

ARE AK, EK, AP, TFH OF THE DEVIL

An Evangelical Christian's Evaluation

by Dr. Jim Reid

One might think it strange that such a topic as this might come up at the annual Touch for Health (TFH) Convention, however, I am convinced that the time is right for this subject to be addressed.

During last year's TFH Convention and repeatedly during the year, Christians involved in TFH have asked if "what we were doing" was acceptable from a Christian or biblical point of view. I assured them that in my judgment it was. Let me end the suspense here by stating that applied kinesiology (AK), educational kinesiology (EK), applied physiology (AP), and TFH are not of the devil. How can I make such a statement, and who am I to make such a statement? Please indulge me while I establish my credentials.

I am an evangelical Christian. I accepted Christ as my Lord in the spring of 1954 or as Baptists are fond of saying, "I was gloriously saved" then. Shortly thereafter God called me into the full time gospel ministry. That fall I entered Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Arizona, a Southern Baptist School, where I received a B.A. in 1959. I immediately enrolled in Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, where I received a Master of Divinity in 1962. In 1980, I received a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. Upon finishing my Master's in 1962, I pastored a church in Willcox, Arizona for 3 years after which I moved to Henderson, Nevada where for 5 years I was the first full time pastor of the Faith Baptist Church. In 1970, God moved me to resign that church and begin a new ministry--a ministry to the people who work the night shift (night people) on the Las Vegas Strip. For 15 years I held worship services in casinos, bars, showrooms, and anywhere I could get people together. Nightly bible studies were held at 10 p.m. backstage between shows for entertainers and stagehands. The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention appointed me as a Home Missionary. If you know anything about Baptists you know that we are strongly evangelical and number conscious. I never baptised fewer than 50 people a year and in 1980 I baptised 104. Our little church on the strip was the first Baptist church in the history of Nevada to baptise more than 100 people in a year. The numbers are provided for the benefit of those who need proof that I am indeed an evangelical Christian in word and deed.

I am also qualified to make the judgment that I made at the beginning of this presentation that AK, etc., are not of the devil. The dissertation for my doctorate was entitled Cults and the Occult on the Las Vegas Strip with Implications for Christian Ministry. I have the academic background to know what is of the devil. I also have much experience with people who are involved in both cults and the occult. I have done a number of genuine exorcisms. I know from experience who the devil is. I have encountered him on his own turf. Early in my ministry I realized what I was up against. Feeling ill

prepared to deal with the enemy, I prayed earnestly that God would give me whatever was needed to be effective in my ministry. I had an experience with the Spirit of God that was different than anything I had ever experienced before. The end result was that God gave me spiritual gifts that could be used in the battle--one of which was the gift of discernment that I have many times. I am in every sense of the word an evangelical charismatic Southern Baptist.

The book The Holistic Healers, written by Paul Reisser, M.D., Teri Reisser, a writer, and John Weldon an instructor at the San Diego School of Evangelism is widely read in Christian circles. This book lumps AK and TFH with methods of healing that appear to be occult. It then implies guilt by association, and association made by the authors not TFH.

In this book, John Thie is indirectly charged with being a mystical guru who will ultimately lead us down the path of occultism. Dr. Reisser quotes page 6 of Thie's book as saying "the innate intelligence that runs the body is connected to universal intelligence that runs the world, so each person is plugged into the universal intelligence through the system." Reisser also says about TFH, "Universal energy is a crucial link between mysticism and the every day world, and every energy therapy comes with strings attached--strings which ultimately pull toward the world of the paranormal, toward the exaltation of self as devine, or toward overt occultism." He also says, "If there is any lingering doubt that Touch for Health is grounded in Eastern metaphysics, one need only remember Thie's initial mention in his manual of universal intelligence." He dismisses the acupunture meridians and says, "Not only does classical acupuncture come with its metaphysical baggage intact, but its promoters actively proclaim its religious foundations and implications as well." ". . . energy balancers may tend to inject their mysticism into the therapy session. Patients are being treated on the basis of religious beliefs rather than physiological principles."

About our clients he says, "unknowingly Aunt Mary and Mr. Jones may be slowly conforming their beliefs to an ancient metaphysical system called Taoism as a result of exposure to these muscle test for food allergies and holistic chiropractic sessions."

Finally Dr. Reisser has a stern warning for those Christians interested in Touch for Health, "Christian energy balancers . . . lack discernment failing to see the implications of the ideas they promote."

Now what shall we say to all of this. We could ignore it and go about our business. However, I assume that Dr. Reisser, Ms. Reisser, and Dr. Weldon are sincere Christians searching for truth. Consequently, I will respond to their charges. First, TFH, AK, EK, and AP have been lumped with a variety of psychic healers and healing methods including Arigo, the surgeon of the rusty knife. We do nothing in AK, EK, AP, or TFH that even comes close to psychic healing. We balance the body's energies. We are electricians and nothing more. Now I assume that a Taoist electrician might talk to his clients about the Tao, a Budhist electrician might talk to his clients about Budhist, I am a Christian electrician and I do talk to my clients about Christ. But lets get to the crux of the matter, what is the "innate intelligence that runs the body" that Thie refers to?

Dr. Reisser calls it universal energy. On page 39 of their book the authors say, "Universal energy is what religions have called God." Since I am an evangelical Christian I must look for my answers and definitions in the scripture. Allow me to share a few with you and then you decide what to call this "innate intelligence or universal energy." The first is Col. 1:15-17, "He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." This says that the Lord not only created everything but that his power at this very minute is holding everything together. If he would withdraw his universal energy for one second from the tiniest part of his creation, an atomic explosion would occur that would make the atomic explosion at Hiroshima seem like a firecracker by comparison. Ours is not the god of the diest who creates a world and then abandons it. He continues to hold it together by his power or energy. Let me digress a little. This verse also says that he created invisible things too like the wind, atoms, bacteria, electricity, and meridians. Dr. Reisser refutes invisible meridians. Also note that these things were created through him, that is he is the source, and for him. Meridians were created for him! Why do you suppose? So that they can be used to bring wholeness to his creatures. Our God created bodies that have the capacity to repair themselves and like any good electrical circuit they have overload switches that will blow when stressed; but any electrician can reset them be he/she Taoist, Budhist, Christian, agnostic, or athiest.

The second scripture is Heb. 1:1-2, "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world," from the Revised Standard Version. The New International Version translates the word *aionas* as universe. The King James Version and the Revised Standard Version translate the same word as world or worlds. The word literally means ages or periods of time. Now what is it that makes time? It's the rotation of the earth around its axis and the rotation of the earth around the sun. Universe is a legitimate translation of the word, and the Greek lexicon lists Heb. 1:2 as one of the places that "material universe" is the preferred translation of this word. Before I comment further on this scripture, I would like to introduce three others and deal with them together. One is Rev. 4:11 which says that God created all things. The New International Version translates the last part of that verse, "by your will they . . . have their being." The last part of Eph. 4:6 says that God is "over all and through all and in all." Finally Rom. 11:36 says, "Because from him and through him and to him (are) all things; to him the glory unto the ages," (*aionas*) the universe--a Reid translation.

These scriptures collectively say and mean, God created everything. He is the instrument through which they continue to survive, he is in all and ultimately everything will return to him. When the apostle Paul realized the truth of his statement in Romans 11:36 he breaks out in a doxology and says, "To him the glory throughout, in every aspect of, the universe"--Reid translation. That's why I feel good when I balance someone and relieve a pain, eliminate an allergy, or get rid of years of emotional garbage. I consider this my "spiritual worship" and I give God the glory throughout the universe.

Now what about Aunt Mary and Mr. Jones, who allow their arms to be pulled on? And what about the Christian energy balancer? Are we toying with the devils tools? I say once again emphatically, no! However, if you feel uneasy about what you are doing then listen to the words of Paul again in Rom. 14:14, "I know and am persuaded in the Lord that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean." That includes AK and TFH. Or consider I Cor. 10:23, "All things are lawful" but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful; but not all things build up." You must decide whether what you are doing is helpful. One other scripture says it all for me-- Gal. 5:1, which says, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." I exercise that freedom when I use AK, EK, AP, or TFH.

Dr. Reisser makes one other statement to which I would like to respond. He says, "You will never see muscle testing written up in Scientific American or recognized by the National Institute of Health." I would like to remind Dr. Reisser that yesterday's heresay often becomes tomorrow's orthodoxy. I am sure he could give many medical examples. It wasn't too long ago that doctors used to bleed people to "make them well." Now they give them blood transfusions. In 1870, at a Methodist College, an educator said that in 50 years men would fly like birds. A Methodist bishop was present with his pregnant wife and 3-year-old son. He said, "Flight is strictly reserved for the angels and I beg you not to repeat that statement lest you be guilty of blasphemy." That bishop's name was Milton Wright. He took his wife and son, Orville home. His second son Wilbur was born and 33 years later his sons did what only angels were supposed to do.

Now let me introduce you to a phase of kinesiology that I call CK or Christian kinesiology. It's not that only Christians can do these things but, I call them CK because they specifically fulfill the scriptural admonition to "pray without ceasing." I am sure that when the apostle Paul penned those words he was not aware of how much more relevant those words would be today than they were then. We live in a heavily polluted society. The food we eat has been sprayed by pesticides and if it is prepared at all for the grocer's shelf or served to you in a restaurant it is pumped full of additives and preservatives. The water we drink and the air we breathe is polluted, but the greatest single type of pollution we face is invisible and that's electromagnetic pollution. That should interest electricians. Electromagnetic pollution comes to us from a variety of sources; quartz watches, fluorescent lights, television sets, microwave ovens, computer terminals, and any electric appliance. We can protect ourselves from this form of pollution in two ways--both involve prayer. We can ask God to neutralize the negative affects of each of the appliances before they are used or daily we can ask God, to protect us from all of the negative electromagnetic influences with which we come in contact that day.

There are three other ways I use prayer. I pray before I eat. Christians have been doing this for years, but its only since TFH that we have known why praying over our food is important. When sitting down to a meal, muscle test a friend. Then have him/her place his/her hand over the food you are about to eat. Retesting the muscle will show a weak muscle. Then ask a traditional blessing on the food and retest the muscle. It will be strong. Praying neutralizes the negative effects of the pesticides, additives, and preservatives. Too bad it doesn't neutralize the calories.

Whenever traveling across time zones, I have discovered that by praying before entering the plane and asking God to protect me from the negative electromagnetic influence of the jet engines I can avoid jet lag. Thus far this has only been tested coast to coast. I would be interested in knowing the results if anyone uses this method of protection to fly overseas.

Finally, I use prayer instead of Bach flowers. I am not a medical doctor. I diagnose nothing and prescribe nothing. You may be living in a state where using Bach flowers could be interpreted as prescribing medicine. If that is the case, determine what Bach flower is needed in a given situation. I use the Luscher color test and a chart from Rick Utt to identify specific emotional problems my client is having. I then pray specifically for that need to be met. It works immediately and effectively and I know of no state that forbids intercessory prayer.

Not only am I convinced that AK, EK, AP, TFH are not of the devil, I am equally convinced that the Christian can and should use these disciplines to bring wholeness to God's creation and in so doing "glorify God in the universe."

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IN MEMORY OF

Tony Andreasson, M.D.
Touch for Health Instructor
who passed away June 7, 1986
Cambridge, England