

The Bulwark

JUNE 8, 2025

LIMITLESS POWER OF THE INDIVIDUAL!?!?

In a cartoon from several years ago, two women in their 30's are talking in an upscale coffee house. One says to the other, "isn't it superstitious to wear that silly rock around your neck, Celeste? To which the young woman responds, "Superstitious? Do you know that quartz crystals emit electrical charges...which unlock vital organs and promote healing." Taking a sip of coffee, her friend replies, "So, why not wear a battery?" It doesn't take a member of Mensa to realize that our society is seeing a dramatic increase in "superstition". Some would argue the use of the term "superstition", citing that such is merely "non-traditional religion". Yes indeed, the rise of the "New Age" thinking has crept deeply into the fabric of our culture.

Marianne Williamson, is the author of over 30 books, most of which fit nicely into a niche that blends together the "limitless power of the individual" along side of a concept of Jesus as an evolutionary guide for today's challenging times. Her book, "Returning To Loving" has sold in excess of one million copies. Her impact grows day by day. But that could be said of most "New Age" gurus. It is estimated that currently there are over 10,000 groups in the United States that to a degree foist "New Age" philosophies upon the populous, and it seems to be accepted.

There is little doubt that "New Age" teaching moves discordant to the word of God. Which raises the question as to why anyone would want to opt to reject Christ and embrace "smoke and mirrors"? Yes, there have been members of the body of Christ who have chosen to cling to the teaching of the "New Age" and turn their back on Christ.

The reason(s) as to why one would make such a decision are myriad. However, perhaps the following quote from Williamson might shed some light. "The attraction of the teaching is clear: the power of the individual to conquer all, without the help of stodgy institutions..." The power resides in the individual??? This notion has its root in the "New Age" teaching that mankind is in reality deity in embryo. Which is really not anything new, one only has to look back to Eve and the Garden of Eden to see the original deception (Genesis 3:1-7, "you will be like God...") Whatever happened to the concept of humility? We are the created not the Creator. *"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."* (Matthew 23:12) We only conquer through a relationship with Christ. (see Romans 8:37ff)

The Scriptures teach us that it is not within man to direct his own

steps. Yet, the teaching of the "New Age" is that we have the power within self and we don't need anything or anyone else. Such couldn't be further from the truth. It is only when we let go and let God take control that we begin to see peace and harmony flow in our life (see Galatians 2:20; Philippians 4:4-13)

What is also so striking is the attitude of the "New Age" when contrasted with that of Jesus. *"Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant..."* (Philippians 2:6-7) We need to embrace the attitude of Jesus. (wbe)

A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

- 7054 Winnetka Ave.
Winnetka, CA 91306
- 818-795-5566
- Bruce Evans
Minister
- Website:
winnetkachurchofchrist.com