churches in Asia Minor speak to us not only of the seven church ages throughout the course of church history but also of our own growth and overcoming that we experience as we grow in our personal development and likeness of Jesus. Each piece of furniture speaks of spiritual experiences in our growth. And each of the seven churches also speaks of realms of overcoming that we will experience as we run the race set before us and grow in Jesus.

Three of the seven churches experienced some harsh words from Jesus who stood in their midst. Ephesus, Pergamos, and Thyatira all received this rebuke: I have a few things or somewhat against thee. These three churches represent the three places or areas where the devil has and is attacking the church the most.

- EPHESUS – BRAZEN ALTAR > REPENTANCE - SACRIFICE – GIVING OF ONESELF
- PERGAMOS – GOLDEN ALTAR > PRAYERS – HEARTBEAT OF JESUS – PASSION
- THYATIRA - GOLDEN CANDLESTICK > COMPLETE LIGHT OF TRUTH – REVELATION OF THE WORD

These three areas are most under attack in the church today, and are under attack in our personal lives, growth and development as well. Repentance and sacrifice is under attack. The fervent prayers of the saints are under attack. And the Light of Truth is under attack.

The reason for Jesus having something against the church of Pergamos was that in their midst they had those who held the doctrine of Balaam and of the Nicolaitans. (Rev. 2:14-15). These certain ones within the church in Pergamos seized upon, held with strength, and laid hold of these two destructive doctrines.

Balaam was a Gentile diviner. He was a true mixture of truth and error. He would soothsay under the influence of demonic powers, then turn right around and prophesy under the influence of the Spirit of God. He fellowshipped both camps as do so many of the deceitful leaders of the church today. Balaam was a diviner and he loved the rewards of divination.

Numbers 22:7-8. *And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.*

Balak, king of Moab, wanted to see the nation of God cursed, weakened, and even destroyed. So, he sought out a man with a reputation and ability to curse this nation hence removing the threat of Israel invading his territory. Four times Balaam tried to curse Israel but did not succeed.

The doctrine of Balaam is vehemently destructive. Balaam was not able to curse Israel as Balak, King of the Moabites, had requested him too. Balak had offered Balaam great reward and honor if he would use his "gifts of divination" to bring a curse upon Israel. Because Balaam was unable to do so he devised a plan to where he could still get his reward and honor promised to him by teaching Balak how to cause Israel to bring a curse upon themselves. (Num. 31:16) This is called Balaam's counsel and doctrine.

What made this doctrine so contemptible to God? And why did God actually bring a curse upon His own people once they followed the doctrine of Balaam? God had called His people to be unique, set apart, different, and a peculiar treasure unto Him.

Leviticus 20:22-26. *22 Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out. 23 **And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.** 24 But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: **I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people.** 25 Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. 26 **And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.***

God also commanded His people not to make leagues, contracts, or alliances with the people of the land which they were to possess.

Exodus 23:32-33. *32 **Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.** 33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: **for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.***

God warned that any league, covenant or union with the people inhabiting the land of promise would bring death to Israel as they would lead God's people astray. Balaam knew this. So, he taught Balak to allure the

men of Israel into adulterous unions with the daughters of Moab, which in turn caused Israel to worship their gods.

This is what brought the curse upon Israel!

Numbers 25:1-3. *1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people **began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.** 2 And they called the people unto **the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.** 3 And Israel **joined himself** unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.*

This spirit, the spirit that carries and promotes the doctrine of Balaam in the church today, is an alluring spirit that draws the hearts and minds of God's chosen people away from the things of God and brings their hearts into adulterous, idolatrous, carnal, sensual, and fleshly unions, leagues and covenants with the things of world and the flesh. It is not possible to curse what God has blessed. But it is possible for "the blessed" to bring the curse upon themselves through disobedience to the word of God and failure to walk in the purpose of God as a "set apart" people unto the LORD.

Take note, Israel **joined himself** unto Baal-peor. This is the kind of terminology used when a man and woman are joined together in a sexual union. This is how God viewed what Israel did at Baal-peor. It was the same as if a wife committed adultery against her husband, or vice versa. This was a serious offence. Jesus rebuked the Pergamos church for having those in their midst that had been drawn to, and held to, and committed or practiced, the doctrine of Balaam.

This spirit works through the Pythonic spirit of divination. It uses inspiring words of false prophetic utterances such as, "this won't hurt you, go ahead", "you will not surely die", "you are under grace, enjoy life and do as you please", "if it feels right, do it", and on and on this divining list goes.

We must speak the Truth in our hearts to be freed from this trap and crushing effect of this pythonic spirit which is out to crush the breath and life of God out of us.

Israel's sin at Baal-peor was fourfold:

1. COMMITTED WHOREDOM = unions God had commanded them not to have.
2. ATE FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS = eating speaks of fellowship – God warns His people not to eat with the world or eat what the world eats (not speaking of natural food but worldly substance). Israel ate with the enemies of God and God saw this as a union and fellowship.
1 Corinthians 10:20-21. *20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*
3. COMMITTED IDOLATRY = The laws against idolatry are the same today as in the days of Israel committing their idolatrous practices with Moab. God HATES idolatry. An idol is anything, a form, a

thing, an object, a person, that is bowed to in honor and reverence in the place of God. Idolatry is spiritual adultery.

1 John 5:21 *Little children, keep thyself from idols. Amen*

4. JOINED HIMSELF = God looked at what Israel had done as if a marriage union had taken place.

Can we even begin to understand the seriousness of the divining spirit that is out for reward, promotion and self-honor? This spirit, and its doctrine, seeks to use divination and false prophetic utterances to allure and trap us into unions that God has forbidden and vehemently hates.

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. Revelation 2: 14

8. WHEN THE ENEMY COMES IN LIKE A FLOOD

Isaiah 59:19-20. *19 So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. 20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.*

I used to be of the opinion that Hollywood, and all it had to offer, was the flood. Oh yes, the world is definitely playing its role in steering God's people away from Him. But, the flood is coming from the pulpits of our churches. The stage and the platforms of the "houses of prayer" are leading more people to hell that we can even begin to imagine. I believe that the most powerful forces of deception are in our pulpits. I believe that the most influential witches and warlords are standing on the platforms of our churches with the bight of the python spirit enfolded in their lying words.

But there is good news!!!! God promised that His Spirit would raise a standard.

Standard in Hebrew is *noos* and it means to flit, i.e. vanish away (subside, escape; chase, impel, deliver): abate, away, be displayed, (make to) flee (away), put to flight, hide, lift up a standard.

A standard is a banner, a flag, identifying a tribe or nation. Under which banner do we wish to be identified with. It is the banner of the LORD's holy name, the living banner that moves and blows by the Spirit of God, that God will raise up among those who choose to stand for the truth.

God stopped the curse, or the plague, in Israel because of one man who made a stand and raised a standard, as it were. His name was Phinehas.

Numbers 25:6-8. *6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; 8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.*

God loved Phinehas. He made an everlasting covenant with him because he was zealous for God and for His holy Name.

Numbers 25:10-13. *10 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. 12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: 13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.*

RISE UP OH PEOPLE OF GOD!! Make a stand for truth, for righteousness, for holiness, and for the holy name of the LORD God in the midst of us!