

How often has the subject of spirituality come up with a friend or colleague and at some point in the conversation this person states, "I don't believe in organized religion; it is run by corrupt people. However, I believe in God and am a spiritual person."

The other common line espoused by many celebrities, including Oprah Winfrey, is, "There are many paths to what you call God." These have become the mantras of the modern day "enlightened" western person. Interestingly, these statements are often made in a condescending manner, implying that you are an ignorant sheep who follows what others tell you to believe. In contrast, they have risen above manmade rules regarding their spiritual life and discovered their own path to spirituality. This "new" spirituality is a mixture of Christianity and Eastern mysticism or New Age theology. According to proponents of this view, it is freeing. However, what these people do not realize is that they are not free, but are following lies fed to them by Satan. These are not new ideas but a new packaging of an ancient lie. In order to better understand this concept we must return to the Garden of Eden

where man's acceptance of Satan's Great Lie brought him into this fallen world.

In Eden, Satan approached Eve with a very deceiving question, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" (Genesis 3:1) This appears to be an innocent question but it is full of deceit. The serpent knew that God's command was to avoid the fruit of only one tree in the garden. However, he framed the question to make it seem as if God was being very restrictive with man and forbidding him from all of the fruit He had created. This could not be further from the truth. However, as he engaged Eve in this conversation, he began to sow the seeds of doubt in her heart to make her feel limited by God's laws. Once those seeds were sewn, her mind was intrigued and she became vulnerable to Satan's lie. This is the same thing that Satan continues to do with man in our current age. He presents God's laws as being restrictive instead of freeing and life-giving. As Jesus said to the Jews who believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32) He also said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) Jesus came so that by His life-giving Word we may live the abundant life, not be bound or imprisoned. If we abide in His Word we will be free from the snares of Satan. However, if we seek "freedom" from God's laws, we will walk into Satan's snares by our own doing.

Just as Eve became open to Satan's lie by doubting, so does modern man become open to the same lie by doubting that God's commands are freeing and life-giving. Once Satan introduced doubt in Eves' heart, he told her the Great Lie, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5) In this statement are the four lies upon which this new spirituality is built. The first lie is to redefine God, "you will be like God." Basically, the

first lie is the concept of pantheism. This is the belief that everything is God and God is everything. This dilutes God's essence and makes Him merely a part of all things. In fact, proponents of this belief go on to say God does not exist outside of man; God exists only within man's consciousness. He is not a separate sovereign being, but is the essence of man's consciousness. Since one can define one's consciousness, one can also define the essence of God to suit his own purposes. Instead of striving to be like God, man makes God in man's own image. This is a reversal of the reality of creation! In Genesis 1:26, God makes man in His image. The lie of pantheism feeds into man's laziness. Instead of reaching upwards to elevate ourselves to be like God, man deceives himself into believing he can bring God down to his level. Consequently, God is no longer holy. The classic definition of holy is "dedicated or devoted to the service of God!" (<http://dictionary.com>) However, if God is no longer seen as outside of ourselves then "holy" has no meaning and God only becomes holy if we perceive ourselves as being holy - another perversion of the Truth. For as God says to the Israelites, "You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and

you shall be holy; for I am holy." (Leviticus 11:44) We can only be holy by consecrating ourselves to God. He is the Holy One there is no holiness without Him. Any definition of holiness that is not derived from the essence of God is devoid of meaning. In essence, this lie is the deification of man; man comes to see himself as God. This is the gateway to the remaining lies of the Great Lie because if man is God then there can be no sin. Sin is any action that goes against the will of God. However, if God only exists as part of man's consciousness then God has no will outside of man's will, and it is logically impossible to sin.

The second lie of the Great Lie is to redefine conversion: "your eyes will be opened." (Genesis

3:5) In order to convert to this new spirituality there is no ritual process. Since God is man's consciousness, man only needs to "open his eyes" to this belief to become converted. It is a new consciousness, one in which man becomes aware that he is God. However, for man to be in this new consciousness, he must rise above all preconceptions and free his mind of previous ideas of right and wrong. As stated earlier, since there is no God outside of oneself there can be no sin, so one must free himself of the notion of sin so as not to feel guilty about any action. Therefore salvation from sin no longer comes via the life-giving sacrifice of Christ on the cross, but by the acknowledgement that there is no sin. Heaven is not a location to try to reach but a consciousness that one may attain in his own mind. Man becomes his own way, truth and life. Yet there is a major problem here. There is no denying that there is a spiritual world outside of ourselves that is filled with other spiritual beings. The result is that once man rejects the true God, all attempts to communicate with this spiritual world results in communication with demons. Thus man freely walks into the world of the adversary and becomes ensnared.

The third lie of the Great Lie is to redefine death: "You will not surely die." (Genesis 3:4) Mary Ann Williamson, author of A Course on Miracles and one of the main proponents of this new spirituality, wrote that death is the central dream from which all illusions stem. This is not to say that the body does not die, but that the physical world as a whole is an illusion. The real world is the spiritual world. Along the same lines, sickness does not exist. Once again this is not a denial of the obvious fact that people develop illnesses in this world, but a belief that illness is a physical manifestation of a spiritual problem. Kenneth Wapnick, author of Healing the Dream of Sickness and a proponent of these views, states "all illness is mental illness" indicating that physical ailments

are symptoms and should not be confused with the cause. The cause of all physical ailments is a weak mind, one that has allowed guilt to infiltrate it. Allowing oneself to feel guilt is incompatible with the new consciousness. Remember, in the new consciousness man *is* God so he has divine power. Therefore, the problem is that if man allows himself to feel guilt, then he must not be God and he loses divine power and this guilt leads to physical ailment. This philosophy leads us away from the True Physician, who heals the maladies of our souls and bodies, and leads us to seek false cures.

The final lie of the Great Lie is moral relativism: "knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5) This is the part of the lie that has permeated western society with the most force. It is taught in almost every college campus in America. Moral relativism is taught as tolerance. The concept is sometimes taught as a way of being accepting of other cultures, i.e., no culture is inherently better than any other and all systems of morality are equal regardless of their basis. There is no absolute morality, no good and evil, all is relative. This is the conclusion of the Great Lie. If God only exists as part

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of man's consciousness and does not exist outside of it, there is no sin and man is "free" to act in whatever way he pleases. As man "opens his eyes" to the new consciousness and separates himself from any notion of good and evil, he is completely open to all of the wicked councils of Satan. This is where Satan wants you to be.

Therefore, this new spirituality, which surrounds us in the present age, is nothing more than a repackaging of Satan's Great Lie. He seeks to draw man little by little from the life-giving grace of God by telling him that God's laws are restrictive. In the end, man finds that he has fled from the freeing Word of God and, of his own accord, has walked into the bondage of the enemy

Additional References:

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Same Lies.  
New Package.

# SATAN'S LIES